

Calling it accurately
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I came across an article by a journalist who has correctly identified the Federal Government as *GANGSTER GOVERNMENT*. I had never heard of Michael Barone, this journalist with the backbone to see the evidence and call it correctly and accurately. Who is Michael Barone?

Well, he is a graduate of Harvard in 1966 and from Yale Law School in 1969. OK, he's probably quite intelligent. In the years 1989 to 1996 and again from 1998 to present, Michael has also been a senior writer for U. S. News & World Report. In the period from 1996 to 1998, Mr. Barone was a senior staff editor for Readers Digest, and a member of the editorial page staff for the Washington Post, one of our nations most prestigious news papers. And in 1998 Mr. Barone joined FOX NEWS as a political contributor. A pretty impressive background. So impressive that when he identifies the Federal Government as *GANGSTER GOVERNMENT*, we should probably pay attention.

What activated Michael Barone is what Tom Lauria had to say on a talk radio show. Lauria, a bankruptcy attorney, had this to say: "One of my clients was directly threatened by the White House and in essence compelled to withdraw its opposition to the deal under threat that the full force of the White House press corps would destroy its reputation if it continued to fight." This, ladies and gentlemen, is a direct threat by our government against a private business.

Perella Weinberg, whom is represented by Lauria, is/was a *secured creditor* of General Motors. After the threat came the predictable denunciation of the objecting bondholders as "speculators" by President Barrack Obama in a press conference. Of course the White House denied *strong-arming* Perella Weinberg. While Weinberg accepted the settlement, it pointedly did not deny that it had been threatened by the White House. Which means that the *threat* worked and the *secured creditors* received 33 cents on the dollar for the *secured investment*, where United Auto Workers, received 50 cents on the dollars for their *un-secured investment*, thereby paying back the United Auto Workers for their support of democratic candidates over the years.

Locally, we here in Glenn County, California, may remember a press release back in 2004 by Orland Sand & Gravel in which OSG made the point that County Government was behaving in a manner similar to the Chicago Mob of the 1930's. In effect, County Government was making arbitrary demands for increased levies on OSG, and when OSG pointed out that they were a *grand-fathered in business* who has been exempted, by the State, from further environmental requirements, County Government responded by initiating an *Administrative Action* against OSG.

While the initial reassessment was \$12,000, jumping up 120% from \$5,000, the levy being requested in the *Administrative Hearing* was \$50,000. During the hearing a planning commissioner asked Dan Obermeyer, head of the Country Planning Department at the time, how he arrived at the \$50,000 figure his reply was, "*I wanted it to sting a little.*" A couple years later

this matter was still in the *Administrative Process* and eventually the penalty assessment was escalated to \$250,000 on what was originally a \$7,000 increase.

I remember the statement “*I wanted it to sting a little*” so well because I was in attendance at this meeting. So here we have government making a completely arbitrary [*“sting a little”*] assessment and demand against a small business because it asked government to justify its actions.

The thing for us to remember is that these actions, taken locally, by local government, or nationally by the Federal Government, are taken in *our names* and are financed through our hard earned money. These *gangster* acts, which when examined logically and without emotion or political bond, are criminal, and this criminal behavior is undertaken in *our name*.

If I am determined to criminally control your life, then all that is necessary is for me to become better armed and more willing to use violence than you and those on your side. If you do not have a gun and I do, then anything I say *is the law*, whether or not you believe it to be fair and just. None of that matters though because I have the most force and I am willing to use violence against you. All the while I can bank-roll my intentions and [il] legal processes through taxes upon the people, many of whom are on your side. In other words I can get them to pay for my criminal activity.

More and more this has become the attitude of government and its agents, the Planning Director Dan Obermeyer and Assistant Planning Director Mardy Thomas for example. It is note worthy that neither of these officials live in Glenn County and most likely do not have any vested interest in the County’s future. Neither elected officials nor government agents seem to feel any limitations on their actions or behaviors.

The question that hangs in the air is of great importance: *How long are the American people going to allow criminal activity in their name?* The Vietnam war ended for two primary reasons. One, many of the people we sent over there had a strong sense of *right & wrong*, and they came back and made us aware of the wrongs being committed in our name. And two, the journalists of that time period were not in bed, and living with, selected military personnel, like they are in the Iraq war. Consequently we generally received good news coverage.

From NAZI Germany there came a poem which is generally attributed to Pastor Martin Niemöller. There are numerous versions but this seems to be one of the most credited:

“In Germany they first came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me —
and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

Well, I'm speaking up now. Not only for myself, but for my fellow man, my children and grand children. But one man, writing a column, is not going to make much of an impact. We, as a people, need to become activated in a unified voice. Each of us ultimately reach our point of acting, but if we don't do it as a unit, the individual voices along the way may well be silenced. If we don't stand up alongside our fellow man when he stands, we run a great risk of failing altogether.