

COMMON SENSED

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Author's Note

In November 2004, I began reading to my computer. It was cold that winter in Minneapolis, and George W. Bush had been re-elected President of the United States. It was a lonely time for me. Fortunately, my computer came with a microphone and a program for Speech Recognition. It's under the Tools menu of Microsoft Word if you ever get to feeling lonely yourself.

I decided to share the history of American politics with my computer. I read Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson. I read the Constitution. I read laws passed by Congress, speeches given by Presidents, opinions passed down by the Supreme Court. My computer didn't understand me, exactly. But I kept trying to get the words across. The following poems provide a record of our conversations together.

PREAMBLE

We the people of the nearest days
in order to form
a more perfect union
establish justice
insured in message encoding
of identity common defense
promote the general welfare
and security.

Unless this home library.

This is an austerity to disdain.

Establish specification.

The various states of America.

** The Preamble of the United States Constitution*

AMENDS

I

Congress shall make no war
respecting fashion and the
Friday night free exercise thereof.

Paraphrasing the freedom of speech in the press
wherever people recently assemble.

Interpretation begins here.
Reason.

II

A well-regulated militia
in the service of a curious restating.

The various people
keep and bear arms.

Sauté French.

III

No soldier shall in time of peace
incorporate the House
without the consent of the owners.

You're in time of war.
Data management prescribed by law.

IV

The right of the people to be secure
in their purses houses papers effects
and in some reasonable searches and seizures
shall not be violated.

No one shows you the vote rolling close
supported by a driver nation.

This particular use:

Describing a place to be searched
and the person or things to be seized.

V

No person shall be held
to answer for capital
or otherwise infamous crime
unless present maneuvering.

Except in cases arising in the land, remain
where force is forward motion, financial service
in time of war or public danger.

To show any person the center.
This is a new offense.

To be twice ranging from your life,
to love more than your Chevy pickup,
to be witness against us all.

You've been deprived of memory
without due process of law.

No surprise property taken out of use.
That just happens.

VI

In all questions
the accused shall enjoy the riots
to speed public trauma
by an impartial jury of the state industrial.

We're in the Kremlin being shown commitment.

The system should have been
previously ascertained by law
in the new form,
the nature and cause for their position.

To be confronted with windows:
a means to a compulsory process
for obtaining witnesses: in this
they were the systems of cancel,
our defense.

VII

And since then when I read.

Congress shall receive twenty years.

The riot trial by jury preserved.

And no fact tried by a jury
shall otherwise be reexamined
in any Court of the United States.

An inquiry into the rules
of the common law.

VIII

Texas marrow
shall not be required.

Marxism fines
imposed.

The usual punishment
is inflected.

IX

The new version of the Constitution
of certain rights shall not be construed
to deny or disparage others retained by the whole.

X

The past nine delegates
demand states: but I've become station.

You're permitted to buy the state
our surgeon states respectfully
but not the people.

** The Bill of Rights*

COMMON SENSE

A government of our own is a natural right.
My man serious there's a furious innocent
human in there. We will become citizens
who live through form, a constitution our own,
a cool and deliberate manner. Well, we have it
then to trust such interesting events to chance.

If we don't make it now, some massive element
may hereafter rise who may not hold a pattern
this quiet, a collective edited expert in discontent
who by assuming the powers of sentence
may sweep away the liberties of content.

Should the government return us again to the
tottering situation of things with intention?
The desperate adventure that tries for tendency,
to win the division? What relief can it give?

Here we can hear the news. The real
business might begin, ourselves suffering
under the impression that the people were.
Even opposing events now, we know not
what we do. We are opening the door to trial.
Time we be taking the seat of government.

**from Thomas Paine's Common Sense*

DECLARATION

1.

Weighing the course of human demand
it becomes necessary for one people.

They've got all the political game
which have connected them with another
and too soon, half the area.

The suffering of the most Asian
to reach the laws of nature.
Indonesia is gone
and I open.

They deserve respect to the view this
requires that they should declare the Kong is
rich and hold then to the separation.

2.

