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Pardon Me Boys, But You Need to “Pardon” Rachelle Shannon

In August of 1993, a 38-year-old housewife and mother of two shot Abortionist George Tiller in each elbow as he was sitting in the driver’s seat preparing to depart from his “clinic” in Wichita, Kansas. Shelley Shannon, as the evidence clearly reveals, intended to maim the abortionist so that he would refrain from continuing in his profession of murdering babies by means of a nationally tolerated method called abortion.

Tiller, during the fifteen years since being wounded, has been under investigation with varying intensity for committing criminal abortions depending upon which attorney general is in power in Wichita. He continues as an infamous “late-term abortionist,” specializing in second and (illegal) third trimester abortions. Charges which have been brought to grand juries, despite foot-dragging attorneys general, have included committing abortions on mothers who are minors as well as mothers whose *in utero* children have reached a gestational age beyond that for which by the “law” (i.e. the most recent court opinion) permits a “termination of the pregnancy.” Tiller has continued all these years as a killer.

At trial, Shelley Shannon did not vigorously pursue a defense as to whether she had attempted to murder Tiller or to maim him (she was charged with attempted murder.) She did not wish to distract attention from the truth for which she acted and stood at trial. The underlying question – as she saw it - was the legitimacy of her action in defense of the real human beings which Tiller regularly murdered. It did not matter whether she attempted to kill or to maim the abortionist. What mattered was whether or not the abortionist was aborting real children and whether his actions therefore warranted her forceful intervention. While she denied that she attempted to kill Tiller, she did not wish to make this fact the center of her defense. She wanted no distraction from the truth she was asserting and had acted upon: the humanity of the children which Tiller regularly killed (and continues to kill to this day).

Unfortunately, as with all anti-abortion cases where the defenders of the innocents are charged with crimes and brought before the judges in this land, there is no consideration given to the “defense of necessity” – that these interventions were necessary because a true human being is murdered in every intentional abortion. The reality of child slaughter is suppressed and only the so-called facts of the case are given consideration; i.e. did the defendant “do it” or not? No consideration is given to the fact that Shelley Shannon’s deeds were performed because there were real children killed directly and regularly by the hands of Abortionist George Tiller.

In March of 1994, after a jury convicted her of attempted murder. Before sentencing, she wrote in the conclusion of a general letter to friends:

I've never lost the feeling of victory. Maybe it's because a lot of people are praying for me right now. It doesn't seem like I lost. We tried. I did my best not to compromise at all. Many people prayed and did other things. People came from CA. OR, NV, IA, FL, MD and other places. I had some great fellowship during visitation and over the

phone, and got to meet some fantastic people. A "not guilty" would have been nice, and perhaps I should have worked toward that. But right now I'm experiencing the reality of the fact that in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

She has continued, steadfast in her trust in the Lord in whose image the children were created. Her constancy is evident to all who have been in contact with her over these *fifteen years*.

After being sentenced, Shelley's yard was dug up and her diaries were discovered in which she wrote of her involvement with the burning of four "clinics" across the land. On top of her 11-year sentence for shooting Tiller she was given another 20 years to run consecutive to the 11. She has completed to date 15 years on that 30-year sentence.

There is no relief in sight for Shelley from a government which has turned its back on that multitude of innocent "least of these." Others must plead and act in her behalf as she did for the innocents.

Clinton Pardons Radical Anti-Viet Nam War Comrades

Consider the contrast in the pardons handed out to communist Weatherman members. Two home grown anti-Vietnam War terrorists were pardoned by Clinton as he left office in 2001: Susan Rosenberg and Linda Evans.

