



Privacy.. the Most Precious Freedom!

From the files of "The Master Joustler"

By Dick Culver

In the words of a famous foreign born actress of several generations ago, "I wish to be left alone!" I do not wish to be investigated, phone tapped or spied upon without justifiable cause. I want to be able to travel within the boundaries of my own country without being required to produce personal identification, or travel papers. I live in absolute horror of some clown in a trenchcoat, or jackbooted uniform walking up and down the aisles of an airliner who "wants to see my papers" like something out of a bad WWII movie. I don't want to sign papers when leaving or returning to my country swearing (or affirming) that I only have "X"-number of dollars in my possession. Quite frankly, if I haven't stolen, embezzled or swindled someone, the amount of money I carry around is none of my Government's damned business! If the "powers that be" have no proof of such wrongdoing they should not be allowed to hassle, search or interrogate me "just in case!" "Preemptive law enforcement" and "preemptive justice" are both extremely scary practices and should be absolutely prohibited! I was always led to believe that these were things that happened in other countries, not the good ol' USA! Guess again, my friend, guess again!

Many of these things are already happening or are planned for us by a government that apparently considers all of its "subjects" to be criminals, potential criminals, subversives or illegal aliens. Any monetary deposits in the U. S. Banking system of \$10,000 or more must be reported (by the bank) to the Federal Government¹. The Feds have tried repeatedly to get a cute little item nicknamed "the clipper chip" installed as the standard encryption device on all new computers. This little jewel would have a "back door" installed in it to allow the government to use a "key"² to read your deepest secrets (but only if "they" deem your conduct sufficiently suspicious to warrant such actions, of course!). The Feds have just taken the first overt action to "police" the Internet³, and unless I miss my guess, we're just seeing the tip of the iceberg.

Only the other day I heard someone drive up to the house. Since I live up in the Idaho Mountains, an unannounced visitor is somewhat unusual. I stepped out to see who was paying me a visit. There, resplendent in his Kootenai County Deputy's uniform was a friend of mine. "Bob," I said, "what brings you up my way?" "Well," he said, "we just got a '911 hang up call' from your phone number, and I came up to see if you were in trouble!" "No, I think the wife was just programming the new telephone, and her finger must have slipped," I said, "but I appreciate your concern!" He laughed and said "well, I didn't see any bodies laying around, so I figured you were doing OK." "Bob," I said, "just as a matter of curiosity, do ALL 911 calls register on your switchboard with the name and address of the caller?" "Sure," he says, "it's a

real safety feature in the event someone is in a bad enough way not to be able to talk to the switchboard!" I agreed, and as he drove away, I thought, well maybe some of the modern technology is being put to good use after all. Then I got to thinking...

Consider the following. Are any of you out there familiar with the latest item being purveyed by the telephone companies? I speak of the so called "Caller ID". I even got one of these contraptions. At first I was fascinated with the darned thing. Neat, I thought, what will they think of next? Until I got the first "phone call from Hell"... One Saturday morning, the wife got a 'wrong number' call from someone who refused to believe she had dialed a wrong number. Hanging up did no good, and the lady continued to call. Since we had the 'offending' phone number registered on our lil' 'handy dandy' Caller ID, the wife called the number back to see if it was the lady's kids playing with the telephone. The lady who answered was most upset that someone could identify who had been making the insistent phone calls. She informed Gloria that she too had a Caller ID! Upon hanging up our phone, it rang again almost immediately. Gloria thinking quickly, answered "Sheriff's Office." There was an immediate disconnect and we weren't bothered by 'Ms. Whoever' again. I checked with GTE. They assured me that they could put a block on our phone that would prevent my telephone number from showing up on anyone else's Caller ID. Only one **problem**... this block doesn't apply to "law enforcement Caller ID's" (located in the P.D.'s and Sheriff's Departments)! "Big Brother" has special privileges! Telephone call tracing is no longer a problem (for the police)... it happens automatically, if someone with enough horsepower deems it to be 'necessary'. Make an anonymous call to the Police?... Right, and my name's Mickey Mouse! This is a potentially dangerous device! I want "Big Brother" to have this kind of 'privacy depriving device' about like I want a 'root canal'! I have since seen a 'small box' advertised that you can install in your phone line. The "box" supposedly prevents your telephone number from appearing on anyone else's Caller ID. I don't know if it prevents it from appearing on the local P. D.'s switchboard, but if it does, I'm gonna' own one! Do I plan on doing anything illegal? Nope, but if I do, it's nobody's business but mine until I commit the first overt act! I value my privacy over any perceived public good. It has to do with living in a free country, as I recall.