We know these truths to be sung.

That all men are created equal
if they are endowed by their fears
with certain unalienable rights.

That among these young I knew we
had never seen it happen this.

In order to secure these rights
governments are instituted among men
deriving their just powers
from the consent of the governing.

That was never any form of government
because destructive even
in the rise of people
to volunteer for motion.

In TV is a new song
laying the foundation for such principles
and organizing its powers in such form
as to the show seen most likely
to affect their safety and happiness.

Proving this we dictate
that governments long the saddest
should not be changed for lights and trains and causes.

And accordingly all experience has shown
the man I know more disposed to suffer
while the moves are several.

When you write this down
by abolishing the form
to wage an act of them.

Over one long train of uses and usurpations
pursue invariably the same object.
This is a disaster to reduce them
under absolute desperation.

It is their right—It is their duty—
to throw off such government
and to provide new homes
for the future seeking.

Such is the case, the suffering of these.
And such is now the essay which strains then
to alter their former systems of government.
The history of the present use.

This dream of repeat injuries and visitation
all having indirect object
detachment of an absolute hearing
over the state.

To prove this letter that the city.
Abandon world.

**from the Declaration of Independence*

PER CURIAM

The petition presents the following question:

whether the Supreme Court's
stylish new standards for dissolving
presidential action contests by ballot
of United States Constitution can guarantee
without the use of Sam's many retailers
fetal protection and due process.

With respect to the encryption question
we find a revelation of costs.

This case has shown the combat mission
corporation portion of our time is not
punching a clean complete above all current
campaign of undecided voters nationwide
on airwaves to prove the mechanism and
machinery for poetry.

It is so ordered.

* Supreme Court decision, *Bush v. Gore*, December 12, 2000

H.R. 3162

ENGAGE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY DEFINED

As used in this chapter, the term 'engage in terrorist activity,' means in an individual capacity or as a member of an organization—

(I) To commit or to incite to commit, under circumstances in the game, a sentence, because that's a serious bodily injury to the thesis.

(II) To verify terrorist activity.

(III) To gather admission charge for terrorist activity.

(IV) To solicit funds or other things of value for terrorist activity, Asian pears or care centers described in homes, unless the solicitor can demonstrate that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the solicitation would further the nation's terrorist activity.

(V) To solicit any individual to engage in conduct or otherwise describe his home; for membership manager services describing his home; or for membership in a sectarian organization described above, unless the solicitor condemn straight what he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the solstice would further the nation's terrorist activity.

(VI) Community art that the actor knows, or reasonably should know, affords material support, including safety, transformation, communication, home, transfer from material financial demand, Falstaff, fiction, emancipation, weapons, explosives or training.

** from the USA Patriot Act of 2001*

GOODNIGHT, EVERYONE

In the Oval Office, there's a painting by a friend of Laura and mine. And it's a West Texas painting. The things you imagine. A piece of Sinatra. And I live on the east side of the mountain, somewhere inside, nonsense outside. Society see the data is coming. Not to say the data is gone. I love the optimism in that painting. That's how I feel about America. We've been through a lot together. We've lost three to four years. The frontier recession. Stock market decline. Protecting our country. And yet because of the hardware of your computer and composite use, this time we're after the next four years. Bivariate Henry Kissinger. Reform our school system. Announce business human data America. It's beginning. Over the next four years, we'll continue to insist on Exxons in every classroom, where the children have a chance to realize the new house of America. Over the next four years, we'll continue to work to make sure welfare is for sale and affordable. Over the next four years, we'll continue to rally the armies of compassion. The existence of our country's name. I'm optimistic it will win the war on terror. Commanders standing for five hours. Firm resolve. We must never waver. Ideologues behave. And as we pursue the enemy wherever it exists, we'll also spread freedom and liberty, without great faith in the ability of every transformed society to cover across the world to pieces. My hope for America is a prosperous America. The public aware and disabled. I want to thank you for listening tonight. Financing the vote. God bless you.

* President George W. Bush's closing statement in the final debate with Senator John Kerry, October 13, 2004

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