

The Vicious Circle of: The Rules of Law, Law & Order Policies and Erosion of Democracy

Mario deSantis mdesantis@sk.sympatico.ca

"The more corrupt the state, the more laws."--Publius Cornelius Tacitus, 55-117 AD, Roman Historian

An ongoing political concern is the balancing of our individual freedom with our individual physical security, and the balancing of our social democracy with our social rules of law. We have to remember that all of our social problems are problems of communication and therefore the language we use is essential for the understanding of our own predicaments. We know what physical security is and therefore let me define our individual freedom as our own capacity to choose and learn from each other, democracy as the vision to collectively choose to learn better, and the rules of law as the enforceable societal rules to control our deviant behaviour as per these rules of law.

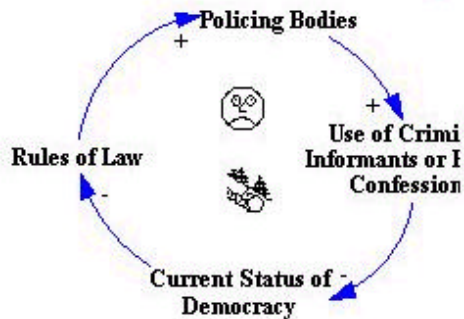
Our world is becoming more violent, crime and terrorism are realities we have to fight. As a consequence, our individual freedom is being curtailed, and our democracy is being eroded as more rules of law are being legislated. Most American politicians have been running their political and business career under the slogan "Law and Order" and yet as we have more rules of law, more policemen and more people in prison so we have more crimes and violence. This is a counterintuitive type of logic as we are unable to understand that a quick fix "here" and "now" is a problem "there" and "later." We have to change the way to think and I have been mentioning of "Systems Thinking" as the approach to think in circles as all of our actions are interrelated. Thinking in circles means, for instance, to address one specific problem and trying to present the story of this problem with pictures identifying the relevant components of the story and identifying the relationships (arrows/links) among these components. We commonly say that "a picture is better than a thousand words" and that we need to understand the "big picture" rather than the details of a problem, and yet we continue to express this big picture with thousands of words. So I want to deepen my understanding on how to think in circles and on how to present my stories with pictures.

Today, I read the excerpt of the story "Using crooks as informants"

The government's use of murderers as informants constitutes "one of the greatest failures in the history of federal law enforcement," according to a draft report from a congressional committee. The scathing report from the House Government Reform Committee says the Justice Department's failure to rein in criminal informants has compromised investigations nationwide with "disastrous consequences." "Democracy succeeds in the United States when the rule of law is respected. When the government strays from the rule of law, the harm outweighs the benefit. In Boston, this is what happened," concludes the report obtained Monday night by The Associated Press.

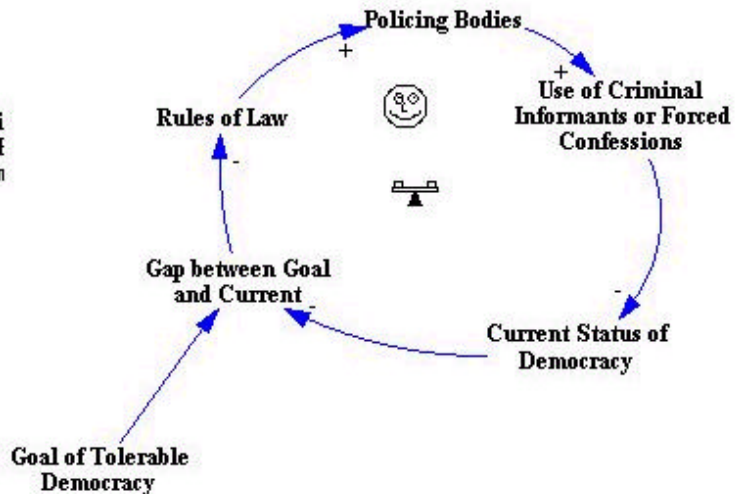
The above story reflects a perspective which is taking political implications as our own policemen, defense lawyers and prosecutors have become more and more corrupt as more "law and order" politicians have been hijacking our democracy. This is my story in one picture as I think in circles about the erosion of our democracy due to the "law and order" mentality of our politicians and justice system. As we have more Policing Bodies in the justice system so we have more use of Criminal Informants and Forced Confessions. As we use more Criminal Informants and Forced Confessions so our Democracy is eroded. As Democracy is eroded so we have more Rules of Law. As we have more Rules of Law so we have more Policing Bodies in the justice system. It is a vicious circle which can only be stopped with the goal of a dynamic sustainable Democracy.

Erosion of Democracy Law and Order Mentality



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Balancing Erosion of Democracy Law and Order Mentality



Note:

A positive link (arrow) means that if the cause increases, the effect increases above what it would otherwise have been, and if the cause decreases, the effect decreases below what it would otherwise have been.

A negative link (arrow) means that if the cause increases, the effect decreases below what it would otherwise have been, and if the cause decreases, the effect increases above what it would otherwise have been.

A sequence (closed loop/circle) with an even number of balancing (-) links will give a reinforcing feedback loop (and zero is an even number). A sequence (closed loop/circle) with an odd number of balancing (-) links will give a balancing feedback loop.

References:

Pertinent articles published in *Ensign*

Using crooks as informants, By CHB News Service, Jan 14, 2003

http://www.capitolhillblue.com/artman/publish/article_1525.shtml

Remarks delivered by Gov. George Ryan at the DePaul University College of Law, January 10, 2003 http://www.injusticebusters.com/2003/Gov_George_Ryan.htm

