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

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

November 24, 2003



Commentary

Please Don't Count Every Vote!

We have an election coming up – indeed we have many elections coming up.

While that comes as no bolt from the blue, perhaps you have not seen elections in the same context that I view elections.

Every time I hear the slogan, “Count every vote,” I cringe.

Over the years, I have stopped my clicker as I have passed over Judge Judy, Jerry Springer, and a host of other afternoon shows that make you wonder how many trailer parks America can economically sustain. While you probably say to yourself, “What idiots,” I always think, “That idiot’s vote counts just as much as mine.”

And it is not just those visible idiots on TV. Convicted felons, residents of old people’s homes who think Ike is running, and even people who have been declared insane have a vote! And yes, their votes count just as much as does your vote.

It’s enough to make you wonder if it is rational to vote. If you can’t stand to watch Springer, just take in a few moments of Extra, or ET, and ask yourself: “Could any of them give me one coherent minute on the subject of trade policy or immigration?”

The answer, of course, is a resounding “NO!”

But their vote counts the same as yours. It's enough to make you cry. Or not vote.

I have no problems with people holding REALLY strange opinions...at least compared to my strange opinions. I have regular e-mail debates with really left-wing people who, devoid of historical perspective, hold as far-out views as possible. I certainly think they deserve the vote. They are intelligent, in a strange sort of way.

There are plenty of people who hold different opinions on many issues. My problem is those who have no opinions on anything, but their vote is valued as much as those who actually THINK about the issues – regardless of what position they may take on the issues.

This “One Man, One Vote” is the worst idea recently foisted on mankind, and a vote system certainly was better designed by our forefathers in the Constitution. Our forefathers demanded that a person be a property owner. Now, admittedly, owning property was a great deal more difficult then than it is now, but I think our forefathers were right in trying to limit the right to vote.

I would not necessarily use the same criteria as our forefathers, but modern science would let us differentiate between those people who are at least semi-conscious on the subjects that politics impinge upon. We don't have to have a high standard – just something higher than “huh?”

It might help if a voter could name at least one of California's two Senators. Many of my university students had no clue – so education is no measure of voting ability.

Of course I am only dreaming...there is no interest from any serious person in even admitting that our egalitarian voting methodology has any problems at all.

Everything is just fine. Right?



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