

RIGHTS/DUTIES-MOTIVATIONAL TRADE-OFFS

IN TRYING TO ANTICIPATE THE GOOD/EVIL EFFECTS OF IL/LEGAL BEHAVIORS (ACTIONS)

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ELLIOTT THINKSHEETS

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Sorry about that thicketlike title, but it's not more complex than the im/moral reality I'm trying to describe in this Thinksheet....I suggest you proceed as follows: (1) Read my today's CAPE COD TIMES letter about Barnstable police action in an Operation Rescue hit involving 59 sitins & ca.200 on the street, the latter massed to prevent the entry of any other than Operation Rescuers. What concerns have I here in addition to civil-rights vigilance? (Operation Rescue is infamous for colorpix, as tracts & on the telly, of aborted fetuses--stirring up these goodhearted, softheaded "criminals.") (2) Now study the grid to the letter's left & notice that "rights/duties" has been simplified to "rights" for the purpose of this Thinksheet, which is to apply a particular angle of critical consciousness to the currently heated, inflated concept of "rights." (3) Now work on the rest, which should be for you the least important part.

This summer we've seen the celebration of two world-class anniversaries of clashes involving everything in this Thinksheet's title: the bicentennial of the French Revolution & the semicentennial of the beginning of WWII. Giamatti just died after rightly forcing out of the game baseball history's record hitter Pete Rose. This morning the first Colombian druglord to be extradicted arrived in the US (despite the cartel's threat to murder ten judges for every extradition). And yesterday, doubtless under the pressure of two million black unenfranchised demonstrators, the right won four more parliamentary seats than did the (anti-apartheid) left in S.Africa's elections.. ...Now let's look at the grid's areas:

A Shalom (Fosdick's "Perfect freedom is perfect obedience to the perfect law"). Tranquility with justice in the heart, at home, abroad. "Thy kingdom come...." No evil side-effects. No unenfranchised, all exercising their rights & doing their duties (including all levels of government).

B Law-violating demonstrations in hope of increasing the justice content of the laws by consciousness-raising of the citizenry. Progress when (as USA's civil/human rights legislation of the 1960s) the success brings more good than harm.

C Day before yesterday, President Bush called for the death penalty in the cases of Colombian druglords extradited to the US. This may put a brake on extraditing, as the Colombian government is determined to obey its anti-capital-punishment laws--so how could it honorably extradite its citizens to face, in a foreign country, a greater punishment than they'd face in their own? Meanwhile, though Colombia's de jure government is executing nobody, the country's de factor government (the Medellin cartel) has already executed 110 judges....**D** North's sect.'s "above the law."

"RIGHTS" BEHAVIOR

	inside the law (OBEDIENCE)	outside the law (VIOLATION)
GOOD	A	B
EVIL	C	D

E F F E C T S	GOOD	A	B
	EVIL	C	D

Praise, blame for police action

For once, the charge that Cape Cod crime is mainly from off-Cape proved true. All but four of the 59 civil-rights violators of Dr. Howard Silverman's Woman-Care, the Cape's only facility for legal elective abortions, were from off-Cape. The public-order problem now is how to handle them when this criminal element returns, as they have promised to do.

Police action in this long-planned disturbance and violation deserves praise for its sophistication and blame for its hesitation and disingenuousness.

In your Aug. 31 story, police Lt. Martin Hoxie, 1: Refused to remove the civil-rights violators because of the "risk of injury to the protesters and also the police officers," and 2: Denied the criminals air-conditioning, water, food and toilet access.

Could Lieutenant Hoxie be

unaware that we pay the police to take the risks that entail arresting criminals and suspects? Unaware also that in that stifling heat and stench, risks of health were greater than would have been the risks of carrying the criminals down the stairs? He later admitted lying about how long he would permit the sit-in to continue.

As for police calculation to minimize media coverage, that is not in their job description. Instead of 11 hours of civil-rights violations, their attention should have been on the immediate removal, with minimum force, of the violators. In a democracy, police manipulation of the media is insidious.

But cheers to the police for not letting the criminals persuade them to remove the serious charge, civil-rights violation.

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