

201004 OBITER DICTA: WINTER THAW 2010
Steven Alan Samson

Sunday, January 17

[http://townhall.com/columnists/GeorgeWill/2010/01/17/off-the-cliff, but catching on?page=full&comments=true](http://townhall.com/columnists/GeorgeWill/2010/01/17/off-the-cliff,_but_catching_on?page=full&comments=true)

Congress is considering whether to place itself into receivership under the direction of the three Monkey brothers: See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil. This proposal smacks of a Roman triumvirate (with Caesar as the junior partner) or the French Directory that followed the Jacobin purges. If the members of Congress choose this course of action, I have a modest counterproposal: Send them all into permanent retirement. 'Nuff said.

<http://entertainment.webshots.com/album/558116133JeCsIH>

<http://www.webshots.com/search?query=Wyntoon>

<http://www.neovenator.com/special/summer/morgan/morgan.html>

I am sending along some of the sources for a slide show I put together today. I start with the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince, an article on the tectonic plate shifts in the Caribbean, a chart of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a photograph of the Great San Francisco earthquake with the Fairmont Hotel left standing, the restoration of the hotel, a photograph of the architect of the restoration, and a selection of some of her subsequent work in the employ of William Randolph Hearst. The above slides show some of the more recent restoration of the Wyntoon Bavarian Village near Mt. Shasta that had been designed by the architect, Julia Morgan.

Morgan followed her vision and blazed important architectural trails. Other websites show off much of her work. Click on the photo entitled "Built long before San Simeon." Indeed, long before Disney, this architect sought to bring folklore to life in her architecture.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/A-Brown-win-may-81927412.html>

The headline reads: "If Brown wins, the House may pass health bill in a panic." This piece by Chris Stirewalt speculates that desperate Democrats might choose to adopt the Senate version just so they will have something to show for their efforts. But if Martha Coakley suffers a major defeat, will there be enough House Democrats willing to risk their future even on the Senate version? And if Congress chooses to pass healthcare on the rebound, the 2010 elections will inevitably become a plebiscite on the ruling party's future. The Democrats have painted themselves into a corner.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704281204575003341640657862.html>

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/columnists/view.bg?&articleid=1226129&format=&page=2&listingType=col#articleFull>

It is worth revisiting the infamous Amirault case and the role Martha Coakley, now attorney general of Massachusetts, played in it. The prosecution of the Amiraults had all the classic features of a witch trial or the sort of scapegoating described by Rene Girard. "Blaming the victim" remains an effective career-maker, even for sophisticated demagogues who claim that blaming victims is what conservatives do. Like so many other culture warriors whose careers are driven by political correctness, Coakley radiates the air of one to the manner born. A column discussing how she was caught in that act lately is a revealing and amusing bonus.

<http://biggovernment.com/2009/12/29/the-green-religion-and-climategate-interview-with-steven-mosher/>

Late last Fall Steven M. Mosher was given a copy of the e-mails that had been hacked from the University of East Anglia and helped publicize them. He has a new book entitled *Climategate: The Crutape Files*.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6991177.ece>

What sort of science takes a popular journal article, based on a short telephone interview with a little known scientist from India eight years earlier, and converts it into evidence, QED, for global warming? So-called hard sciences are looking awfully mushy as their evidence melts away into slush. Perhaps a lot of hot air is the real source of the warming.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/6942443/EU-mounts-challenge-to-MEP-pay-rise-cuts.html>

Mats Persson, the director of Open Europe, has given us a great quote. He quickly summarizes the concepts of both constitutional government and free enterprise while showing that the EU is not about either. Congress may very well follow the EU lead and do something comparable if the analysis in today's column by George Will is correct.

Here is the conclusion of Calvin Coolidge's "The Inspiration of the Declaration," presented on July 5, 1926 in observance of the sesquicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. This address summarizes what the present generation has forgotten about the nature and purpose of the American government. In the body of the address the president draws on the political writings and sermons of generations of Americans prior to independence. The full text is available on-line.

"The real heart of the American Government depends upon the heart of the people. It is from that source that we must look for all genuine reform. It is to that cause that we must ascribe all our results.

