

Opening remarks for panel discussion at International Raw milk symposium in Madison Wisconsin

by Michael Schmidt

Let me open this panel with some sobering thoughts regarding the developments in agriculture and the food industry.

I say food industry because the word reflects how food is viewed and it describes quite well the nature of our current struggle.

Today's food is mostly looked at as a commodity by Government regulators, and the industry, **nothing else**. Those who control food control the people, control countries, control the world, all without the huge expense of a visible army. (for sure it keeps a lot of bureaucrats busy)

Food is the most important element determining whether you enjoy health or suffer from disease and sickness.

Food can determine your spiritual well being,

food can influence your mental ability,

food can make you crazy,

food can turn you into a liability or into a non thinking member of society or even better:

food can turn you into the perfect slave, where free thinkers and a moral consciousness are inherently dangerous to those, who run this country and the world.

It is nice to have these conferences and I have to admit it was partly my brainchild in 2009 to bring this symposium to life as a contribution towards a constructive dialogue amongst all the players involved in the raw milk debate.

Time has passed and amongst those who still farm a new reality is sinking in: **we are at war**.

This is a war about **food rights** which appears for some may be silly for others more and more a growing concern.

I am not here to give you a feel good speech. I am here to help all of us to come to an understanding of what we are facing.

The attempt of the American founding fathers to provide us with a blueprint for a new society has inspired many, and has fuelled for centuries the hope that this continent will be different, that **we** will be different.

More and more we have to realize that far too long we have ignored our responsibility to be on guard for all those milestones in the development of a just society achieved through personal struggle by many courageous man and women in the past on our behalf.

We have arrived at a new form of dictatorship, a dictatorship of regulations and laws intended to limit our individual liberties.

Dear Friends,

To be silent means consenting.

To be silent means accepting the consequences of our consent.

To be silent makes a mockery of those who fought on our behalf for freedom and justice.

To be silent can not and will not be an option for you, for me and for all of us.

We need to look at the historical significance of our current struggle.

I once received a letter criticizing me for drawing comparisons to past fights and struggles in the civil rights movement.

I had to agree that so far we have been sucked into a rather civil confrontation with "only" a few armed raids , constant threats and inspections by bureaucrats. This is for sure mild compared to what happened in India in the 1930's and 1940's or here in the United States in the 1960's.

Going back through history we could have learned valuable lessons about how to effectively use civil disobedience and non violent resistance to shape our country.

However going back through history, today's Government and players behind the scenes have learned much better than us how to use their powers to create for us the great illusion of democracy.

They do understand how to paralyze our will to resist.

They do understand how to create fear in our hearts.

They do know that we do not present a real danger at the present time.

We need to ask ourselves why this is true.

Most of us have been part of the current evolution of materialism.

Everything comes down to money, assets, and personal security.

We have developed a fake sense of comfort and safety which weighs often more than the courage to question basic human rights abuses, or to question the steady increase of the infringement on individual liberties.

Does our comfort in "material security" weaken our willingness to maintain and protect individual liberties for the sake of all?

Does our current state of mind prevent us from seeing, that in fact we are facing, in the near future, an even greater danger than all the past struggles for freedom and justice?

We need to understand and accept that those who know about food as much as we do will use that same knowledge to create a structure where human beings will be unable to resist and think.

How?

Many have no ability to resist out of fear because of the current bureaucratic and soulless control structure

Many have less ability to think and be critical because of the lifeless food we eat.

Many have no chance to be healthy because of our weakened bodies.

We are an unlimited natural resource for the big pharma- industry which controls the farmers, the doctors and the Government. Big

Pharma milks all those who are made to believe that they need drugs.

This opens the door to a scary scenario where soon the majority of people in any given society will be easier to be managed and easier to be used at the same time.

Give them Bread and Games was the successful motto of the Roman Empire which after all collapsed or lets say imploded as history taught us.

Today we have all the food we can think off, we have all the entertainment we can imagine and most people are content as long they are financially secure and physically safe.

However to resist today appears for most as foolish because you just might endanger your personal livelihood.

Remember:

It is easier to fight when you have nothing to loose,
it is easier to fight when you are hungry,
it is easier to fight when all you want is dignity and respect.

We have consented in silence to a food culture which will destroy millions of years of evolution,

We have consented to a society of Government dependence beyond imagination.

We have consented to the loss of liberty for the sake of convenience.

Laws are passed with our knowledge which should raise millions of voices in protest.

Laws have been passed and debated which only grant us certain freedoms instead of protecting our freedom.

Laws are passed ignoring and ridiculing the Constitution and most of the people are consenting with silence.

Our Land, our food and our lives remain the most powerful tools we have to shape the future of our countries.

Dear friends

What we are facing will not be less important than the human rights movement.

What we are facing will not be less important than the battle about the civil war and the end of slavery.

What we are facing is not less important than the struggle for independence in India.

Be it Gandhi, be it Martin Luther King, be it Nelson Mandela, be it thousands of unnamed heroes of the past, let's be inspired by them, let's have the same resolve and courage, let's look at the future as a responsibility we have chosen freely.

Lets be prepared to suffer, lets be prepared to loose what we have, lets be prepared to die for the sake of what we are facing to loose.

Unless we are truly willing to take a stand for the sake of our children, our grand children and many generations to come we will make a mockery of all those who had a dream of a just and caring society.

We are in the forefront not by default; we are in the forefront to defend the most important element of our society; the health and sanity of our body, our soul and our spirit.

Michael Schmidt