

## Executive Power and it's Constitutional Limitations by Elliott Adams Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee

Upon leaving the Constitutional Convention of 1787 – Ben Franklin was asked: "Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?" Dr. Franklin replied: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Honorable Representatives, in that single sentence is the essence of what this hearing is about today – "if you can keep it." Right now hanging in the balance, in one pan is our republic and all the principles that made the United State a shining beacon of freedom around the world and in the other pan is a totalitarian state and all the despotism that it brings. In the armed forces we took an oath, the same oath congressmen take, "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Now as veterans we still take oath very seriously. Which is why we are here on the Hill some of us gray haired and getting long in the tooth, but still defending the Constitution.

Veterans For Peace has members from every war our country has fought back to and including World War II. VFP is 23 years old, has over 120 chapters spread around the country, has an NGO seat in the UN, and a small share in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Our members help 85,000 Iraqis get safe drinking water, gave 54,000 free phone cards to patients in 148 VA hospitals, help Agent Orange victims both US soldiers and Vietnamese civilians, aided Hurricane Katrina victims, supports schools and orphanages in Afghanistan & Vietnam, have worked extensively in Central American for freedom and fair elections, and bought appropriate body armor for soldiers in Iraq when the government could not supply it. But many of our members have set aside all these other important works to defend our democracy by calling for impeachment. There can be no question about whether criminal offenses have been committed by officials of this administration. The only question

now is, what, if anything, each member of Congress is going to do about it. There are those who say, "oh heck, there are only a few months left, just let them finish their terms, and then we can get on with our lives like waking from a bad dream." But we cannot afford that luxury. This is not about impeaching a few administration officials. This is about maintaining the structure of our government. This is about protecting the Geneva Conventions, the Nuremberg Principles, and the Law of Land Warfare. This is about defending the rights and freedoms of the US citizens. This brings to mind the words of Ben Franklin "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both." The officials of this administration have usurped power from congress, stolen the rights of the people, and by ignoring it Congress reinforces it and joins it. All future presidents of both parties will start where this

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## Excerpt on Illegal Voter Lists Purge by 3 States by Steven Rosenfield



State of Michigan Advancement Project's Heard said there has been an overall lack of "transparency" regarding several aspects of the state's voter purge process. In 2006, he said, Michigan election officials did a statewide mailing to all voters that did not mention the mailing would be used to verify voter registration information. Still, Heard said the returned

postcards were used to remove 230,000 registered voters from voter rolls within 90 days of that year's general election, which also violates the National Voter Registration Act, he said. Jan BenDor, statewide coordinator for the Michigan Election (Reform) Alliance, a local voting rights group, said state officials cited an April

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## Schedule of Events

- Aug 3rd—Election Challenger training at Charles House, 445 Colfax, Benton Harbor, 3 pm
- Aug 4th —Stonewall Democrats—Graafschap Café, 7 pm Those wishing to be Election Challengers should attend.
- Aug 5th — Primary Election—please vote to keep the SOS from purging you.
- Aug 9th —Berrien County Republican Party, 3271 Lincoln, St. Joe, 10 am
- Aug 11th —South County Democratic Club, Moose Lodge, Buchanan 7 pm
- Aug 12th —Ottawa County Democratic Party, Filmore near 120th, Admin Bldg 7 pm
- Aug 13th —Allegan County Democratic Party—Tech Center, Allegan 7 pm
- Aug 26th —Cass County Democratic Party 804 E State, Cassopolis 6 pm

## Executive Power (continued from page 1)

presidency leaves off. For Congress to continue to allow the usurpation of power and the flagrant violations of the Constitution to go unanswered would, in itself, be a violation of the law.

While there is no need for re-enumerating the long lists of impeachable offenses committed by officials of this administration, I can not escape the visceral pain and indignation that we, who served our country in combat, feel when we find our own government condoning and/or committing war crimes and/or crimes against humanity. I cannot believe that members of our government are trying to obscure and distort what is torture and what is not torture. What is human has not changed in the past 8 years. What is torture has not changed in the past 8 year. The saddest thing to me about the torture discussion is that it has obscured the central point that, except in the movies, torture does not work. We were taught, in the Army, do not torture, not only because it is illegal, but especially because it

ruins the integrity of the information you gather. Simply put, any victim of torture will eventually just try to say what ever the torturer wants them to say. Put another way it is the very power of torture that keeps it from giving us the truth.

As Congressmen you have available to you some of the greatest constitutional minds. But I learned in war that sometimes too much information can make it hard to see the essence. With your permission I will highlight a few salient points.

Without impeachment, requests and subpoenas and contempt citations are ignored (Congress has been mocked by an administration that has repeatedly ignored its subpoenas with impunity).

With impeachment, witnesses are freer to speak, "executive privilege" is gone, and subpoenas must be complied with.

The Constitution discusses impeachment in six places and never once mentions other remedies like censure, criminal referrals, legislative "solutions", or even prosecution (except to indicate it can occur sepa-

rate from impeachment). The drafters of the constitution incorporated impeachment as the simple and proper process for dealing with all high crimes and even misdemeanors.