What other little goodies pose a danger to our right to privacy? I'll list a few... How about those nice folks who have come up with the pet identification chips that are inserted between a dog or kitty's shoulder blades with a hypodermic needle? These allow a 'lost' pet to be identified by a Vet with a scanning device that identifies the animal with a pre-registered number in the "implanted chip". Sounds harmless, right? I called the chip company (they had an '800' number on their brochure). They informed me that 'they' were furnishing all participating Veterinarians with a free scanner! Upon being quizzed further, they allowed as how the 'chips' would permit a 9 digit number (some permit 10) to be placed on the chip... ever count the number of digits in your Social Security Number? Hummm... And of course, they assured me that there were absolutely no plans to use any of these things on humans... (**Yet?**). Worse, I have since listened to a tape by one of the Ph.D. 'Electronics types' who had been part of the research and development effort on this and other similar devices. He referred to the chip(s) as the "Demon Seed". This is a very kind description of the most ominous invention of modern times! The pet devices are what are usually called passive⁴ devices, but the military version is active. It's powered with a tiny lithium battery recharged by the heat generated by the human body. This gentleman stated that appropriately injected human subjects could be closely tracked on the modern battlefield... as many as 500,000 soldiers at any given time using AWACS aircraft! These, of course would never be injected into civilians... unless...

How about those of Hispanic extraction? “Hey, Pedro... of course we (Border Patrol, local police, or whatever) know you are a U.S. Citizen, but what if you go somewhere else along the border? Those officers might not be so kind. Now if you (Pedro) will just have one of these ‘chips’ put into the back of your hand (or wherever)... you will always be recognized as a citizen!” Tempting? Under such circumstances, I’d say it might well make sense to someone often subjected to close scrutiny by the Border Patrol and/or police! What about young mothers being sold on this as the ultimate method of preventing abduction of their children⁵? What about newborn babies being injected at birth... or the hospital won’t be allowed to participate in Medicare, Medicaid or the new proposed “Presidential Health Insurance Plan”? How about welfare mothers?... no chip, no welfare! Want a check cashed? ...no positive identification (by chip, of course)?, no cashing of personal, payroll or welfare checks! As you can see, “vee haff our vays”... This of course, doesn’t even count the returning servicemen. A mass medical surgical “dechipping”? I don’t think so... Maybe “*Lee Harvey McVey*” wasn’t too far off when he was complaining about the chip inserted in his backside??? The technology and the means currently exist, dear readers... all we need is an unscrupulous government to institute the next step...

Utilizing the same technology, but not quite so threatening on the surface, is the technology being used in the new Military I. D. Card. The latest cards can be scanned to bring up digitized images of the recipient along with any pertinent data deemed necessary. Supposedly as many as 80 pages of data can be recorded on the card. I “gar-ron-tee”, as they say in New Orleans, the next step is the ‘smart driver’s license’! Your image (your driver’s license photo) can be ‘scanned in’⁶ using a device in the officer’s cruiser, from a card (the driver’s license) that can hold up to 80 pages of ‘rap sheet’, political affiliations, suspected activities, politically incorrect or anti-governmental attitudes, etc. All of a sudden privacy is a thing of the past.

Let’s carry it a bit further. Heck, why go through all the paperwork? Let’s just replace the driver’s license with a chip in the back of the hand! No more lost driver’s licenses, no more excuses, “just gimme your hand kid!” Don’t like the idea? No sweat, if you don’t want to drive, you don’t have to have one... You want to cash a check?... or collect welfare, or check into the V. A. hospital? Too bad! In the case of a Military Retiree wanting to use the P.X., Commissary or the Base Hospital, you’re outta’ luck! If you are a Marine or Navy Enlisted Man with less than 30 years of active service, you are a member of the “Fleet Reserve”, and would have no more choice than an active duty serviceman... again, unless you wish to forfeit your hard earned military retirement! Of course it can happen, and unless we put up one hell of a fight, it’s gonna’ happen... no ifs, no ands, no buts... it’s gonna’ happen! All of this will be done in the pursuit of a kinder, more gentle society, of course, or to protect us from an unidentified external enemy (the *Patriot Bill* in 2002)? ...or Homeland Security?... It will ALWAYS be for the children (or whatever the current buzzword will stand), whether we want it or not... And trust me on this one, ultimately we ain’t gonna’ want it, but it’ll be way too late!