"It was in the contemplation of these truths that the fathers made their declaration and adopted their Constitution. It was to establish a free government, which must not be permitted to degenerate into the unrestrained authority of a mere majority or the unbridled weight of a mere influential few. They undertook the balance these interests against each other and provide the three separate independent branches, the executive, the legislative, and the judicial departments of the Government, with checks against each other in order that neither one might encroach upon the other. These are our guaranties of liberty. As a result of these methods enterprise has been duly protected from confiscation, the people have been free from oppression, and there has been an ever-broadening and deepening of the humanities of life.

"Under a system of popular government there will always be those who will seek for political preferment by clamoring for reform. While there is very little of this which is not sincere, there is a large portion that is not well informed. In my opinion very little of just criticism can attach to the theories and principles of our institutions. There is far more danger of harm than there is hope of good in any radical changes. We do need a better understanding and comprehension of them and a better knowledge of the foundations of government in general. Our forefathers came to certain conclusions and decided upon certain courses of action which have been a great blessing to the world. Before we can understand their conclusions we must go back and review the course which they followed. We must think the thoughts which they thought. Their intellectual life centered around the meeting-house. They were intent upon religious worship. While there were always among them men of deep learning, and later those who had comparatively large possessions, the mind of the people was not so much engrossed in how much they knew, or how much they had, as in how they were going to live. While scantily provided with other literature, there was a wide acquaintance with the Scriptures. Over a period as great as that which measures the existence of our independence they were subject to this discipline not only in their religious life and educational training, but also in their political thought. They were a people who came under the influence of a great spiritual development and acquired a great moral power.

"No other theory is adequate to explain or comprehend the Declaration of Independence. It is the product of the spiritual insight of the people. We live in an age of science and of abounding accumulation of material things. These did not create our Declaration. Our Declaration created them. The things of the spirit come first. Unless we cling to that, all our material prosperity, overwhelming though it may appear, will turn to a barren sceptre in our grasp. If we are to maintain the great heritage which has been bequeathed to us, we must be like-minded as the fathers who created it. We must not sink into a pagan materialism. We must cultivate the reverence which they had for the things that are holy. We must follow the spiritual and moral leadership which they showed. We must keep replenished, that they may glow with a more compelling flame, the altar fires before which they worshiped."

Monday 18

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/01/israels_disproportionate_respo.html

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/01/clash_of_civilizations_in_hait.html

Here are a couple of pieces on Israeli aid to Haiti.

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2010/senate/ma/massachusetts_senate_special_election-1144.html

A quick glance at the changing poll numbers presents a striking portrait of a political sea change in Massachusetts. The numbers suggest a shift of nearly thirty points in three weeks. Politico considers Coakley's election bid to be in "free fall."

The seat itself has an interesting history. It has been held by a member of the Kennedy family for 58 years and may now may even pass out of Democratic Party control. John F. Kennedy was first elected to the seat in 1952 by defeating the one-term incumbent, Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. Lodge had helped Eisenhower win the presidency and subsequently held several ambassadorial posts, including seven years at the United Nations.

But the story gets better. The younger Lodge had previously held the other Massachusetts Senate seat. First elected to the Senate in 1936, the former congressman was a reserve officer at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. He left Washington and served a tour of duty early in the war, but was forced in the

summer of 1942 to choose between military service and the Senate. So he returned to Washington, was reelected in November, and then resigned his seat early in 1944 so he could return to the war for the duration. He was the only Senator to do so after the Civil War.

The seat to which the now-decorated war hero ran for the first time in 1946 had been earlier held by his grandfather, Henry Cabot Lodge, from 1893 until his death in 1924. Along the way, the elder Lodge defeated Joseph Kennedy in the 1916 election for what is now called the "Kennedy seat." The elder Lodge is probably most remembered as the leader of the Republican "Reservationists" who wanted to modify the Treaty of Versailles and bring it into better accord with the Constitution. But at the behest of Woodrow Wilson, who took a proprietary view of the treaty he had personally negotiated, the Democrats joined Republican "Irreconcilables" in defeating it. This defeat ultimately kept the United States out of the League of Nations, the predecessor to the same organization, the United Nations, to which his grandson served as ambassador for a longer period than anyone else. Perhaps our ambassadorial seat in the United Nations should be called "the Lodge seat."

