

Reader's Write

A Rebuttal to Senator Leahy

Senator Leahy's first sentence in his letter should be reversed. Extreme voices are trying to undermine "private property rights" of rural America under the guise of community spirit.

Many of the people that fled their homes and arrived penniless on our shores left tyrannical governments that Senator Leahy recommends be replicated. Tyranny is having your lands, ideas, property, and person owned by the Lord and Master whether it be under the title of King, the will of the majority, or a minority. Tyranny is the total disregard for the sanctity of private ownership in which all rights and priveleges in the whole spectrum of property are stripped from the owner.

The Senator tramples and mangles the basic foundation upon which our Constitution was created. The Constitution was such a radical document because of the first time it empowered the individual by respecting his private property rights and made the citizens sovereign rather than King or government. The general Welfare was to be promoted by respecting **all** the Bill of Rights, not mangling those rights under the guise of general Welfare.

Controlling noxious weeds is a serious problem as is maintaining our freedoms and liberties that are so seriously attacked by the convoluted rational preached by U.S. Senators sworn to uphold the Constitution. The Senator labels advocates that struggle to retain basic Constitutionally protected private property as extremists, when in truth, he is preaching an extreme philosophy that extinguishes those fundamental protections.

There is a real need to take measures to control a growing epidemic of noxious weeds. However, if basic principles upon which our form of government are trampled, then the cure for a community problem will destroy the fabric from which the community originated.

Any weed control laws must first emphasize voluntary compliance and technical or financial governmental aid, to solve a community problem that respects private property. Any weed law must require land owner notification by the government agency involved and owner permission to enter private lands. If access is refused, and there can be a documented and justifiable probability that noxious weeds exist on the private property, then court or magistrate permission in the form of a search warrant should be required. Once noxious weed infestation is documented, the geographic neighbors should be given the right to sue the offending landowner for damages if the weed spreads from the owners property to his neighbor, thus harming the neighbors private property. Meanwhile, the state or community that suffers from noxious weed problems should be willing, on behalf of the general welfare, to finance weed control measures to encourage weed control compliance for those that can't afford the costs. Respecting private property and thus protecting the general Welfare is expen-

sive, complicated, and difficult, but so were the wars and rivers of human blood lost in gaining recognition of private property. The flippancy with which Senator Leahy treats the concept and advocates of property rights sends chills of horror down my spine. Too often steps to finance programs for the general Welfare are being labled as subsidies. In reality, many agricultural programs were created to benefit the community while respecting the concept of private property that allowed communities to flourish. The Senators definition of general Welfare reeks of the noblesse oblige of King John before he was faced with the Magna Charta or of King George III prior to the Declaration of Independence and ratification of an extreme document we know as the U.S. Constitution.

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Quemado, New Mexico

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A Day in the Life

Wind sure came up durin' the night when the sky cleared. 'magine the temperature went down, too. Better check the thermometer 'fore gettin' dressed.

Forty below zero. . .wind about 20 mph . . . wind chill index -95°. Darn! That sounds cold. Better git to the barn and see if the tractor will start. Cows 'll be real hungry today.

Let's see. . .long wool underwear, heavy cotton socks, sweat stocks, flannel shirt, jeans, insulated boots, quilted flannel shirt, insulated coveralls, jacket, heavy gloves. There! Sure a lot of work just gettin' dressed when it's like this. Cap 'n scarf too. Jus' hope the tractor will start.

At least there's not much snow. Tractor been plugged in since yesterday. Shots of ether down the air intake 'n hope she goes. Uh oh. Manifold's so darn cold the ether won't even combust. May as well put the 48,000 BTU infrared on the side of the engine 'n go have some breakfast.

Bacon and eggs were good, but the cow ain't had theirs yet. Maybe that engine block and intake manifold are warm enough now so the ether will take hold. Back to the barn.

Manifold feels warm. Shot of ether. . .come on you ol' devil, fire. AH! Boy that's a sweet sound. Engine's runnin', but the hydraulic oil's about as stiff as wheel-bearing grease. Better let her run a while 'fore startin' to feed. May as well head back to the house for another cup of coffee.

Tractor's been runnin' half an hour now. Just as well get started. Boy that oil's stiff. Loader n' bale unroller sure move slow. Sure hope a hose doesn't blow from that oil bein' so stiff.

Ain't a cow in sight. Probably all in the bottom of Cottonwood Draw, just standin' there humped up. May as well head that way with the hay 'n see if the come up. Guess they heard the tractor, cause here they come. Cold as it is, better give 'em some extra hay today.

Now to get the ice off the water truck. Sure glad this axe is good and heavy. Ice is eight inches thick, just since yesterday. Better come back and check again in a couple of hours, in case the ice gets too thick before they come to water. They'll drink a lot with all that dry hay.

Got that bunch taken care of for now. Another mile and a half south, do the same for the young bunch, and back to the place.

Guess everything is taken care of as well as possible. Sure is good to get done with no serious problems. Better plug this thing back in again and maybe put the battery charger on just for good measure.

Back to the house, get all these heavy clothes off, grave a cup of coffee and head to the desk. Lots of work to do there. That February, 1997 SRM Gold Jubilee in Rapid City is getting close. Sure need to get a lot done 'fore calvin' starts.

Hope this weather warms up soon.—**David Fischbach**

Welcome Rain

By Stan Tixier

A cowboy and an eastern dude,

A most unlikely pair,

Were flyin' 'cross the country,

Assigned, by chance to share

The last two seats in the tourist class

On some big jet airplane,

The conversation that they had

Was mostly 'bout the RAIN.

It'd been a-pourin steadily

For several days or so.

Across a bunch of western states,

And in New Mexico,

Where they were headin' on their flight

Most every pond and tank

Was full, the creeks and rivers there

Were runnin' bank to bank.

The dude had come to play some golf

And tennis, don't you know,

The cowboy, to participate

In some big rodeo.

So each one was affected by

Excess precipitation,

And niether of 'em could adjust

A pre-made reservation.

The eastern dude was most perturbed,

And anxious to complain

How his vacation would be spoiled

By that confounded rain,

He fumed and fussed and swore a lot

And said it wasn't fair,

They'd advertised a desert

And now a swamp was there.

The cowboy'd be impacted too

By breaks that he'd been given,

'Cause ropin' in arenas dry

Was how he made his livin',

Yet he seemed sorta' unconcerned,

Not tryin' to be rude,

He set out to explain some facts

To that frustrated dude.

He said, "You ought to understand,

This country's mostly dry.

We need this moisture to survive,

There's lots of reasons why,

So mister, don't get too upset.

Let's try to be more lenient,

'Cause RAIN is always welcome here,

But seldom is convenient!"