

To quote Chris Hedges: “We have to begin, especially in an age of corporate totalitarianism, to stop asking ourselves whether resistance is going to work but to understand that we have a moral responsibility to resist what Emmanuel Kant and Hannah Arendt would call “radical evil.” To paraphrase Sartre: I don't fight fascists because I'm going to win. I fight fascists because they are fascists.”

Mussolini defined fascism as the marriage of corporation and state, and that is what we have had throughout the Rulemaking as well as in much of the Legislature.

The corporation has come in the form of its representatives in the SB-99 and Rulemaking process; Susan Geiger, Tom Getz, Jack Kenworthy, Donald Pfundstein, Mike Novello, Dana Bisbee, Barry Needleman, Mark Rielly, Marc Brown, Terry DeWan, Lee Carbonneau, Derek Rieman and Jacob Tinus. It has married with the State as embodied in members of the SEC, and inasmuch as three corporate representatives are former members of the SEC, incestuously.

To quote Hedges again: “The activists (those who have spent the past year in this process, trying to get the SEC to adopt real rules) are waging a war against a corporate state that is deaf and blind to the rights of its citizens and the imperative to protect the ecosystem. The corporate state, largely to pacify citizens being frog-marched to their own execution, passes environmental laws and regulations that, at best, slow the ongoing environmental destruction. Corporations, (like Eversource, Kinder Morgan, Wagner and EDP Renewables) which routinely ignore even these tepid restrictions, largely write the laws and legislation designed to regulate their activity. They rewrite them or overturn them as the focus of their exploitation changes. They turn public hearings on local environmental issues into choreographed charades or shut them down if activists succeed in muscling their way into the room to demand a voice. They dominate the national message through a pliable and bankrupt corporate media and slick public relations. Elected officials are little more than corporate employees, dependent on industry money to stay in office and, when they retire from “public service,” salivating for jobs in the industry. Environmental reform has become a joke on the public.”

We have watched all this happen in the Rulemaking. Three former SEC members, Susan Geiger, Tom Getz and Dana Bisbee, are now working for industry, writing the rules as it wants them (weak). The SEC enacts rules that will only slightly slow the environmental destruction of energy projects while it steadfastly averts its gaze from the science supporting real change. Elected officials take money from Eversource and others, and one has to wonder which present SEC members hope for jobs with industry when they retire from “public service.” And, “environmental reform” (new, slightly improved rules) has become a joke on the public when industry demands they be further gutted for industry's benefit.

One could also describe the Rulemaking as “inverted totalitarianism, a term coined by Sheldon Wolin “There are three main ways in which inverted totalitarianism is the inverted form of classical totalitarianism.

Whereas in Nazi Germany the state dominated economic actors, in inverted totalitarianism, corporations, through political contributions and lobbying, dominate the United States, with the government acting as the servant of large corporations. This is considered “normal” rather than corrupt. “(Industry is considered a “stakeholder” in the SEC rules and comprised almost half of the SB-99 participants, and Eversource, EDP Renewables, Wagner Forestry, Renew NE and Kinder-Morgan spend thousands of dollars hiring these representative to push their goals during SB-99, the SEC Rulemaking

and with JLCAR)

“While the Nazi regime aimed at the constant political mobilization of the populace, with its Nuremburg rallies, Hitler Youth, and so on, inverted totalitarianism aims for the mass of the populace to be in a persistent state of political apathy. The only type of political activity expected or desired from the citizenry is voting. Low electoral turnouts are favorably received as an indication that the bulk of the populace has given up hope that the government will ever help them.” (Out of a population of one million in New Hampshire, about 50 people participated regularly in the Rulemaking.)

“While the Nazis openly mocked democracy, the United States maintains the conceit that it is the model of democracy for the whole world.” Wolin writes:

“... What is absent is the political, the commitment to finding where the common good lies amidst the welter of well-financed, highly organized, single-minded interests rabidly seeking governmental favors and overwhelming the practices of representative government and public administration by a sea of cash. “ (How many times during SB-99 and the Rulemaking were individual's good rules ignored or pitted against corporate rules and found too restrictive of the corporate goals of exploiting people and the environment?)

I repeat Hedges: “Resistance will be local. It will be militant. It will defy the rules imposed by the corporate state.” “It is a pity most of us will not be around to see the power elite go down.”

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