<http://pajamasmedia.com/ronradosh/2010/01/18/the-special-election-in-massachusetts-the-democrats-desperation/?print=1>

Ron Radosh assesses the possibility that Democrats on Capitol Hill may try to push health care through by using either one of two parliamentary maneuvers that are certain to cause even greater voter fallout in the Fall. If the Democrats do so, they may have a lesson in store for them. "How do you spell D-O-N-N-Y-B-R-O-O-K?"

Tuesday 19

http://townhall.com/columnists/PhyllisSchlafly/2010/01/19/why_kids_dont_do_well_in_school?page=full&comments=true

Phyllis Schlafly cuts through all the PCBS (say it phonetically!) that has been destroying American education: all the statist, politically-correct (PC), left-wing social engineering that is redesigning the family while taking custody over childhood.

Our first step back toward sanity and freedom in education is a simple one. Say it out loud: Phonics. What is to be done? People may and should follow the example of Daniel, who "resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself" (Dan. 1:8).

http://townhall.com/columnists/MonaCharen/2010/01/19/coakley_would_be_quayled_if_she_were_a_republican

Martha Coakley: A summary by the prosecution. Mona Charen observes that liberals are different from you and me; they get an automatic pass from the press. In another context, F. Scott Fitzgerald got it right: "Let me tell you about the very rich. They are different from you and me. They possess and enjoy early, and it does something to them, makes them soft, where we are hard, cynical where we

are trustful, in a way that, unless you were born rich, it is very difficult to understand."

But the point is not to understand the liberals; it is to defeat them. As Karl Marx put in his Theses on Feuerbach: "The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it."

<http://townhall.com/columnists/MikeAdams/2010/01/19/ive-had-choices?page=full&comments=true>

Mike Adams calls out the Democratic Party for its racist support of abortion: the "choice to end all choices." We need a brigade of Mike Adamses to throw against the "monstrous regiment" of liberals.

<http://townhall.com/columnists/DennisPrager/2010/01/19/is-america-still-making-men?page=full&comments=true>

As the 37th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* approaches, several of the columns at Townhall today are devoted to what the Supreme Court, feminism, and the social service state have wrought in recent decades. Here Dennis Prager echoes what Ann Douglas observed about more than three decades ago in her book, *The Feminization of American Culture*: the changing sexual division of labor in the nineteenth century and the receding of male leadership from our cultural institutions.

Later in that century, Robert Louis Stevenson likewise discerned a growing Manichaeism in the midst of an obsession with science and progress. His novel, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, is the ultimate social engineering fantasy: a direct ancestor of so much of the science fiction of the twentieth century. Similarly, H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine* is a eugenics-inspired variation on the same theme: the split personality of modern man, alternately dark and light, predatory and prey. In the end this Manichean vision seems to driven Wells, the frustrated social engineer, to despair.

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/american-murder-meets-american-idol/?print=1>

In a new book, Mark Fuhrman reviews some celebrity murder cases.

<http://pajamasmedia.com/richardfernandez/2010/01/18/double-down/>

Richard Fernandez offers this chilling scenario for the fight the Administration is mounting. Republicans should expect a whole panoply of carrots and sticks to rain like missiles down upon their heads during the next few weeks.

Fernandez writes: "A couple of days ago I wrote that the President had a tendency to raise the stakes whenever he was losing. It was always all or nothing. And now if nothing, then his tendency will be to put the blame on the opposition.

"But the Politico's sources also suggested that Obama's true intent was to begin a defense-in-depth by bogging the Republicans down in 'bipartisanship' maneuvers."

In other words: Knock them silly, then wrap them Frodo-like in a web of half-measures and half-truths until they are so practically compromised to be no politically good.

http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_1_ramparts.html

A former 60s radical and *Ramparts* writer, Sol Stern, takes a stroll down memory lane in a long piece that dissects the nightmare that was the New Left and shows how it was scooped by an established media that gradually co-opted (a good New Left word) its radical sensibilities. Too bad we had to wait so long for the rest of the story.

