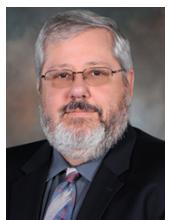


Independence Day



By Paul Engel

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- Next year is the semiquincentennial of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.
- What shall we do with the unique and special date in our history?
- Let's look at the reasons why we declared independence from Great Britain.

Next year will be the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Over the next 365 days I expect to see plenty of opportunities to remember the date. I want to start by remembering the reason why we declared independence in the first place.

Grievances

Every nation has a Fourth of July, but only in the United States is that date Independence Day. As the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of our Declaration of Independence approaches, I think why we separated from Great Britain is worth a closer look.

Before declaring themselves independent from Great Britain, the colonies provided 27 specific grievances to justify themselves. Sadly, we can claim those same grievances against the federal government today.

Legislative Grievances

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and

necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

Declaration of Independence

Have you noticed how often federal judges feel they can overrule federal law? I'm not saying there aren't times when laws, regulations, and executive orders are not unconstitutional, but more and more it seems that judges place their opinions above the supreme law of the land. Over the past few months we've had hundreds of examples of judges issuing preliminary injunctions and temporary restraining orders allegedly preventing Executive Orders from taking effect. Just like King George, the federal government attempts to rule by edict rather than law.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

Declaration of Independence

Immigration is not a new issue. While today the problem is people illegally entering the country, while 250 years ago the problem was the king not letting people immigrate to the colonies. That is just another example of centralized rules infringing on the rights of others.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for

opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

Declaration of Independence

OK, the federal government hasn't dissolved the state legislatures or called them to meet somewhere else, but that doesn't mean they haven't found ways to fatigue them into compliance. After all, the federal government has been bribing the states with embezzled money for decades, threatening to remove funding if the states do not comply with their wishes.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

Declaration of Independence

Currently in the United States all three branches of government have obstructed laws regarding immigration into the United States. Since the Constitution does not delegate to the United States the power to regulate immigration, the laws passed by Congress for that purpose are unconstitutional and therefore void. Yet courts have repeatedly upheld them in violation of their own oath of office.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure

of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

Declaration of Independence

The courts have repeatedly obstructed the administration of justice by refusing to assent to state laws that exercise powers not delegated to the United States. While not for establishing judiciary powers, the federal government has interfered with many state's apportionment and election of members of the House of Representatives.

Abuse of Power Grievances

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

Declaration of Independence

If there is anything that accurately describes the federal government, it's the multitude of new offices Congress has created, along with the swarms of officers that harass our people, our businesses, and violate our rights. My research shows that 90% of executive agencies are exercising powers not delegated to the United States, making not only their rules and regulations unconstitutional, but their very existence as well.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

Declaration of Independence

You may not have noticed, but we have standing armies with us today. Sure, their budget's are only good for two years, but Congress has consented to these armies.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

Declaration of Independence

Well, at least there's one grievance the federal government hasn't repeated... at least not yet.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

Declaration of Independence

I have two words for you: "United Nations." People from Congress, Presidential Administrations, and courts have been trying to make us subject to their whims for decades. I guess they forgot that under the Supremacy Clause, only treaties made under the authority of the United States are the supreme law of the land.

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

Declaration of Independence

OK, there's a second grievance the federal government hasn't violated yet. After all, no one is quartering troops yet. That said, federal courts have routinely claimed that law enforcement is immune from prosecution. Isn't that a form of mock trial?

Monetary Grievances

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

Declaration of Independence

Congress has cut off trade with other parts of the world, but

we did give them that power in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. However, the question of imposing taxes on us without our consent is another matter.

Yes, in Article I, Section 1, Clause 1, we did give Congress the power to tax us, but that power is limited.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

You see, Congress can only collect taxes to do three things: For paying the debts of the United States, for the common defense of the United States, and for the general welfare of the United States. Notice the capital "U" and capital "S." Not for the welfare of the states or the people, but only for the United States. The same United States the Tenth Amendment states:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

U.S. Constitution, Amendment X

Since we only consented for Congress to collect taxes for those three purposes, every time Congress uses tax dollars for something else it is not only unconstitutional and without our consent, but it's also embezzlement.

Due Process Grievances

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

Declaration of Independence

Have you heard of Administrative Law Courts? These are

unconstitutional courts, where you are denied due process and everyone there, including your lawyer, works for the federal government.

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

[Declaration of Independence](#)

What would you call declaring people “enemy combatants” and sending them to Guantanamo Bay? That’s not only transporting us beyond the seas for pretended offenses, but establishing an arbitrary government.

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

[Declaration of Independence](#)

Unlike the colonies, the states weren’t created by the federal government, but the other way around. So when Congress, the President, and federal courts substitute their opinions and agenda for the Constitution that created them, they are acting unconstitutionally. You see, when the feds exercise powers not delegated to them, they are effectively taking away the state’s charters and abolishing their laws. They just don’t suspend our state legislatures, they effectively make them meaningless, investing themselves with the power to legislate at the state level.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

Declaration of Independence

What happens when those who take an oath to support the Constitution, instead violate that oath? Is that not abdicating their role as government? Is that not waging war on our rights?

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

Declaration of Independence

How much damage has been done by federal policies? They prevented people from cleaning up forests, which leads to large fires, while the EPA made rules that led to poisoned rivers. These rules and regulations, none of which are law, are enforced as if they were. Does that not destroy the lives of our people?

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

Declaration of Independence

Does this sound like importing large numbers of foreign gang members into the country to traffic in drugs, sex, and people?

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

Declaration of Independence

Well, they weren't taken on the high seas, neither were they forced to bear arms again their own country, but the federal government has used the draft to conscript its own citizens to fight for it.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

Declaration of Independence

The previous administration brought in foreign inhabitants to make war against us. Not the American Indian, but the Mexican cartels.

Conclusion

As the semiquicentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence approaches, I expect there will be several special celebrations. I think the best way we could celebrate is to both remember why we separated from Great Britain and to remember those reasons as we examine the actions of our federal government now.

By all means, celebrate this Independence Day. Please remember though, if we read and study the Constitution and if we are prepared to defend and assert our rights, then every day can be an independence day.

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