The final and perhaps most dangerous application of the ‘scanner technology’ is the so called “cashless society”. The idea here is to remove cash from the hands of the citizens. Why would this be a good, idea, you might well ask? How would we buy things? How could we pay our bills? This seems like a crazy idea! On the surface, you’re absolutely right. From the Government’s standpoint, it has many advantages. Let’s see how it would work. First, everyone would be assigned a “National Bank Account Number” (corresponding of course, to your Social Security Number). You could still do business with your local bank, but they would be tied into a national banking system with everyone’s account number in it. If the National System proved be too cumbersome, it could be tied into a regional office (sorta’ like

the Regional IRS office?). Any money that you made would be deposited to your account number by your employer. You would be issued your very own "National Plastic Credit/Debit Card". Anyone wishing to do business (in the entire country) would be required to be tied into the National Banking System, much as most businesses now have 'verification electronics' to check to see if you have exceeded your credit card limit! Beginning to get the picture? These things would work much like the current "debit cards" that are used instead of checks. When you go to the grocery store for instance, you would present your card to the checker. The checker would then run the card into the machine and deduct the "tab" from your account. Ultimately, you would have the infamous "demon seed chip" inserted into the back of your hand. Now, all you have to have done is to present your hand to the checker to be scanned. This will prevent "lost or stolen cards", and eliminate "check forgery". Counterfeiting will become a thing of the past. And, best of all (from the government's standpoint), there would be absolutely no way to cheat on your income taxes! The States would be able to automatically deduct any State Taxes that feel are due them. If you disagree, you can always sue the Federal or State Governments as appropriate (*right!*). You could not leave the country with any cash. Swiss Bank Accounts would no longer offer to a haven to avoid taxes or to stash your ill gotten gains. The States would now be able to collect (deduct) sales taxes from "out of state sales". When working on "out of state jobs", your employer might be required to automatically deduct your 'home state' income tax... sound good? Not to me? If it does to you, I don't think you've grasped the control "Big Brother" would have over its' citizens... Frightening? You bet! Is it gonna' happen? Unless we get off of our collective "backsides" and scream in our legislator's ears, it's just a question of time.

Is "Big Brother" capable of doing these things? You bet your sweet fanny he is. Back in the late 60's and early 70's the BATF was opening the U. S. Mail with no warrant or even a court order. I once offered to receive a rather questionable brochure from a company in California that had sent me an unsolicited advertisement for a book on how to make clandestine explosives⁷. While I had no particular love for the BATF, I felt this particular booklet didn't belong in the hands of high school kids. I called the BATF Office in Wilmington North Carolina and told them what I had received in the mail. The SAC,⁸ an attorney by the name of Dick Christopher seemed elated.

"We really appreciate this", he sez, "we'll even furnish the money (a whole \$3.00 as I recall)!"

"No, consider this my contribution to society" sez I. I sent off for the darned thing and forgot about it... well almost, at any rate!

Something in the back of my mind, said, "careful, Lad, careful!" I called the Jacksonville (N.C.) Office of the FBI and talked to a good friend of mine (who shall remain anonymous, since I haven't obtained his permission to bandy his name about). I explained what I'd had done (a sort of a verbal memorandum for the record). He told me to consider it duly noted. Several months went by and I got transferred to California... Still no book from the "California Connection". The 'infamous explosives brochure' never showed up. Months later I got a call from my friend in the FBI who was just this side of being in hysterics (laughter, that is). He told me that he had just received a list from the Bureau (FBI) with the names of 53 people to be picked up and held in the event of any general uprising against the government (I rather suspect without the benefit of counsel or other legal niceties)! I can only assume that I was considered to be some sort of "mad bomber" or political dissident... all because I ordered some damned booklet in the mail! My buddy in the FBI called the Bureau and explained what had happened and had my name removed from the list. It seems that Mr. Christopher (the