Linda Evans had been jailed for 15 years on a 40 year sentence. She had been sentenced in 1985 for using false identification to buy four firearms and harboring a fugitive. In 1990, she was again convicted and sentenced in United States District Court in Washington to five years in prison for conspiracy and malicious destruction in connection with eight bombings between 1983 and 1985, including one at the Capitol. Authorities had originally charged her with acquisition of weapons, false ID, safe houses and finances for political and military training and actions to oppose American involvement in the Viet Nam war. Targets of violent attacks included the U.S. Capitol Building, Naval War College, Navy Yard Computer Center, Navy Yard Officers Club, Israeli Aircraft Industries, an FBI office, and the New York Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

Dear to the hearts of Bill and Hillary Clinton, Evans was a lesbian activist, a member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and a regional organizer of protest against the Vietnam War. She participated in the 1969 anti-war delegation to North Vietnam when US POWs were being released by the Vietnamese Army. Evans had also been arrested in 1970 for conspiracy and crossing the state line to incite a riot while organizing for SDS's National Action Days of Rage in Chicago, and for conspiracy and transportation of weapons and explosives in Detroit. These charges were eventually dropped because the government used illegal wiretaps while collecting evidence.

Susan Rosenberg was also a lesbian activist and associate of Evans and the Weatherman. The Rosenberg pardon was the most controversial of his war protestor pardons. She had been denied parole in her explosives and weapons case because of charges brought against her in the 1981 armed robbery of a Brink's armored car. That heist left two police officers and a security guard dead. She had been in prison for her conviction in connection the 1983 bomb attack on the U.S. Capitol for which she was serving a 58-year sentence.

Their bombing of the Capitol killed no one, but it caused considerable damage. "A statement sent to a radio station read: 'We purposely aimed our attack at the institutions of imperialist rule rather than at individual members of the ruling class. We did not choose to kill any of them this time. But their lives are not sacred.'" (*National Review*, March 19, 2001)

Terrorists, (some would say, anti-American pro-Communist radicals) received Presidential pardons.

A Non-ideological, Sleazy, Clinton Pardon: Marc Rich

If ever there was irony in the name of the one pardoned in display of the incentive of the pardoner to grant grace, this is such an example. In 1983, Marc Rich was charged with conducting the largest tax evasion scheme in U.S. history. He fled to Switzerland and remained there, avoiding extradition for seventeen years until he was pardoned by Bill Clinton. Yes, he blessed President Clinton richly for which he apparently was blessed in return by a pardon. Preparing the way for the pardon, Rich's now-ex-wife, Denise, contributed over \$1 million dollars to the Democratic Party and \$450,000 to Clinton's presidential library in Little Rock. Additionally, during one of her many phone calls with Clinton, she pledged to raise an additional \$1 million for the library.

Sleazy venality - pure and simple.

Clinton and the Puerto Rican Terrorists: the FALN Machete Men

So why would Clinton offer clemency to 16 FALN (Puerto Rican Armed Forces of National Liberation) terrorists who for a decade beginning in 1974 committed 72 successful bombings, 40 incendiary attacks, 8 attempted bombings and 10 bomb threats, resulting in 5 deaths, 83 injuries, and over \$3 million in property damage? What was the motive other than that they had done 20 years on what some might call "excessive" sentences?

Hmm. No evidence of anyone sending him a check or even a Puerto Rican comfort lady (young American interns are so yesterday). What could it be?

Okay, you give up. We shall disclose the matter.
Domestic tranquility!
We give not.

Hillary had plans to run for the U.S. Senate as a New Yorker and there were 1.3 million Puerto Ricans in New York. Apparently a good number of them favored clemency for the terrorists. For example, Democrat Rep. Jose Serrano from the Bronx called the terrorists "political prisoners, because their offenses were complicated by the political ramifications." (*New York Post*, 13 August, 1999). The terrorists were seeking independence for Puerto Rico. Clinton ran the numbers and decided the pardons might redound to some votes for his wife. Life is tough when you are married to a contentious lesbian (check with William Safire on that one). Got to keep the "lady" happy even if you opt to get your satisfaction by an intern under the desk at work.

(Anyone seriously indignant about this perversion of justice may further enrage himself by reading the account of Joseph Connor, son of one of the four killed by the FALN January

24, 1975, bombing of Fraunces Tavern. See at <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1458492/posts>)

Peculiar Precedent Presidential Pardons

Although the Clinton pardons serve as best examples of base avarice and power hunger, there are others in the history of presidential pardons which demonstrate that the pardon of Shelley Shannon is by no fair consideration out of the bounds of traditional clemency as such extension of mercy was intended.

