

IF THE CROWN GOES WHO CONTROLS THE MILITARY?

All government ministers, judges and police; all members of the armed forces are required to take an Oath of Allegiance (a pledge with a sacred dimension) not to the State, but to the Queen, the spiritual head of the nation. This is not an oversight, an aberration. It is a deliberate safeguard for both the citizens of the nation and for the individuals taking the oath.

Because these officials are in positions of power they need to be constrained from abusing that power, from wielding it in a manner that is unlawful. By deriving their authority from the Crown, from a Queen, who by convention cannot authorise an illegal or wrongful act, they, as servants of that Crown, cannot commit an illegal or wrongful act. If they do, they do so without authority. They are therefore personally liable for the consequences of that act. They cannot plead executive orders as in the case of the Watergate burglars, of national security as in the case of the CIA or any other secret agenda.

Conversely they themselves are protected from being placed in the untenable position of being required to obey illegal or wrongful orders from a higher authority or be convicted for treason if they refuse to obey those orders - an assertion made by Nazi war criminals in their defence at Nuremberg. As servants of the government they have an obligation to carry out all lawful orders. As servants of the Crown, their ultimate authority, they have an equal obligation to disobey unlawful ones.

By exercising restraint on its servants, the Crown guarantees the laws of the land and acts as the ultimate protector of the rights of its citizens - a promise made in the Coronation oath.

The emblem of the Crown on insignia, buttons, uniforms serves as a reminder of all this. A reminder of the source of authority - the Crown. A reminder of the oath made to that Crown - a pledge of lawful conduct. A reminder of personal responsibility if that oath is broken - if lawful orders are not upheld, if unlawful orders (from whatever source) are not disobeyed.

A reminder of the ultimate role of the Crown - the protector of all its citizens.

A reminder, a warning, a promise, the Crown and the oath of allegiance to it, are the ultimate safeguards for its servants as for its citizens.

WOULD WE BE EQUALLY SECURE UNDER A PRESIDENT?

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