

The Anti-Civil Rights President

by IFRR President, Jeff Ward



Last week, it was ironic that on the day set aside to honor a black man who lived and sacrificed for the civil rights of all Americans, the first black man to be President was inaugurated with an agenda that is a wholesale assault on the civil rights of all Americans.

We celebrate Martin Luther King Day not only in tribute to Reverend King but to honor all those who lived and gave their lives that all Americans would know the God-given freedoms protected in the Bill of Rights. Yet today those freedoms are endangered by the man who took office by while swearing to uphold our Constitution.

Reverend King had a simple message - it is fundamentally wrong that some people are denied their basic civil rights because of who they are. Yet today the President and his powerful allies seek to extinguish the civil rights of all of us because they believe they alone know what is best for us.

Our Founding Fathers knew that the government action that finally ignited our War of Independence was not a new tax or a tyrannical law. The spark was an attempt to confiscate guns in Concord. With that recognition they established that Americans would never be denied the right to defend themselves by the right to keep and bear arms. Yet this fundamental civil right, demanded by civil rights leaders like King and Malcolm X for blacks as well as whites, is being targeted for extinction by this administration. It is hard to keep an armed man a slave. It is difficult to lynch a man who is carrying a weapon. It is not easy to oppress an armed people. Simply, an armed people are, by definition, a free people.

One of the straw man arguments liberals make about abortion is that it is permissible to kill an unborn child because women have the right to control their own bodies. Like many fallacious arguments this is a half truth. All people have the natural right to control their own bodies; liberals just avoid the right to life of the second body involved. Currently, the real threat to the control of our own bodies is this administration's tyrannical healthcare law which makes your body a possession of the state whose care and upkeep is under government control. In Reverend King's day people marched because the government restricted where they could sit, where they could eat, and where they could go to school. Today Obama's government wants to restrict things even more fundamental: who treats your illness, what treatment you can have and even whether you live or die. Of all the numerous atrocities of Jim Crow laws in the South that oppressed blacks for almost a century, I don't recall people forced to actually purchase anything against their will or being denied the practice of their faiths. Don't tell me the individual healthcare mandate and forcing church institutions to purchase coverage that violates their faith is not a manifest violation of our rights.

Liberalism once meant support of liberty. In Obama's America it means the oppression of our basic civil rights. This administration seeks to curtail our civil rights one by one, like the Bill of Rights is a checklist to be crossed off. What is next: freedom of speech? Trial by jury? Peacetime housing of troops in our homes? Now is the time to make a stand against tyranny. We must refuse to surrender liberty, resist tyranny and reclaim our rights. Let us march again for our civil rights.