Lincoln pardoned Arthur O'Bryan who had been was convicted of "attempted bestiality" whom Lincoln judged to be "otherwise reputable" and because the fellow had been drunk at the time. There was no venality in Lincoln. He gained nothing but the disapprobation of critics for extending mercy to men who fell into perverse behavior (by those Christian standards back in the day). He was bold to do what he believed to be right.

Andrew Johnson pardoned four who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for their part as conspirators in the plot to assassinate Lincoln. Four of the most culpable were hanged and the other four were pardoned and released after four years in prison. In this same spirit of political reconciliation following a devastating Civil War, Johnson also granted unconditional amnesty to all Confederate soldiers on December 25, 1868. (Lincoln had already issued conditional amnesty.) Here was no scandal, but an effort to reconcile a nation following a "culture" (and literal) war which had threatened its very existence.

Grover Cleveland's pardon of Michael Mullen does serve as example of political corruption which does not appear for another century (by the aforementioned Clinton). Cleveland, the twenty-second (1885-1889) and twenty-fourth (1893-1897) President of the United States was the first Democrat to reach the presidency after the Civil War. During his first term, Utah was admitted to the Union on its sixth attempt at statehood in 1887. The Mormons' second attempt was simultaneous with the Republican Party's first presidential campaign in 1856. Having sprung into existence by citizen opposition to slavery, the Republican party likewise opposed polygamy. Both polygamy and slavery were condemned in the party platform as the "twin relics of barbarism." Cleveland and the Democrats did not have such convictions. They had not championed abolition, nor were they pleased about the black vote going to their Republican opponents.

Cleveland's pardon of Mullen was a reward for his role in election fraud. In Cincinnati, police Lieutenant Michael Mullen arrested and held over one hundred black Americans. No charges were ever brought against any of the arrested men. They were released that same day, but not until after all the polls had closed. Mullen was charged with election fraud and sentenced to one year in jail. However, he was granted a pardon by Cleveland after only eight months. Cleveland lost the 1888 election in part due to the exposure of this racist election fraud.

It was the inverse of what Obama and ACORN have done. Rather than enfranchising fake (non-existent) voters as Obama's ACORN has done, Cleveland supporters disenfranchised lawful voters quite physically and directly.

Jimmy Carter provided general pardons for draft dodgers because the war on the Viet Cong (like the current war on womb children) was unpopular. Anyone who was eligible to

fight in the war but rebelled and fled the United States or failed to register in an attempt to avoid the Vietnam Draft was granted amnesty. Such lawbreaking (allowing someone else to die in war rather than take one's own turn as a matter of civic duty) was simply forgiven on the grounds that there was "conscientious objection" to the war.

On the other side of the political wall **Ronald Reagan** pardoned Mark Felt and Edward Miller, two FBI agents who had been convicted of breaking into Vietnam protesters' homes and offices without warrants during Nixon's Presidency. These two former FBI agents were in the midst of appeals when they were pardoned by Reagan. The President justified the pardons by stating that if America could pardon draft dodgers who refused to serve their country, then it should also pardon those who had served their country.

Indeed, how appropriate to consider the political motivation behind the deeds of the offender and show mercy to *those who are driven by the pursuit of justice* (as opposed to pardoning those who commit crimes out of personal avarice who offer bribes for relief from punishment).

George Herbert Walker Bush faced the prosecutions of two anti-Communist Cuba terrorists who had served America's anti-Communist interests. Orlando Bosch along with Luis Posada Carriles and two Venezuelans were charged and imprisoned in 1976 in Venezuela for the bombing of the Cuban civilian airliner - the first act of airline terrorism in the hemisphere - killing all 73 aboard, including the members of Cuba's national fencing team.. Several officials of the Cuban government were also aboard the plane including Manuel Permyu Hernández, communist party director of the National Institute of Sports (INDER) and Jorge de la Nuez Suárez, communist party secretary for the shrimp fleet. Anti-Castro leadership in Miami financed a legal crusade to free the two, challenging the trial process in Caracas. Bosch was imprisoned 11 years and Carilles 9 before their lawyers won acquittals.