Stern brings up an observation that reveals our collective ignorance of how a free market works. "I never understood why Hinckle [the editor-in-chief] was so reckless with the magazine's future. What I do know is that the miracle of the capitalist system's bankruptcy laws insulated the editors from the consequences of that recklessness." But the misuse of "other people's money" is not a capitalist phenomenon. "Limited liability" is a creature of the state. It is the state that chooses to offer limited liability protections that all-too-easily degrade into a license to steal and squander without suffering personal consequences. If corporate executives were liable for a substantial portion of the risks they took, would we now collectively be complaining about the state of the economy? The real problem is the economy of the state.

But the Left will always tell its own version of the story, as Stern shows toward the end. This is what the Right must strive to preempt. The New Left still celebrates the summer of 1968, just as the French Left celebrate their own '68-ers: *Les Soixantes Huitards*. Regarding the events in Chicago that summer, the curators of the New Left museum are continuing to guard the flame. Here Stern could have quoted to good effect the editor in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. When confronted by the truth about the title character, the editor refused to set the record straight and instead burned his reporter's notes: "When the legend becomes fact, print the legend."

Who, whom? As ever, we are in a fight over who sets the agenda, controls the narrative, and writes the history books. Constitutionlists need to understand the stakes and see to the education of the "prophets, priests, and kings" of the future.

<http://corner.nationalreview.com/post/?q=ZjQ0MDY0OTZmNGI1YWE2Yjc4NDA0N2MwZmJmNjNhNDE=>

Tomorrow, Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders goes on trial in Amsterdam for "inciting hatred." As Clare Lopez put it in a symposium of the International Free Speech Society, "His Free Speech Is Our Free Speech." Last week, Mark Steyn posted the above observation that "Darkness Falls." So it is a good time to listen to Bach's Cantata 140: Sleepers, Awake! (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme!*).

Yasser Arafat's Secret Archive - a Ticking Bomb
DEBKA-Net-Weekly 429 Exclusive

January 19, 2010, 5:39 PM (GMT+02:00)

Judging from this piece on Yasser Arafat's secret archive, it appears that Pandora's box has been discovered. Arafat appears to have been closely connected to Ceaucescu. Will the box soon be opened?

Wednesday 20

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/i-have-no-regrets-an-exclusive-interview-with-geert-wilders/?print=1>

One the first day of his trial for inciting hatred, here is a brief interview with Geert Wilders. Along the tightrope of political correctness, which is ever-tightening, Wilders has sought to rightly divide the issues with regard to the baleful influence of Islamism in Europe. We do not have to agree with the particulars of his words and actions to understand the dangers to truth and justice posed by this prosecution. Like it or not, mosques and Muslim neighborhoods have to some degree become a fifth column through which a radical political ideology is being spread. They have become incubators that both enlarge the numbers of Islam's adherents and intensify the radical political impact of the Islamists. The political impact is fully dependent upon a large Muslim presence in European society.

<http://www.globalpolitician.com/26164-islamism-islam>

In a separate article, Barry Rubin has summarized the Islamist problem that Wilders is challenging in the political arena. The conclusion of this primer bears repeating:

"Neither more democracy nor more prosperity provides simple solutions to this challenge by Islamism. Many Islamist leaders and cadre come from well-off families. They are driven by ideological, cultural, and religious factors just as left-wing students in the West seek utopian transformations of society. Equally, they are not driven by antagonism to tyranny since their goal is to establish a new, worse tyranny. Both the Nazis and Communists came to power by overthrowing democratic regimes, in part through elections. With Islamism's strength, the problem is not the lack of democracy by the rulers but the lack of a strong democratic movement to compete with it.

"The Islamist movements will only be defeated by the destruction of violent groups as well as a widespread perception among Muslims that they either cannot take power or are a disaster as rulers.

"Better government and higher living standards in their own countries would help to some extent in some countries. Aside from not overestimating this factor, it should be added that the West has no way to make these things happen, by overthrowing and replacing regimes (as Iraq and Afghanistan show), by changing its own policies, or by pressuring the incumbent regimes to change."

