

Cooperation By Demand

As members of a society, we accept the fact that we give up freedom in order to create safety by allowing laws to dictate our lives. This natural law of government is, at its core, supposed to be voluntary for if it is not, the people will not abide by its laws. For the majority of people in America, the law is easy to follow because it does nothing but protect them, but for the minorities of America, the law and its enforcers fail to protect them. This goes as far back to slave minorities and lack of laws to protect them, to modern-day colored Americans who are assaulted by the same enforcers of the law that are supposed to protect them. Despite the blatant failure of our law to protect our minorities, they are expected to respect the law and its enforcers. Our country needs to remove this expectation to respect the government when it fails to do its job by replacing individuals that are unable to provide unbiased justice.

As members of our own society, we are expected to follow its rules without question as to not create chaos but when the fundamental principles of our government are being broken by the government themselves, we are expected to maintain the same respect for our law. This unfair trend has existed for as long as Europeans began colonizing the Americas. They preached the fairness and kindness of their religion but would invade the Native American homes and take it by force. These Europeans instilled into their society that the government be obeyed and respected despite stating the people's right to rebel against it. More recently during the 60's, racism, and this idea of respect for the government began to intertwine and created an idea that despite the treatment of minorities, they are expected to respect the law. This is demonstrated during the Chicago 7 trial during the 60's in which Bobby Seale received 16 acts of contempt against the court despite most of them being Bobby arguing that he had no lawyer to represent him and that it was unfair. Judge Hoffman, the judge of Bobby Seale's trial and the others in the

Chicago 7 case, claimed that the accused lacked respect for him when they simply were arguing unjust rulings made by Hoffman. In one specific example, when Abbie Hoffman (not to be confused with Judge Hoffman) was on the stand and the Judge said to him, “Will you remain quiet while I am making a ruling? I know you have no respect for me?” (*Chicago 7 Trial*). The Judge had said this in response to Abbie stating that they were focusing on his history that had nothing to do with his state of mind. The Judge obviously tried to force Abbie's respect for him even if Abbie was being treated unfairly. This happened during the 1960's but the beliefs are still held today. We can see the same expectation during the police reactions to the Black Lives Matter movement in which cops demand respect from African Americans who are fighting against the unfair treatment from those same cops. We also see the mix of racism and this concept when we compare the reactions of the Black Lives Matter movement and to Caucasian people storming the white house. The officer did not demand respect by force as they did with the African Americans, clearly showing a racial preference towards white people. In modern day, one of the roots of this issue lies in the racist mindsets of the law enforcement and important figures in the political scene.

If the government is reformed to more fairly treat minorities, the minorities will be more willing to respect the government without force. The immediate changes that need to be made is ensuring that there are no racist beliefs in our government and law enforcement. To do this we need increasingly strict laws that ensure the loss of jobs of those that are racist. We need evaluations of our government officials as well to ensure their unbiased treatment towards the people. Although difficult to do, this is something that has to be done on the largest scale possible to make sure that our government is reformed correctly. In addition to this, we need to create a new generation free of racist beliefs so that the people that replace the previous

government officials do not hold the same racist beliefs as the ones we try to remove. This is more on the people than the government and is much harder to change but if the people work together, we can get closer to a fair government system and law enforcement. Once fairness is achieved, everyone will begin to respect the government because it now protects them fairly.

We are still far away from the ideal government and law enforcement and it won't be something that happens overnight but over the course of time and with the effort from everyone, we can begin to change. As of right now, minorities are given no reason to respect the government and yet are demanded to. We need to remove this expectation by reforming our entire government system and law enforcement in the moment as well as create a generation of adults that will uphold the fair beliefs that we should all have. Movement such as Black Lives Matter is a step towards that reform but there is a lot more work to be done. That work begins with each of us, no matter where we are in society.

References

Chicago Seven Trial, Douglas O. Linder, United States District Court, 1969-1970,

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/Chicago7/chicago7.html>