BATF SAC from Wilmington) had gotten transferred to Las Vegas after I was transferred. He had cleverly forgotten to mention to his replacement that I had volunteered for the “booklet ordering detail”. All in all quite funny in retrospect, but what if I had trusted the BATF and hadn’t called the FBI to cover my fanny? What if there had been some sort of civil disturbance? Do you suppose they’d have locked up a U.S. Marine Corps Major without any sort of hearing?... Do you suppose they would have checked my record to see if I was really a threat to National Security?... Do you suppose the BATF was ‘messin’ with the U. S. Mail?... Nah, not a chance... Think they’d do it again? Certainly not! Just ask Assistant Treasury Secretary Ron Nobel who was testifying for the BATF at the Waco Hearings. Is an unsupervised governmental police agency dangerous to a free country? What do you think?

Skip to North Idaho, fall of 1984 (interesting date, eh what?). The Federal Bureau of Investigation had suddenly come up with an FBI Task Force to investigate the activities of the Aryan Nations (a local white supremacist group). While baking pies⁹ prior to Thanksgiving that year, a GSA Rental Car pulled up on a logging road past my house. Stepping out to see who was calling on me, I noted two gentlemen in Levis and wool shirts climbing out of the car. They flashed what appeared to be FBI credentials and told me that they’d like to speak to me. I beckoned them into my kitchen, shoved a piece of pie and a cup of coffee in their hands. They seemed to be quite nice folks and we spoke of mutual acquaintances in the Bureau. When the niceties were out of the way, they got down to business. It seems that they had heard that I knew a number of members of the Aryan Nations! I asked where in the world they had heard something like that? I was informed that they were not free to disclose their sources. I assured them that if any of my acquaintances were members of the Aryans, I was certainly unaware of it. I told them that the only member of the Aryan Nations that I would recognize on sight was “the Reverend Butler” (the titular head of the organization) who appeared on TV occasionally. The only other easily recognizable neo-Nazi individual in the area at the time was a comic opera character by the name of Keith Gilbert. Keith paraded around town in a Nazi uniform complete with jackboots and Luger Pistol. This guy was too good to be true, he hurled racial slurs at any ethnic minority who happened to be in town, and generally made an ass out of himself to anyone who would listen. Gilbert was the Reverend Butler’s former second-in-command. It was rumored that they had had some sort of conceptual parting of the ways under less than friendly circumstances, and Keith spent all of his spare time “bad mouthing” Butler. Now it seems that the FBI wanted me to offer a firearms class¹⁰ for the Aryans so they (the FBI) could document and photograph them. I told them I had no problem with running such a class, but that they (the FBI) were going to have to organize and advertise the class. I allowed as how I’d be happy to work for them as a contract instructor, but if they thought I was going to get my name intertwined with those “Aryan a-- holes”, they had another think coming. I pointed out that when the “FBI Task Force” went home, I still had to live here, and I wasn’t interested in becoming identified as an Aryan! They thanked me, wiped the crumbs off their chins, allowed as how they’d be in touch and departed... I never heard from them again.

The point to the above story is that the Feds (or any law enforcement group for that matter) will often take the word of some unidentified “douche-bag” as gospel and hang undeserved inferences and labels on the current ‘object of their hate and discontent’. It seems to be up to you to prove you’re innocent of alleged or inferred associations or charges. If you doubt any of this, just ask Randy Weaver how many bank robberies he participated in... charges alleged by the Federal Marshals and the BATF to partially justify their actions at Ruby Ridge!

How about the purchase of a firearm? All citizens (non-citizens are not supposed to buy such things) must sign a form that logs the sale of that particular weapon by serial number.

The form also certifies over your signature that you are eligible to buy the weapon (non-convicted felon, fugitive from justice, “stalker” or otherwise “unclean person”). The so called Brady Bill requires a waiting period, check of your background, etc. Now, the current regulations prohibit the use of such information (serial number of the weapon and person to whom it was sold) from being compiled into lists. Gun owners fear such lists could be used by the Feds to confiscate their weapons if Governmental paranoia gets too great or some national emergency would be declared. If you really think the Federal Government isn’t (hasn’t already?) compiling such lists,¹¹ I have some oceanfront property in Montana for sale... cheap! Why would they want to disarm our citizens? They expound on many benefits... everything from counter-terrorism to public safety. The “effete” and “timid”¹² assure us that crime would be immediately curtailed, accidents prevented and our lives made idyllically safe! While I could make some extremely powerful arguments to the contrary,¹³ this isn’t a discourse on gun control. The simple truth is that this whole thing breaks down to “People Control”. An armed citizenry is not easily controlled, manipulated or subjugated. We can only pray...