Without impeachment there looms the specter of an audacious broad sweeping self-serving pardon, even one that includes, a constitutionally dubious, but not explicitly forbidden, self-pardon! Which would further erode Congress' place in the balance of power rendering it virtually irrelevant. The only thing a president cannot pardon is an impeachment and a conviction in the Senate. But once removed from office, he can pardon nobody of anything.

For us veterans, when our time came, we volunteered our very lives for this republic; for the principle of freedom for all, for equal opportunity for all, to defend the Constitution and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence, and to guarantee the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Now, Congressmen, it is

your time, and I hear there is not enough time! Now is your time, and I hear it will not be good for one party or the other party! Now is your time, and I hear there is not enough political will around you!

When our founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence they were not worried about political will, or how much time there was, or about any parties' political future, they were just worried they were going to be hanged by the neck. But they did what was right. Now it is your time to standup. Einstein said – "The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

## Two Party System? By Pat Foster

Howard Zinn wrote in his *Peoples History of the U.S.* that the two party system was created so that the rich and powerful leaders of our country would always be able to control it. Once you get more political parties into the mix, you get more of a blend of the peoples' wishes, rather than control by the few.

After the 2004 election, the will of the people wanted an immediate end to the war in Iraq, yet four years later with a Democratic Congress that could cut

funding and end the war, it still remains an issue. If the people want us out, but our government wants to keep us in it, then the people no longer control their own government.

The threat of a multiple party system in our country would be a blow to the power brokers that control with money. The reason we stay in Iraq and Afghanistan is that people profit from these wars. I can take my profits and buy out leaders of both parties, but once you start to add additional parties to the

mix, it becomes an almost impossible task.

Under the two party system, Republicans have represented the upper classes, while the Democratic Party represented the lower classes. It has gotten to the point where neither party represents much other than their own pockets. If we want a democracy with a representative government that works for the interest of the people, then it is time to start really looking at the other parties in our country and what they have to offer.



Green Party Convention

## Voter List Purge (continued from page 1)

2007 letter from the Department of Justice pressuring the state to do more to clean up its voter roll for the statewide mailing and August 2006 purge. Ten states received those letters, which critics said was a political move because the claims of sloppy voter rolls was based on outdated data, notably U.S. Census population estimates. Since the 2006 purge, Michigan has used driver's license databases from other states to identify another 280,000 names as apparent duplicate voter registrations, Heard said. This month, staffers for Michigan

Secretary of State Land, a Republican, canceled a meeting with Heard and Michigan activists to discuss purge issues.

"We have been trying to get a meeting with election officials to talk about the issues and get their explanation," Heard said. "It's hard to say what happened with the 280,000 supposed out-of-state movers, since we can't get the info from the state."

Land's spokeswoman, Chesney, did not respond to requests to comment. However, newspapers in Michigan have quoted Chesney as

saying the meeting was canceled when an information session appeared to be a precursor to litigation. Heard said Advancement Project has not ruled out filing a lawsuit.

"We have to evaluate all of our options," he said. "We are hoping the secretary of state's staff will sit down and talk about it."

*"We are hoping the secretary of state's staff will sit down and talk about it."*

## Pollution Standoff by Pat Foster

The Lower Scott Lake Association met in July to review continued dredging of their arsenic laden lake onto an unsealed containment area next to some of their poorer neighbors.

First problem: They need to get a permit from the DEQ. An in depth search of the DEQ site, showed a public notice for a hearing. This was discovered by

our favorite investigator, Neva Tice. She filed for a hearing just days before it was ready to lapse. The hearing will be at the Lee Township Hall on August 18th at 7 pm.

Second problem: Last November, this editor received a lab report on water and soil samples taken from the containment site indicating high levels

of arsenic poisoning that would require a state cleanup. This sample was refuted by a health department official because the test well was not properly drilled. That was February, and when asked if they drilled a new one, I was told only if the DEQ approves their permit, and then it will have a "lock on it" so that I cannot get a sample.



Contaminated containment pond filled with dredgings that exceed the norm for arsenic by 12x's. Nothing improper about the soil?



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Without light, there is no Democracy

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*MERA's Monitors—We have two of three counties that accepted MERA's request to put in Election Challengers for the Primary Election. If you want to be a volunteer on the front lines of changing our government back to a legitimate democracy, please go to our website and register as a **MERA's Monitor.***

*The criminal complaints against the Allegan County Clerk, the Board of Election Canvassers, and others for criminal violations of election laws that was all video taped are currently being stonewalled by Chris Thomas of the Bureau of Elections, the Attorney General, and the Governor. Jennifer Granholm controls the state police, who refuse to look at the Lee Township canister with multiple printed ballots, which would prove that Joyce Watts who controlled that canister actually forged ballots to agree with the tapes that were manipulated.*

## Agriculture Editor Steve Westin

See Steve on WMNC.biz, "[Agriculture](#)", on a video of him talking to a packed audience on the state of our current food supply. Know what to eat and how to get it for good nutrition.



Steve Westin gives talk on the quality of our food at Mary Hardy's Summer Seminar at Lake Dumont in Allegan