Flagtexts

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FLAGTEXTS\textsuperscript{1}

Stephen A. Rosenbaum\textsuperscript{2}

A Trilogy of Found Poetry in which Jason Kilsheimer Reclaims His Family’s Stripped Citizenship, the Supreme Court Sanctions Flag Burning by Gregory Lee Johnson, and the Union Cabinet Permits the Indian People to Hoist the Tricolour At Any Time.

\textit{Einbürgerungsurkunde}
\textit{ III 1- S 58 713}

Kilsheimer, Edmund
geboren am
28 November 1898
in Konigsbach.

\textit{Reichsgesetzblatt I}
15 September 1935
S. 1146
Art. 2:
A Citizen of The Reich
is only that Subject
Who is
of German or Kindred Blood
and Through His Conduct
Shows
that He is both
Desirous and Fit
to Serve the German People
and The Reich.

\textit{Jude!}

\textsuperscript{1}This poem, in 2002, won the Social Justice Award for poetry.
\textsuperscript{2}Mr. Rosenbaum is a Lecturer in Law at the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall) and Stanford Law School; Affiliate, Boalt Hall Center for Social Justice. Mr. Rosenbaum teaches Social Justice Skills and Practice Issues, Disability Rights Law and Mental Health Law, Advocacy and Policy.
The Purity of German Blood is Essential for the Further Existence of the German People Interned by the Inflexible Will to Safeguard the German Nation for the Entire Future.

§ 4

§ (1):

**Jews** are Forbidden to Hoist the Reichs and National Flag and to Present Colors of The Reich.

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All subjects of deutschen Blutes who possessed the right to vote... Shall For the time being Possess the rights of Reich Citizens.

Article 4

§ (1):

Ein **Jude** kann nicht be a Citizen of The Reich. A **Jew** cannot Reichsbürger Sein.
Kilsheimer, Flora
geboren am
21 November 1935
in Karlsruhe.

Art. 5:
**Jude?!**

Art. 6:
¶ (2):
Any other Demands
on Pureness of Blood,
can only be made with Permission
from
Der InteriorReichsminister
and
The FührersDeputy.

*GrundGesetz*
Art. 116
¶(2):

Ein bürgerungs urkunde
III 1- S 58 713
23 July 2001

Kilsheimer, Jason
geboren am
1 August 1961
in Baton Rouge
has
mit dem Zeitpunkt
of this Urkunde
obtained die deutsche
Staatsangehörigkeit
Nationality
Staatsangehörigkeit
German Nationality.

**Jude!**

*****
Gregory Lee Johnson burned an American flag while protesters chanted. No one was physically injured or threatened with injury, although several witnesses were seriously offended. Johnson was convicted of desecration of a venerated object in violation of a Texas statute.

"America, the red, white, and blue, we spit on you" was not an invitation to exchange fisticuffs, rules Mr. Justice Brennan (at 409). Nor imminent lawless action. Just a mere Dallas die-in.

Johnson himself took no part in spray-painting walls and overturning potted plants.

He did accept an American flag handed to him by a fellow protester, who had taken it from a flagpole outside one of the targeted buildings.
After the demonstrators dispersed, a witness collected the flag's remains and buried them in his backyard.

Texas Penal Code
Section 42.09
reads in impertinent part:
For purposes of this section—and really for most other purposes—
"desecrate" means deface, tarnish, dishonor, damage, cast contempt upon, mutilate, burn, defile, trample, bruise, crush, inflict injury or otherwise physically mistreat in a way that will seriously offend one or more persons.

Defendant Johnson committed a "Class A" Misdemeanor while Ronald Reagan was being renominated for President. The Majority called it conduct "sufficiently imbued with elements of communication."

Mr. Justice Rehnquist (at 603) communicates his dissent:
Our Flag is
the one visible manifestation
of two hundred years of
nationhood (and manhood).
The use of an emblem
to symbolize some system,
idea or institution
is a shortcut
from mind to mind.

Causes and nations,
lodges and ecclesiastical groups
seek to knit
the loyalty of their followings
to a flag or banner,
a color or design.

Pregnant with expressive content,
the flag as readily signifies
this Nation
as does the combination of letters found in
“A m e r i c a.”

“It’s quite a just position
[juxtaposition],”
sayeth Gregory Lee Johnson.
“We had new patriotism
and no patriotism.”
See Record at 656.
See infra.
See supra.
But, see...

*****
New Delhi
15 January 2002

The Union Cabinet decided today that all citizens of India could hoist the tricolour throughout the year.

No longer limited to High Courts Secretariat Commissioners Collectorates Jails District Boards Zilla Parishads Public Sector undertakings Checkposts Lighthouses facing international waters and Republic Day festivities.

Not a flag of empire, Imperialism or Domination, predicted Nehru, But a flag of Freedom and the people have every right to Adore Regard and Display the Flag:

To occupy the position of honour. Distinctly placed. Briskly hoisted. Slowly and ceremoniously lowered. He who unfurls Standing three paces behind the flagstaff.
But if displayed alone
on a motor car—
when state dignitaries consider it necessary
or advisable—
It shall be flown
from a staff
affixed firmly
in the middle front
of the bonnet.

As (a)mended,
The Prevention of Insults
to National Honour Act
definines acts of serious disrespect
to the tricolour
and provides strict penalties for
such diss-ing as:

Flying a flag with the saffron band at the bottom.

Embroidering a flag on a
Costume
Cushion
Napkin
or Handkerchief.

Employing the tricolour
as Festoon
Rosette
or Bunting.

Flying a Damaged
or Dishevelled flag.

When damaged or soiled,
the tricolour must be destroyed
whole
by immersion in the Ganges
—or buried with due respect.