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Subject: Re: RIP charleston heston

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2008 01:38:31 GMT

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I believe that part (or most) of that arises from the fact that we, as a nation, gained our independence because we were able to use our guns to kick a corrupt government off our shores. Our government is meant to be founded on not trusting the government to keep the best interests of the people in mind- and looking at many of the policies currently in place, we've got good reason to question their motives. Notice, if you will, how states with the most restrictive laws (not just towards guns, but in general) are also the states which are most notorious for corruption- New Jersey being among them.

This isn't a coincidence; if We the People allow our government to run unchecked, it will grow beyond our control and begin instead to control us. There are examples known to everyone of governments, in the midst of a crisis, claiming too much power (as much as I hate to use the most popular example, the Nazi Party is perhaps the most obvious one) to the detriment of its own citizens and other nations as well. It can happen without anyone even taking notice until the process is too far advanced to turn around- they take away a right here, a right there... all in the name of preserving peace and order, or the tired old excuse of "national security." All leads toward one end, and that is a government which exists solely to pursue its own agenda, with a subservient population which serves only as a resource to further those goals.

Make no mistake- the government represents the nation, but it is not a nation in and of itself. It is when the two words become synonyms that we have reason to fear for our rights- and we're perilously close to that right now. In the past, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have guaranteed protection against that sort of thing- as it did when President Adams attempted to shove through legislation banning criticism of the Government (look up the Alien and Sedition Acts). The fact is that it is, always has been, and always will be a real threat that citizens need to remain aware of.

That is the reason for the incredible amount of self-protection built into the Constitution, and it is also the reason behind the Bill of Rights. Each and every one of the first ten amendments pertains to one or more rights of the People that has, in the past, been abused all to hell and back by the government- whether the United States government or some outside power (as with Great Britain). The First and Second amendments are quite often referred to as the lynchpins of the Constitution; if they are infringed upon then any right may be, as together they represent the People's last line of defense against a corrupt and tyrannical government. Without free speech, we may not bring our concerns into the public eye for scrutiny, and without the right to keep and bear arms we have no means to resist- however unsuccessfully- the forced quartering of troops in our homes, unlawful searches and seizures, and any number of other egregious violations of the Peoples' trust and liberty.

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