

Pete,

Thanks to you, I had the confidence to stand the border patrol down yesterday. You may not be able to appreciate this, but where I live there are internal border check points staffed with machine gun armed border patrol agents. These check points are at least some 50 miles inland from the border, and placed smack in the middle of the freeway. The typical encounter goes like this:

BP: "How you doin' today, is this your vehicle?"

Citizen: "Yes sir."

BP "Where you coming from?"

Citizen "Home"

BP "Where you going"

Citizen "Work"

BP "Go ahead and pull into secondary and pop your trunk."

Citizen "okay"

Then depending on their mood, they start with your trunk, move on to the inside of your car, then finish off with doing a pat down on you.

When these check points first popped up (about 12 years ago) my neighbors were very angry with the agents invading their privacy. I asked my Dad what we could do about it, and showed me. When, we passed through the check point one day, the agents asked him to pull into secondary and pop his trunk. My Dad refused and after a very loud shouting match, they ripped him from his car and arrested him. Then they had me pull the car into secondary. Interestingly enough, they did NOT search his car. The Border patrol put him into a little cage where they keep illegal immigrants and called the sheriff. When the deputy arrived, the border patrol demanded they arrest my Dad. The Sheriff actually scolded the border patrol agent and wrote my Dad a ticket for obstructing traffic. The ticket was later dismissed by the judge at traffic court.

After reading all three of your books, I had the confidence to start learning the law for myself, and reading certain case law that clarified border patrol power at internal checkpoints. Yesterday, I went through the check point and this is how the conversation went:

BP "How you doing today"

Me "Fine, I'm a US Citizen"

BP "Is this your car?"

Me "I'm a US Citizen, and I'd like to go on my way, am I free to go?"

BP "I didn't ask you that, I asked if this was your car."

Me "I heard you and I'm telling you that I am a US Citizen and I'd like to go on my way, am I free to go?"

BP "What do you have in your trunk?"

Me "I am a US Citizen, I'd like to go on my way, am I free to go"

BP "If you've got nothing to hide, then let me look in your trunk"

Me "I DO have something in my trunk. Its called MY RIGHT TO PRIVACY. That's what I'm Hiding in my trunk, my privacy.

BP "Please pull into secondary"

Me "For what purpose?"

BP "Just Do it"

Me "I'm not pulling into secondary, we've established my citizenship, I'd like to go on my way, am I free to go"

BP " (calls over supervisor) You're obstructing traffic and creating a hazard, pull into secondary"

Me " Excuse me, YOU are obstructing traffic. I'd like to go on my way, am I free to go?"

Supervisor "Hello sir, Why are you refusing to state your citizenship?"

Me " I have told this man a dozen times that I am a US citizen, and that I'd like to go on my way. Why are you detaining me?"

Supervisor "I search a thousand cars a day, and when someone doesn't allow me search their car I call that suspicious behavior"

Me "You search a thousand cars a day? That's a travesty. If I am the only one exercising my god given, Constitutionally recognized rights, that doesn't make me suspicious, that makes me REMARKABLE. OUTSTANDING. EXTRAORDINARY.

Supervisor " You obviously have a problem with us..."

Me " Excuse me, you are making presumptions that aren't true. I think Border patrol serve a necessary function. I have a problem when men under color of authority damage me by damaging my Rights."

Supervisor " How did I damage your rights?"

Me "When you insisted on searching my car"

Supervisor "We don't insist, we asked your permission."

Me "Well you don't have mine"

Supervisor " Where are you coming from?"

Me "within the united states"

Supervisor "Where are you going?"

Me "Within the United States"

Supervisor " Fine", Smiles " If you are going to be traveling though here anytime soon and our agents hassle you, just tell them you know me, ill make sure your rights are protected. And by the way, things change around here when people come by and start asking questions."

HA! Pete, I can't tell you how good that felt. Thanks to you giving me the civics education I was never offered in school. I understand now that we the people are the apex sovereigns in these united states. That the constitution is a document from the people to the government establishing 17 specific and limited spheres of power. That the constitution is not a document from the government to the people establishing what the people can do.

This game has just begun. You are a Hero. Lets play for the win.

Michael