

"No punishment has ever possessed enough power of deterrence to prevent the commission of crimes."

— Hannah Arendt

I am the progeny of parents who survived the Nazi Holocaust. I have a lot of experience and knowledge of racism. You might say I have an extremely sensitive Fascism detector. This proposal, like many others before it, seems very innocuous. Protecting our children's health – what's not to love? The injunctions against Jews, (as well as communists, union organizers, homosexuals, and Roma) began with just such innocuous ordinances and similarly they were rationalized in the same way; i.e. to protect us and our children from contamination. Three minutes is not enough time to deconstruct this strategy. Suffice it to say that at first there were places we were not allowed to live, public places forbidden to us, work and occupations we could not engage in. Small prohibitions meant to protect the Aryan race from being infected that once written into law could without much trouble be carried to the logical extension of the Final Solution.

Prohibition has never worked to eradicate the use of any substances, or actions for that matter. The Ten Commandments prohibits murder. Stealing is a crime. We tried to prohibit masturbation, the health concern there was that it will give you warts, or worse drive you insane. Very respectable members of society made these claims. We made homosexuality illegal. People ended up locked in mental institutions because of it, and of course we all know that prohibiting heroine, marihuana, alcohol, and the like, have all failed. So why do we keep doing the same thing expecting a different result? My ancestor Albert Einstein, another one of those who had to flee Fascist Germany because he was a Jew, observed that that was the quintessential definition of insanity.

Whatever Marjory Decker and her anti-smoking band of zealots may claim, this has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with health. This has to do with social control of certain population of people. This is about criminalizing the poor. My response to Marjory Decker is NOT IN MY NAME.

Eric Garner was murdered with impunity by the police for selling single cigarettes. Eric Garner (may he and all the other African Americans who have similarly lost their lives for nothing other than simply trying to live their lives rest in peace.) NOT IN MY NAME Marjory.

There is no health threat from passing exposure to secondhand smoke and the 2006 Surgeon General's report on the subject never even mentions such a threat.

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