

## Guest commentary

Petoskey News-Review  
5/11/06

### Regarding 'Social Contract'

The following guest commentary was written by Ellis Boal of Charlevoix.

On March 17 this newspaper interviewed Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center about Petoskey's "Social Contract Press." ("Local immigration policy publication called a hate group").

Supporting his claim, Potok noted Social Contract's reprint and endorsement of a 1973 fantasy novel, "The Camp of the Saints."



Boal

In the book, immigrants from India invade Europe and destroy its civilization, urged on by an untouchable "turd-eater." One passage describes them as:

"All the kinky-haired, swarthy-skinned, long-despised phantoms; all the teeming ants toiling for the white man's comfort; all the swill men and sweepers, the troglodytes, the stinking drudges, the swivel-hipped menials, the womenless wretches, the lung-spewing hackers ..."

In a 1982 preface to the book its author Jean Raspail wrote:

"[W]hites, in a world become too small for its inhabitants, are now a minority and ... the proliferation of other races dooms our race, my race ... if we hold fast to our present [tolerant] moral principles."

These quotes are taken from an article in the Atlantic Monthly. In a 1985 preface to the book, reprinted by Social Contract in 1993, Raspail wrote again:

"Our world was shaped within an extraordinary variety of cultures and races, that could only develop to their ultimate and singular perfection through a necessary segregation."

John Rohe and John Tanton responded to Potok's charge in the News-Review, Rohe in the article and Tanton in a letter of March 24.

Tanton publishes Social Contract. He used

the accusation as a recruiting tool. His letter invited readers to visit the office to chat about it, the "Camp thesis" as explained in the Atlantic Monthly article, and immigration policy. He also urged readers to visit Social Contract's Web site.

The site describes "Camp Of The Saints" merely as "controversial," and offers it for sale.

"Slander," Tanton labels the hate charge on the Web site. He adds: "I am not anti-immigration (or anti-immigrant), and have never belonged to any anti-immigrant organizations."

But in a 1986 discussion memo for an annual retreat of his movement's activists and writers he wrote:

"To govern is to populate.... Will the present majority peaceably hand over its political power to a group that is simply more fertile? ... As Whites see their power and control over their lives declining, will they simply go quietly into the night? Or will there be an explosion? Why don't non-Hispanic Whites have a group identity, as do Blacks, Jews, Hispanics? ... [P]erhaps this is the first instance in which those with their pants up are going to get caught by those with their pants down!"

In a 1994 review of "Camp of the Saints" by Wayne Lutton, who edits Social Contract, he quoted approvingly from another magazine's review which said:

"In this novel Raspail brings his reader to the surprising conclusion that killing a million or so starving refugees from India would be a supreme act of individual sanity and cultural health."

Responding to Potok in the News-Review article, Rohe, who is Tanton's biographer and a frequent contributor to Social Contract, said "accusations that Tanton is racist are untrue."

Tanton's memo, Raspail's quotes, and Lutton's review substantiate the accusations, and refute Rohe. Tanton and Raspail predict race war. Lutton justifies it. All this appears in the pages of Social Contract magazine.

Recently we have witnessed magnificent

demonstrations of working class immigrants in our cities demanding civil rights. Community discussions of immigration policy are accordingly appropriate and wholesome.

Should the community invite the writers at Social Contract to participate in them? I say no. They regard the demonstrators as untouchables.

The magazine has a right to exist and generate controversy. But the community need not listen. Social Contract should be ostracized.

Have a viewpoint you wish to express? The News-Review welcomes Guest Commentaries for use on the Opinion Page. They must be personally written by the author and no more than 600 words.

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