The piece (below) by Walter Williams on the causes of Haitian poverty dovetails nicely with Rubin's last paragraph. As Charles Krauthammer put it so well last October, "Decline Is a Choice."

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/017/0561fnpr.asp?pg=1>

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves, that we are underlings."

Julius Caesar (I, ii, 140-141)

<http://townhall.com/Common/PrintPage.aspx?g=d88dc4d7-9362-495d-86db-1bf1398ad61e&t=c>

Here is Walter Williams on some of the other reasons, such as rampant corruption, behind Haiti's plight. The word of God must take root in that culture, or any other, just as the soil on the hills needs to be more firmly anchored. Torrential rains that periodically cause huge mudslides are just another of the calamities that plague that destitute country.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global_Economy/LA20Dj02.html

The always-provocative Spengler asks a good question: Is America a Failed State? Wealthier countries, as Walter Williams has noted, may be safer and more stable, but there is nothing inevitable about the competitive edge we Americans have long enjoyed. On the positive side of the ledger we may note that the Bay Area earthquake of 1989, although as strong if not stronger than the one in Haiti last week, caused very little loss of life. But, increasingly, it appears that we are not immune to disasters of our own, such as the collapsing infrastructure and imploding populations of Detroit and New Orleans. Part of the problem is that, when no one is truly accountable for programs, policies, and expenditures, nothing gets turned around. Limited liability and legislative immunity alike mean that corporate executives and members of Congress are not held fully accountable for the consequences of their venality, ignorance, and stupidity. The abuse of such privileges has created—or “stimulated”—rather large negatives. But nothing will prevent them or us from choosing to decline when we have already declined to choose to govern ourselves.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100121/ap_on_re_as/as_new_zealand_weapon_sights

It took the military brass in New Zealand more than three decades to notice the Bible codes inscribed on their telescoping sights. Now they worry about offending Muslim sensibilities.

Thursday 21

http://townhall.com/columnists/AnnCoulter/2010/01/20/that_old_obama_magic_is_back

Ann Coulter has a sharp ear for cant. The Democratic Party establishment and their toadies in the media refuse to face up to the electorate's repudiation of their radical agenda and its justifiable fear that this Administration is failing to keep the jihadist threat at bay.

http://townhall.com/columnists/MichaelBarone/2010/01/21/little_guy_sends_message_to_washington_drop_dead?page=full&comments=true

As usual, Michael Barone has a veteran polltaker's eye for electoral detail. Scott Brown may just have brought the Reagan Democrats back into play.

http://townhall.com/columnists/MikeAdams/2010/01/21/gary,_gary,_quite_contrary?page=full&comments=true

Mike Adams has espied and now preserves for posterity low-hanging fruit posted from the academic fruitcake mills. "More tea with your cake, my dear? A nice helping of cant, too?"

I especially like this pearl of liberal wisdom: "Meanwhile, we non-theists will do what actually works. We will support the sciences that are striving to understand and predict earthquakes; support improving construction technology; and liberally donate goods and services to the Haitian people, these souls who are suffering and have suffered far too long. And do it in silence, with caring, and respect."

The most merciful punishment for wolf-loving, left-wing sociologists is to sentence them to read and digest pieces like Walter Williams' "Haiti's Avoidable Death Toll." Liberals prefer to treat the symptoms of social disorder in the manner of unseemly blemishes rather than as indicators of more deep-rooted pathologies.

http://townhall.com/columnists/HughHewitt/2010/01/21/the_connections_between_haiti_and_massachusetts?page=full&comments=true

Like Walter Williams, Hugh Hewitt ties together the events of the ten days to show why the American experiment still has a lot of life—and a lot of fight—left in it. We are not prepared to succumb to the disease once diagnosed by Alexis de Tocqueville: "In France there is only one thing we cannot make: a free government; and only one thing we cannot destroy: centralization." These days, the French are complaining about an American "occupation" in Haiti, even while quietly submitting to an occupation of its suburbs by high-spirited "youth."

http://townhall.com/columnists/AmiHorowitz/2010/01/21/an_anti-un_movie_at_a_european_film_festival?page=full&comments=true

This fish-out-of-water report from the Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam is an amusing illustration of how to beard the lion in his den. The pun in the title of his film, *U.N. Me*, is an example of the light-touch that is best prescribed for pricking hot-air windbags and deflating pious pomposities.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/153073/Europe-plots-green-blitz-on-British-roads>

The Paul Revere of London, Mats Persson, raises his standard and strikes again with his battle cry: the Eurocrats are coming! Two days after the Boston patriots repelled the Democrats' long march through their institutions, the

Eurocrats are being pummeled along British highways by well-concealed minutemen who are rallying to the "lion of the north."

