

## **It's Not About the Lawn— It's About Keeping the Peasants in Line**

Once America was known as the land of the free. Now it resembles a police state more each year. Your neighbor, Orem City prosecutor Andrew F. Peterson, is helping continue that trend.

You may have heard about 70-year-old "lawn lady" Betty Perry. Orem police officer Jim Flygare came to her door in July to cite her for not watering her lawn. He asked for her name, and she refused to tell him, as is her natural right. Then she tried to go back into her home to call her son for advice on how to handle the situation.

That's when the \*\*\*\* hit the fan. Within moments Mrs. Perry was bruised, bleeding, and handcuffed, and soon the bewildered woman was sitting in a jail cell.

As Mrs. Perry later said, "Don't ever say no when the police tell you to do something... You've got to do what they tell you or they will hurt you." Mrs. Perry made the mistake of acting like a free woman. She didn't realize that the code of today's policeman is not *to serve and protect*; it is *to command and control*.

In yesterday's America, Officer Flygare would simply have gotten Mrs. Perry's name from the land records and mailed her a citation. There was no need to arrest her, as she was no danger to anyone. Even Orem Police Chief Mike Larsen concurs: "Clearly there were other options available. [The officer] should have taken those."

And yet Andrew Peterson insists on prosecuting Mrs. Perry for interfering with an arrest; she faces up to 6 months in jail and a fine of \$1000. Peterson has made it clear that her failure to obey is the main issue: "By far the more serious charge that she's facing is interference with arrest..." But heaven forbid the jury should find out that the arrest was both unnecessary and unreasonable. Peterson has objected to proposed jury instructions that would include information about use-of-force protocols at the Orem Police Department and what kinds of options police officers have in certain situations.

As friends and neighbors of Mr. Peterson, please speak to him—*politely*—and express your concerns about this prosecution. Help him understand that he is contributing to the destruction of American freedom. Perhaps he will reconsider his actions. And perhaps we will take a small step back from the road to serfdom.