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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

June 24, 2002



"Another such victory and we are undone" -- Pyrrhus

T here are two, seemingly unrelated, items in the news that have an interesting commonality.

The first, and most locally relevant, is the Federal Government policy of fuel control in wooded areas of the West which has led (inevitably) to the huge fires that are blackening the West. The Clinton Administration had a policy of not permitting thinning of even dead trees, and not permitting logging and fire control roads to be built. That policy permitted undergrowth to accumulate to the current state of an overabundance of fuel.

Simultaneously, here in San Diego County we have had an interesting fight in the East County where the Fire Department demands that brush growth be cut back from structures upon penalty of fines, while the environmentalists demand (and got) fines for people who DID cut back growth.

But insanity is not limited to environmentalists in the fire fuel debate. On June 14, the Wall Street Journal published an editorial in which they "celebrated" the "sorry" 30th anniversary of the banning of DDT. While others have reported this fact for years, this is the first time I have seen it in a major publication: The ban on DDT has caused the death of 30 to 60 MILLION people in undeveloped countries according to the World Health Organization. The lack of DDT in developing countries is directly responsible for the increase in the

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mosquito-borne diseases responsible for the deaths. Nothing yet found equals the effectiveness of DDT.

Apparently, the death of tens of millions of “people of color,” as the liberals put it, is not as important as saving several species of birds. I can tell you that if there was an epidemic of a disease that only killed the Social Science, Black Studies, and Women’s Studies Departments of Eastern Universities, the Liberals would crank up the DDT factories instantly.

So long as the tens of millions of deaths occur only in Africa and Southeast Asia, the use of DDT will continue to be severely limited. I suppose this is the Liberal’s effort toward Zero Population Growth.

In both cases we have examples of the Law of Unintended Consequences. Obviously, Liberals do not WANT hundreds of Western homes to burn, nor do they wish tens of millions of people to die. But they also do not admit their mistake, and do not favor the repeal of their failed policies.

Being a Liberal means never having to say you are sorry. (See the election of Bill Clinton — twice.)

Worse, if that is possible, “Jumping Jim” Jeffords, now an Independent Senator but a member of the Democrat Caucus, is introducing a bill in the Senate to increase the DDT ban to a total export ban.

George Santayana is quoted as saying, “A fanatic is one who redoubles their effort then they have forgotten their aim.” Surely this describes those who support radical environmental views.

If we lose the town of Show Low, Arizona, perhaps someone will call the environmentalists to account, but I doubt it.

If the deaths of tens of millions (and counting) of human beings will not call environmental theories into question, nothing will.



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