But I thought this was about privacy, not about gun control, bank accounts and computer chips. How did you get off the subject? Well, the question is, *did* I get off the subject?... Let’s take a look. The American Heritage Dictionary defines privacy as follows:

pri-va-cy n. **1.a.** The quality or condition of being secluded from the presence or view of others. **b.** The state of being free from unsanctioned intrusion. **2.** The state of being concealed; secrecy.

While definitions **1.a.** and **2.** are important, the definition with which I am most concerned is “**b.**”... the state of being free from unsanctioned intrusion! Intrusion from what? In this case, the important question is unsanctioned intrusion from whom? The answer is, of course, from “Big Brother” aka the Federal Government. Nothing is more intrusive than someone who can (or worse yet will) monitor your mail (electronic or handwritten), have absolute control of your money, finances and taxes, and listen in (unbidden) on your telephone conversations. It scares me for our government to have the ability to control our travel, our possessions and our lives. ...And to disarm us so that we have no means to resist... The counter-terrorism legislation Clinton is attempting to have passed as a result of several contrived (or at the very least exploited) acts of terrorism, would make searches without warrants a reality... all in the name of a kinder, more gentle (and controllable) society. The scariest part of this is that a number of people surveyed actually indicated they would be willing to give up some of their rights for a “safer” existence! “*Gag me with a spoon!*” No “right” given up voluntarily has ever been returned without a fight. Governments don’t work that way. They feed on power and they grow fat on the sweat and fruits of the labor of their citizens. They will not willingly give up power they have become accustomed to wielding! Carrying these concepts to their most terrifying conclusion, the “intellectual elite” would like to expand these concepts to “World Control”. Can you imagine a World Bank in a “cashless society”. The finances of the entire World would be in the hands of a self appointed few! Freedom and privacy as we know it would become things of memory. Implanted chips could track an individual to the furthest ends of the Earth! “...You can run, but you can’t hide.” Your finances could be distributed as “the Few” would see fit (except for themselves, of course)! Ordinary citizens would be reduced to the same level of mediocrity... all according to the whims or theories of the “enlightened ones”.

Are you willing to give up your freedoms and your privacy for the greater good? Or do you want to be left alone to make your own way, make your own mistakes, fall down and get up

again on your own merits? Is the “dole” and a safe existence worth the price? When a “state” confiscates the citizens’ means of resistance and self defense, takes away their individuality, spies on them to ensure their compliance with governmental policy, controls their movements and their money we have something that can only be described as a Police State... Can you say “1984?”...

What’s YOUR privacy worth to you...?

ROC 1996

2002 Addendum...

I initially wrote this “Musing” back in 1996 after the Oklahoma City bombing (and obviously before the infamous Arabic Connection brought the Twin Towers crashing down).

Before 9/11 I was convinced (and still suspect) that the Murrah Building was not the work of a “lone bomber” or even a lone bomber and his Army buddy. That was the work of an organized ring of terrorists with John Doe 1 and 2 initially identified as of mid-eastern decent. It would be pretty hard to prove that the entire incident was “stroked by”, or worse yet known about but deliberately ignored, to give the Feds an excuse to pass the Omnibus Counter-Terrorism Bill passed which would have never had a chance without a straw-man incident to use as an excuse. Because of several extremely embarrassing facts that the Government scrambled to cover up to protect their tail-feathers, it was necessary to hang the blame on a single individual (the “lone bomber”, *Lee Harvey McVeigh*... Hummm...). Even if the rest of the facts are not clear, as an Ordnance Engineer with considerable experience in explosives, I can tell you that it would have been literally impossible to have taken down the Federal Building with a Ryder Truck full of Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer and Diesel Fuel – At best this is a “heaving explosive” (stump-blaster technology in application) and lacks the brisance (shattering power) of such explosives as TNT, C-4 and other military grade explosives or even commercial dynamite, necessary to reduce reinforced concrete to a pile of rubble! The truck would have had to have been parked in the lobby of the building to have done a third of the damage attributed to it! I have written about this extensively in other places, but some extremely high ranking officials participated in the cover-up or at least turned their heads to accomplish their goals.

