

I support the law, not the militia



Schroeder

By Barrett Schroeder

Do we really want to live in a society where one group declares part of the Constitution invalid, judicial decisions wrong and enforcement of the law an act of war they are going to defend against?

Our country faces serious challenges. I want to see less conflict so we can get to the hard work of dealing with them.

Here are the facts:

- There is a movement of people who believe the 16th Amendment - the income tax - was not truly ratified in 1913, is not legitimate and courts are violating the Constitution by ignoring them. In fact, there have been numerous cases heard and the conspiracy arguments are, as a judge in the Phil Hart case said, "simply wrong."
- They are angry. They believe the government is violating their rights by collecting income tax and they want to do something about it. They have written a specific plan of action called the Articles of Freedom, which was signed and promoted by local tea party and militia leader Jeff Williams. Williams said, "The most important thing you can do is read and act on the Articles of Freedom."

Consider these quotes: (their words, not mine).

- Page 3 - "We have a fraudulently ratified 16th Amendment in violation of Article V, a direct, un-apportioned tax on labor in violation of the tax clauses of Article I, and a judicial system that refuses to consider the evidence, in violation of Article III."
- Page 2 - "This body recognizes that if or when force is brought to bear on the People, it is the Right of the People to meet that force with equal force; be it from a foreign body, or the misuse of domestic power. Any infringement on the Liberty and Freedom of the People as enumerated in the Constitution is an act of war against the people and the People and their Militias have the Right and Duty to repel it."
- Page 13 - "The term militia, inherently separate from the State National Guard, means 'Constitutional Defense Force' ... "
- Page 26 - "That the 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution definitively and conclusively failed to be properly and legally ratified, thus rendering it void; it is the duty of the sheriff to protect the citizens of the county from rogue federal agents acting under a color of law; Prepare to replace any sheriff or county or State government officials at the next election or sooner, through impeachment or recall, who refuse to cooperate and honor their Oath of Office to protect and defend the federal and State Constitutions and the People; Be prepared to withhold their income tax from the government once the above steps of self-defense are in place."
- Pages 11, 23 and 40 also mention "Citizens' Grand Juries," which could issue indictments against public officials, "resolve unconstitutional activities" and "authorize any citizen of their choice to prosecute a case."

The phrases "community service" and "natural disaster" do not appear anywhere in the document. Sheriff Richard Mack and his "Constitutional Sheriff" movement also promote this document. Kootenai County Republicans recently voted against having Mack speak at their event.

I want to live in a country where we respect and honor the rule of law. My concern is that supporters of the Articles of Freedom have summarily concluded the Constitution and courts we all recognize are incorrect and have a plan to bring about their own vision. Thanks to recent press coverage, we know that a militia has been formed and there is a sheriff candidate who is willing to call up that militia.

Is this the kind of world we want to live in? I recommend you read the document and decide for yourself. I've made my stand.

The Articles of Freedom are available at www.articlesoffreedom.us/Portals/AOF/Documents/AOF_20100402.pdf.

A very clear analysis of 16th Amendment conspiracy theories is available at <http://docs.law.gwu.edu/facweb/jsiegel/Personal/taxes/IncomeTax.htm>.

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