Carriles is a Cuban-born Venezuelan anti-Castro terrorist. He is also a former CIA operative and has been convicted *in absentia* of involvement in various terrorist attacks and plots in the Western hemisphere. He served as a CIA operative under Oliver North and had fought in Kennedy's ill-fated excursion at the Bay of Pigs. He has admitted to his involvement in other terrorist plots including a string of bombings in 1997 of various fashionable Cuban hotels and nightspots. He was jailed under accusations related to an assassination attempt on Fidel Castro in Panama in 2000 and was later pardoned by Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso in the final days of her term in what critics called political cronyism.

The *New York Times* reported that on April 13, 2005 Carriles requested political asylum in the United States through his attorney (27 April, 2006). On May 3, the Venezuelan Supreme Court approved an extradition request for him. The Cuban government still wants to try him for the hotel bombings. The United States denied Venezuela's extradition request citing a lack of evidence.

On September 28, 2005 a U.S. immigration judge ruled that Carriles could not be deported because he faced the threat of torture in Venezuela. The Venezuelan government reacted by accusing the US of having a "double standard in its so-called war on terrorism." The elder Bush saying comes again to mind: "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Carriles – an ideologue, an "extremist" – has avoided extradition even though he has used force – even terror – in his ideological and violent opposition to the oppressive, Godless communist regime of Cuba. He remains free because he has the ideological sympathies of

those in high places, even the President. His violent deeds were judged by the Oval Office to have some ethical merit.

Bosch was described as "an unrepentant terrorist" by former Dick Thornburgh (Attorney General from 1988-1991). Bosch— three decades after the downing of the civilian airliner – still called the plane "a legitimate target," telling a Miami reporter, "there were no innocents on that plane" (Ann Louise Bardach, "Our Man's in Miami. Patriot or Terrorist?" *Washington Post*, April 7, 2005). His release from arrest after he had been found in the United States and a subsequent *nolle prosequi* decision came about after it was requested by Jeb Bush, despite strong objections from the Defense Department which judged Bosch to be "one of the most deadly terrorists working." The decision was celebrated by many in Florida, especially Miami where anti-Castro sentiment is understandably hot. (Many of the citizens of Miami are refugees - or their descendants - from Castro's oppressive regime.)

Clearly, apart from the extraordinarily self-serving pardons issued by Clinton, there were many issued by presidents who understood that fundamental political differences over true threats to the nation and its constitutional principles had at times resulted in lawbreaking. Men of principle, swept into the tide of political turmoil and conscientious conflict, were tragically caught in the clutches of judicial prosecution and imprisonment. Pardons were duly granted or the cases were not prosecuted. "Political" (rather, ideological) pardons are appropriate in as much as institutions and authorities are not error-free. They can be corrected. Such correction is an aspect of the doctrine of clemency. It is sometimes an extension of mercy and sometimes corrective justice.

In either case, any hesitation to extend pardon out of fear of subsequent embarrassment may be mollified by a simple reference to the Clinton administration and its scandalous abuse of the power to pardon. (After that administration there can be no shame in any presidential pardon!) On the contrary, a more liberal consideration in favor of granting a pardon is easily considerable.

Ideological Punishment

There is a name for a kind of government which punishes excessively for ideological or political crimes. It is called a tyranny. We who know that Shelley's deeds were noble and just and that she acted in good conscience to save innocent lives when she shot an abortionist in each elbow believe she ought never to have been sent to prison. But unlike those such as Florida Governor Jeb Bush who campaigned for the terrorists who blew up a civilian airliner which killed many innocent people to oppose the Castro regime, we campaign for a woman who killed no one but burned down abortion death camps which a blind American people refuse to acknowledge as such.

We who say that Rachele Shannon ought never to have gone to jail but to have been rewarded with honor and a U.S. pension greater than any Congressman, Judge, or President for her service say now that her sentence ought to be commuted.

We request that Rachele Shannon be released from prison immediately.