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

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

November 7, 2001



Donde Esta Liberals?

Liberals seem a bit less liberal these days, or perhaps they are just silent. Only the most leftist of Liberals seems verbally concerned about due process and even profiling of the 1,000+ Middle Easterners who are currently in custody...or even due process or profiling in general. The gun control advocates have not said a peep about the fact that guns are jumping off gun store shelves.

The liberal silence is deafening. We don't hear much talk from anyone about "open borders" now that the terrorist threat is real and not an intellectual exercise. Mentions of American troops on our northern and southern borders are no long automatically dismissed, and discussion has centered on feasibility of sealing a 3,500-mile northern and a 2,000-mile southern border. When we look at the Eastern, Western, and Gulf Coast shorelines, the word "sealing" does seem questionable, but the philosophical debate has subsided and we now discuss the methodology.

Liberals love to hate the CIA, but right now they would hock the family silver to pay for SOMEONE to infiltrate the terrorist organizations - although I suppose they would prefer that the infiltration was done by the Brandeise University Alumni Association.

Right now the debate is whether it is either legal or moral to torture one of the 1,000 detainees to



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get information that might save the next 5,000 lives at stake in a terrorist attack. Several of the detainees are known to have known in advance of the September 11 attack, and might well know about "Phase II" - or Phase III if Anthrax is only Phase II.

We used to define a Conservative as a Liberal who has been mugged. Well, the nation has been mugged and worse, so idealists are a bit hard to find. We do not find many Liberals who oppose putting OBL to death, and in fact the death penalty has disappeared from the debate. It is possible that Liberals are gathering at the coffee houses of America in preparation for an idealism counterattack, but most Liberals don't want women dressed in head-to-foot clothing on penalty of death, or nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists, so silence is the current coin.

If the nation is again violently attacked, the Silence of the Lambs will continue. There are always pacifists who will walk meekly to their deaths, but they are a distinct minority. Most Liberals discover...sometimes only in the split-second before their violent death...that they have made a terrible mistake. Right now there are Liberals who are quiet, but if we are again attacked many Liberals will rationalize that guns, the death penalty, stringent immigration reform, wiretapping and even torture are acceptable when their Liberal lives are in danger.

If you want to see Liberals in a real dither, just let a violent attack be launched by the terrorists against the Social Science and History Department of an Eastern University! Liberals would call for the return of the rack...impaling...the Iron Coffin...water torture...

It is only when American military men and women are being slaughtered while sleeping in their barracks that Liberals are liberal, but they are not liberal when Liberal lives are placed at stake.

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“A classic is something that everybody wants to have read, and nobody wants to read.” —

Mark Twain

