

Legislature Responds to Eco-terrorism New Laws Take Effect Next Year

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In an extraordinary July Fourth statehouse ceremony, Marshall Governor “Boot” Terminegger signed into law the state’s latest anti-terrorism bills. Effective January 1, 2006, the legislation creates tougher penalties for all forms of terrorism. Although general in nature, the laws are actually aimed at deterring “environmental terrorism.”

“July Fourth is a day of freedom,” the Governor later told members of Patriots for Peaceful War at their annual summit meeting in the capitol’s arena. “We declare today we will be free from terrorism. We stand against those who use violence to try to change our system of government or punish us for being a free and honorable people.”

Present on the stage with the governor was Charles “Chic” Wilson, prominent Marshall City businessman. “Chic” Wilson is the owner of Chic’s, the Hummer Auto dealership vandalized in the notorious Valentine’s Day “Love the Earth” riot last February. . .

Until this law, violent crimes committed under the guise of political, religious, or social protest or dissent, often defended as acts of “civil disobedience,” will carry severe penalties for those convicted.

Martin Post, attorney with the Marshall State Civil Liberties Union, condemned the new law as “unconstitutional, outrageous, and frightening.”

These laws will punish people for what they think. The current laws - which punish actions - are sufficient. This governor is bowing to moneyed interests. He is promoting class warfare.”

“Chic” Wilson spoke to reporters at the annual July Fourth BBQ picnic his dealership annually hosts for state lawmakers: “Hey, civil disobedience is OK in its place, but these folks have to be stopped. It’s for their own good.”

“People’s jobs are on the line here,” he added. “I had to close my dealership for two weeks after a bunch of people who hate big cars threw paint all over my property. My people were out of work until we cleaned up. The protesters only got a night in jail. You know they’ll be back unless we stiffen the laws.”