

BIBLICAL TERRANOMICS

June, 1996

No.15

COMMON LAW JURIES

In April I attended (as an observer) my first "Common Law Jury". I thought the proceedings were very well done. It was instructive and interesting. It was not a "real" jury because no one was sworn in and there was no deliberation by the jurors. It was an educational seminar. The Kansas Territorial Agricultural Society was the sponsor.

Having said that, however, I must add that I believe the Common Law movement is a dead-end street. My frustration with it reflects my dissatisfaction with the Patriot movement in general. Let me explain what I mean.

At this particular meeting, the deliberations were concerned with the fact that most Kansas officials have not complied with the State Statutes concerning their oaths of office. With some violations, it is a felony offense. This is a serious matter, both legally and Biblically. You cannot have a republic unless the magistrates are religiously serious about their oaths. Read George Washington's Farewell Address. It mattered a lot to him, too.

So what was the remedy proposed by the jury for this "comedy of errors", as it was called? Well, simple. Just order the County Sheriff to physically remove all oath-breakers from the County. I think the speaker was "tongue in cheek" about that proposal. But unfortunately, I think there were many there who took him seriously. If the Sheriff refuses, will a militia be called next?

Most government officials are ignorant of their violations. Maybe, that is no excuse. But are we going to shut down the government over this issue? Should we not show some grace for the sake of public order? Perhaps, the ones who know better should resign, like judges. The rest, however, are duly elected officers of government and should be allowed to make amends. There is no point in kicking them out if the people want them. Do the patriots have men on hand qualified to replace them?

There are a lot of people who want freedom without the responsibility. I have sometimes questioned professing "patriots" as to what they would do to replace the current system. Most often they stare blankly. They rail against laws and taxes, but can't explain how we can have a sane society without them.

A big thing with patriots is the traffic laws. Now, I do not mind people using petty issues to learn how to resist governmental tyranny. The stakes are not very high with a traffic violation.

However, let us not delude ourselves into thinking that traffic laws are not helpful. Do patriots want to privatize the roads? Are we going to have toll booths at every quarter section? Can we have a prosperous society with roads that alternate between a four-lane highway and a dirt path every quarter of a mile, with different rules for the road at each property line? Let's get real.

Another hot button is Social Security. Patriots want to abolish it. So do I. But what is their plan to provide for people when the checks stop? A lot of patriots collect Social Security and pension checks. These people would likely starve if they got their way.

Did you know the Amish are exempt from Social Security taxes? Do you know why? They are a covenanted body of people who take care of their own. Are patriots covenanted with anybody? Do they take care of their own? I tell you how they do it: by involving themselves in scams like the bogus currency circulated by the "freemen of Montana". Sure, maybe the Federal Reserve System operates the same way. But does that make it any less immoral?

There is nothing wrong or illegal about an alternative currency. The City of Ithaca, New York, has circulated one for twenty years. It is backed by commodities. You have to work to get it, though.

The Patriot movement lacks a doctrine of the Covenant. Although most of the people there at the meeting seemed to be Bible-believing Christians, in no sense were covenanted bodies of Christians (churches) represented. American

Churches still have not learned what that means, either; so there is a void which the state must fill. Churches need to *become* civil body politics, not in competition with the state, but in a way of taking care of their own. The Patriot movement still assumes that the American people are culturally and politically homogeneous. They assume that their Juries speak for "the People". They are wrong. Can you imagine the City of Wichita with fifty Common Law Juries trying to enforce their rulings on the whole city? Only a return to localism can accommodate the variety of persuasions. Churches in compliance with 1 Corinthians 6 are the perfect setting for that localism to be revived in conjunction with other churches setting up Kingdom Courts to rule and provide for themselves.

The Jural Societies, which John Quade is promoting, are the best option, I think (see *Biblical Terranomics No. 12*). They contain all five points of the covenantal model: Sovereignty, Representation, Law, Sanctions, & Succession. Without any one of the above, you cannot have a government. In my opinion, Jural Societies can go farther than Common Law Juries because they bring in the churches.

I would not encourage anyone to directly involve themselves in either Common Law Juries or Patriot meetings. Such meetings, although sometimes educational, tend to attract anarchists and hotheads. It is better to buy books and tapes and try to educate your church in these matters. Or, if your church is not open to these things, seek out a new church that is sympathetic. There are such churches. Sponsoring home study groups is very effective, also.

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