Challenging the Euro-foe's latest stratagem for seizing control of the Queen's highways the stalwart Swede scoffs: "This illustrates that the EU simply can't stop interfering in every aspect of people's lives."

Do we detect an echo of Alexis de Tocqueville here? As that former Cabinet official once complained: "In France there is only one thing that we cannot make: a free government; and only one thing we cannot destroy: centralization."

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/01/haiti_and_the_us_coast_guard_a.html

I have been following Linda Halderman's previous dispatches from American Samoa. She has relayed this account of the Coast Guard's arrival in Port-au-Prince last week.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704320104575015010515688120.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_BelowLEFTSecond

This piece by Daniel Henninger reminds me of an analysis I read in the late 1970s of the factors that had helped make New York City ungovernable. That article in New York magazine showed that the role of the public employees unions was a large part of the mess. Despite subsequent improvements, New York City is once again bleeding people and thus depleting its tax base.

Today, at the national level, we have a major political party that is becoming an arm of the public employee unions and a presidential cabinet that was born and raised in the "public bubble." The entitlement mentality of the recipients of public spending is exceeded only by that of the professional class of gatekeepers who concentrate their energies on collecting, weighing, measuring, apportioning, inspecting, and otherwise accounting for the largesse they distribute.

Friday 22

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/7045354/More-than-50-EU-embassies-open-across-the-world.html>

In smoke-filled rooms across the continent and some offshore precincts, European leaders last year bought a pig in a poke. Now that the pig is loose, squealing "EU" as it runs amok, it is making a hash of national foreign policies.

Mats Persson notes that for "all practical purposes," the newly created EU embassies will take over representing its members on the world stage. This will make it difficult for individual members to respond to human rights abuses in a timely and appropriate way. As Persson notes: "In order for common embassies to work, EU member states must have shared national interests. This simply isn't the case, particularly in Africa where the EU has consistently failed to act in a unified manner in the past."

One need only note the tendentiousness of the UN Human Rights Council with its strident attacks on Israel (an obsession publicly reproached by the last two UN

secretaries-general) in order to anticipate where European human rights policies are likely to trend in the future.

http://townhall.com/columnists/CharlesKrauthammer/2010/01/22/the_meaning_of_brown?page=full&comments=true

While analyzing the breakdown in the Democrats' electoral support, Charles Krauthammer echoes something J. Budziszewski wrote in another context. To paraphrase: The strength of the Democrats is that they can rationalize; their weakness is that they must. Krauthammer clearly understands this. So I heartily endorse his parting advice. As Solomon and Aesop together might have put it: The slothful who doze off in their *hubris* are apt to awaken with *nemesis* at their throats.

Saturday 23

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/01/rabbi_yehuda_levins_speech_at.html

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/01/impressive_media_malpractice_a.html

On the 37th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, Rabbi Yehuda Levin calls for the revival of nullification as well as interposition, where a duly sworn officer of the law intercedes to protect people against harm from another officer who is acting in a tyrannical fashion. There is a long history of resistance to tyranny in the Judeo-Christian political tradition. The literature of interposition, impeachment, nullification, and secession raises issues about the nature and extent of sovereignty and authority, including what constitutes dereliction of office, and the effective deposition of office holders. The Bible is filled with case studies.

The second piece here addresses professional misconduct by members of the fourth estate in reporting the annual March for Life. The ninth commandment appears to have as much influence on such journalists today as the Hippocratic Oath has on the cutting edge of medical eugenics.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/jan/10012208.html>

Another sign of the times. So much for liberal objections to “legislating morality.”