While the Omnibus Counter-Terrorism Bill did get passed after Oklahoma City, it was a watered down version, and not the far sweeping instrument of which Federal Law Enforcement had dreamed. The Arabs’ twin tower suicide collision incident succeeded far beyond even the Federal Government’s wildest wet-dream. If you will read the provisions of the Patriot Act and check out the plans for the new Homeland Security Agency, you’d better bury your unregistered firearms, buy some fractional hard gold coins with little or no minting charges (early 20th Century Mexican Gold coins work well), get some pre-64 U.S. Silver Coins and lay in some reloading supplies and inexpensive 500-round “bricks” of .22 ammunition for trading purposes. Unless I miss my guess, freedom as we and our forefathers knew has a very good chance of disappearing into the mists and myths of recorded history. Paraphrasing Benjamin Franklin, “Those who would trade freedom to secure temporary security will get nor deserve either.

For those who have read it, the title of a book of some years ago called “Alas Babylon” is becoming more relevant – If you haven’t, check it out at the local library before the Federal Government has the mechanisms in place to track it to you! It’s worth the read!

Lord help us!

ROC 2002

(End Notes on “Privacy, the Most Precious Freedom!”)

¹ In some cases, even deposits of \$5000 or more must be reported. All this is in the name of thwarting money transfers from large drug deals or Income Tax Evasion.

² This “key” would be supposedly kept in “escrow” to be used only when the Feds consider “burgling” (aka eavesdropping on) your files to be in the best interest of the public!... Hummm... This will soon become a mere academic under the provisions of the Patriot Act and their ability to consolidate all records on file for any given individual. You can console yourselves however knowing that it is all being done for “the children!”

³ This action is being touted by the politicians as an attempt to “clean up Cyberspace” and make the electronic airways “safe for Democracy.” The flip side of the coin is that under the guise of decency, this is a blatant attempt to get a governmental foot in the door of ‘computer control’! Those who would ‘rule’ always fear the ability of “uncontrolled citizens” (“subjects”?) to communicate without being subject to close supervision. Being caught with a two-way radio was a good way to be carted off to a concentration camp in Nazi Germany. Today in Saudi Arabia (an absolute monarchy) two-way radios are absolutely forbidden to private citizens... even the little ‘kiddie’ toy radios are forbidden although they have a range of only a couple of hundred yards! TV is closely controlled, but as of the last time I last lived there (1993), the Arabs had not yet grasped the significance of the Personal Computer! Amazing, truly amazing! As a result of the U. S. Government’s attempt to control the Internet, the entire “cyber-family” is up in arms. The ACLU is screaming suppression of 1st Amendment Rights and vowing to get the entire question decided by the Supreme Court. I suppose no one has thought of simply curtailing “Junior’s” computer access...

⁴ Passive devices do not have the ability to “broadcast” a signal and depend on an “active” detecting device. Active devices are capable of emitting their own signal.

⁵ Conversely, how would you like to be stopped to have your child “scanned” by the local “Fuzz” in school or a shopping center to make sure he or she really belongs to you?

⁶ This would prevent the use of a stolen driver’s license with the thief’s picture pasted on it.

⁷ This was prior to the publication of the *Anarchist’s Cookbook* which made such information available to the whole world.

⁸ SAC is the abbreviation for “Special Agent in Charge”.

⁹ I was a bachelor at the time with certain deep seated domestic urges (hee, hee).

¹⁰ I was running firearms classes on a regular basis at that time for the Idaho Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Academy and the local (reputable) civilian community -doctors, attorneys, businesspersons housewives, etc.

¹¹ The FBI got caught with their pants down in Philadelphia with a test program to compile lists exactly like the one(s) suggested above. When called to account, they ran for cover... for the time being.

¹² But then, these aren’t the folks who carved our great Country out of the wilderness!

¹³ Statistics are overwhelmingly against Gun Control accomplishing any of these things, unless of course, they are twisted and misrepresented by the likes of “Handgun Control Inc.” or the Southern Poverty Law Center.