

FORWORD : THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

American fascism will have no gas chambers. It won't need them.

It did have concentration camps. They were the first legislative <sup>achievement</sup> ~~success~~ of that eminent liberal, Hubert Humphrey. The concentration camps were not needed, either. Not yet, anyway.

As I enter my seventieth decade I can look backward and see clearly the growth of American fascism, the vision is enhanced by my own painful experiences with it. I have been part of resisting it and thereby became one of its victims. In my youth it was an unlegislated crime to be a "premature anti-fascist".

In those lands in which fascism first appeared, Italy and Germany, it erupted violently, appearing suddenly, the false answer of the rich and the powerful to great distress. In the United States, it has been a ~~shamelessly~~ slowly but steadily growing malignancy. Thus it lacks the drama of Hitler's putsch. Because it has come so slowly, its coming is unrecognized. And because it has come upon us so slowly, there has been no need for the ~~humish~~ murderousness Hitler visited upon the earth.

Fascism in the United States, a unique American form, has not, however, been without violence and murder. The two, fascism and ~~the~~ violence, are never separable.

Most Americans abhor the term. They love their country, think better of it, and consider their leaders, even those they did not want and do not like, incapable of such excess and so enormous a treachery to every decent and traditional principle.

Until a year after what became known as The Watergate, only the left used the word fascist. As the fullness of the deep subversion The Watergate represents became apparent - and I doubt we will ever know all of it - the more conservative and influential elements in society started to use the ugly word.

When those five agents of the special Republican political machine called The Committee for the Re-election of the President were apprehended inside Democratic National Committee headquarters, it was at first regarded as a caper, a kind of exotic political lark. Those five men were not regarded and did not regard themselves as storm-

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toppers, but they were. They believed they were patriots. So did Hitler's murderers.

The very earliest reporting of what was involved in The Watergate should have told the press and those with political understand what it had to represent, but they refused to see. So completely did the press abdicate that had it not been for the perseverance of one newspaper, The Washington Post, it is probable that Nixon ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ would have gotten away with his fascist design. Most of the media treated The Watergate as an incredible joke.

Those accidental arrests were made about 2 a.m. the weekend morning of June 17, 1972, almost five months before the presidential election. By the following May, Establishmentarians were calling this fascism. In its issue dated June 4, 1973, Time magazine reported a Chicago banquet "for top executives of companies listed in the Fortune 500" where "the talk about Watergate was reminiscent of an S.D.S. meeting, words like 'fascist'" being used "to describe the atmosphere in the Administration."

As has always been the case, those who lamented fascism were those who created it. These same top executives and their corporations nurtured Nixon and other fascists and fascist manifestations telling themselves they were serving the national interest. Nixon had so much corporate money he didn't know what to do with it and despite his best efforts couldn't spend all of it in his re-election campaign. He spent much of it in criminal activity, believing, with the arrogance of power, that he was above the law - that the law did not apply to him - and that when he committed crimes they were not crimes but dedication to a higher cause.

As did Hitler, Mussolini, Horthy and others today forgotten, Nixon equated his opposition with the enemy and considered them "red" and subversive. Making them "red" made him right. This was Nixon's political beginning. He has been true to it through his lifelong political career.

Most Americans were not alive during Hitler's day. The older ones prefer to forget it. Their forgetting is made easier by the increased comforts of life. The norm of an American life forty years after Hitler ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was a luxurious life in the

early 1930s. In 1973 it costs me as much to get my grass mowed by a high school boy as <sup>made</sup> I ~~made~~ in an entire week in 1933 was a newspaper reporter. Where the streecar was often beyond my means, this boy has his own car.

When Hitler started bleeding his way through histroy's greatest blood-letting, most American's just refused to believe that what was happening could happen. Indeed, this refusal to ~~see~~ see and acknowledge reality was national policy in the United States as it was in every other major western country. Without these coinciding national attitudes toward Hitler, he would not have gotten far from that "unich beerhall. Hitler was the <sup>military</sup> "answer" to "communism", the restorer of tranquility. The German/hero, then President Hindenburg, enthroned Hitler with the proclamation "ruhig muss sein!" There was turmoil in post World War Germany and an end to the protests, not an end to their cause, was Hindenburg's ~~his~~ ambition. Yet Hitler was before then a man dedicated to and practising murder and lesser violence, racism and other hatred. It was his political creed. his enemy, as Richard Nixon's has always been, was an imagined "red" threat.

If I was more sensitive to this than most Americans of that day it is probably from my background. I am a first-generation American whose parents fled an earlier, bloody, racist tyranny, a Jew whose parents ~~was~~ fled Russia. My father was just entering manhood, my mother was a nine-year old girl when they reached Philadelphia. They would never tell me of their lives in Russia, but I heard of ~~them~~ this and of the lives of other relatives and of the lives of friends who had suffered the same experiences from those who knew about them.