



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Stirring Up Our Reps

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Since we live in America, if I were Catholic and my neighbor were Protestant, I could not force him to be Catholic, nor could he force me to be Protestant. Neither could force the other to pay obeisance to a religion not his own. But if we had another neighbor who was an atheist, he could and would be able to force both of us to obey the tenets of his religion. Indeed, we would be forced to place his god on a higher plane than our own and obey his orders.

In the America established by my ancestors and yours, his constitutional right to swing his constitutional fist ends where my constitutional nose begins, but in the America our modern courts have created, that dynamic has changed.

If one of you were a Protestant, another Catholic and I an atheist, I could impose my will upon both of you with impunity, because I, like the pigs in Orwell's *Animal Farm*, would be "more equal" than you.

Why? Simple. The courts, not the legislature, have given the religion of atheism preferential status. They are "more equal" than other Americans. They can force the tenets of their religion on me, on you and on our Catholic and Protestant neighbors.

Congress could, and should, back down the courts of this country, but, so far, they have refused to do so except with the no-call list. Oh, yeah! They acted with alacrity when a goofy judge declared that list a violation of telemarketers, constitutional rights.

Congress said their constituents really wanted this list in place and in power, so they called a hurry-up session and passed a hurry-up bill over-riding the judge's decision. That judge must have all but croaked when Congress lived up to its constitutional responsibilities and reversed his decree. Without question, he had assumed that Congress was in its usual supine position, so far as the people's rights were concerned. It would never have occurred to him that they would, or even could, act on their responsibilities.

So, now, I want to know, if the no-call list has the power to move that bunch of self-absorbed "public servants," why

can they not be sufficiently moved to back down the courts on matters of constitutionally guaranteed religious rights?

They really do know the Constitution guarantees "freedom of religion," not for atheists alone, but for all Americans. But they do not have the backbone to go into session and use it to trump the power of atheists to swing their court-empowered fists so abusively, so deliberately, arrogantly hitting our Constitution-protected noses. Why? It's quite simple. They acted on the no-call list, because they said their constituents wanted it. They haven't acted on our First Amendment rights to freedom of religion, because they don't think enough of us give a healthy hoot, one way or the other, to matter. They are sure it will cost them nothing to ignore our desires and, thereby, our rights. This abdication of responsibility gives activist judges full rein to ride roughshod over Americans' First Amendment rights.

Do we want them to take on the courts, so far as our religious rights are concerned, as they have the power to do? If we want that, we had better let them know they will pay a price if they do not act in our behalf.

Their phone number is 1-202-224-3121. That will reach an operator who can give you the office of both your representative and senators.