

The Sanctuary Quandary

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Throughout the past few years the term *Sanctuary City* has been tossed about, and even included in some formal resolutions, indicating that the law enforcement officers in a particular community would not enforce certain laws erected by the Federal Government regarding the presence of illegal immigrants. Such blatant disobedience drove many so-called conservatives to the brink of insanity. Ironically, many of these same self-identifying conservatives were also heard to quote Thomas Jefferson on the duty of the people to revolt if that same Federal Government went awry.

Then, only recently, a few counties and cities in Illinois declared that those jurisdictions would be *Sanctuary Cities* with respect to an anticipated legislative action by the state government under which firearms would be confiscated. Of course, the progressives quickly joined the aforementioned members of the right at the brink of insanity.

As all this is happening, I am reminded of a time when I was but a young, 24 year-old Ensign serving in the United States Navy. Without boring you with the details, I found myself, one day, in a bit of a quandary. I had come across a situation which put the men in my unit at risk. The situation had been created by an order issued by a Lieutenant Commander. The threat was not immediate, but the situation had the potential to become deadly: in seconds and without warning. Because there was no time to go to the superior officer to seek a reversal, I countermanded his order and issued a new order through which the situation would be corrected. I remained with the Master Chief as he carried out my order.

All of my actions were contained in Navy Policy, which states that a junior officer has the duty to countermand a senior officer's order if that order is an 'illegal order.' The Lieutenant Commander's order was an illegal order because it violated naval safety policy. I was on solid ground. And yet, I was called into the Skipper's office where I had to explain myself.

I see a very strong parallel between the countermanding of an illegal order and the two examples of sanctuary being offered by municipalities and counties. We are fortunate that neither of the examples include the order that local law enforcement defend with force either the illegal alien or the gun owner making both actions less effective and breaking the similarity to what I had done. In the instance of my order, the situation was corrected first and adjudicated by the Skipper later. In the case of the sanctuaries, there is yet to be any actual corrective action taken.

Referring back to the Progressive and Conservative groups, the position of either in either instance is being argued using the same premise: that the action of the Federal Government is unconstitutional and it is the right and duty of the people to protect the Constitution from '*all enemies, foreign and domestic.*' Both sides have decided that, in these instances, the Federal Government has become an enemy of the Constitution. Eventually, these positions will probably be determined by the U.S. Supreme Court. Hopefully, that will happen before the local law enforcement is called upon to physically defend those within the supposed sanctuary. Unfortunately, that same Thomas Jefferson is also noted for bemoaning the erection of a court that constitutes a de facto oligarchy with few controls. He expressed

these concerns upon his initial reading of the final version of the Constitution in a letter to William C. Jarvis, 28 Sept. 1820. I urge you to read his letter.

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