

4/16/2023 To the Editor,

Many Americans of the so-called *conservative* persuasion, (although I personally would argue that taking rights away from people is mostly radical and perhaps Fascist) like to tout the rule of law as the be all and end all in our society. I would agree that the Rule of Law in a society is the operating system that allows it to function, as it does for a computer, and without it things can turn animal very fast, ala Jan. 6.

In application, however this oft-exclaimed talking point (campaign slogan) generally seems only to practically and directly apply to the poor, the unrepresented, and the many minorities in our country.

So now to my points:

- This Guardsman Teixeira had Top Security clearance as an IT Administrator, and stole and shared some secret documents apparently we are told to impress his buddies on Social Media sites. Make a note to yourself that it was the vigilante reporters who tracked him down and turned him in. Our feckless national security government had missed these online posts for at least several months. Had Teixeira disclosed these documents to the press he would have been protected as a source by these same reporters. It is funny, not really, how the First Amendment (and the entire Fourth Estate) can be chilled/changed by the long attempted extradition of a foreign national journalist like Assange under the 1917 Espionage Act.
- Our former President stole shared secret documents reportedly to impress his rich buddies (funders) at his home resort. Our government agencies have been attempting to retrieve these documents from him for years now. Had anyone else done this, i.e. Gen. Petraeus and his biographer and former mistress Paula Broadwell, he could have pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of mishandling classified material. In 1988 John Poindexter, a national security adviser for Reagan, and U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North were charged with removing and destroying documents, among other crimes. Poindexter's conviction was reversed on appeal, and North's charges were ultimately dropped.

In 2005, Sandy Berger, an official of former President Bill Clinton's administration, was convicted of violating 18 USC 1924, or mishandling classified information, for removing classified records from the NARA. Berger stuffed documents into his pant legs, the news service Reuters reported. He later destroyed some of the classified material and denied ever taking them. A federal judge levied a \$50,000 fine against Berger. *It is worth noting that Berger was not a White House official when he mishandled the documents. Ring a bell for you here?*

The differences here are at the very least twofold:

1. Teixeira has been charged **within days** under this same Espionage Act, which was created to prosecute war criminals. But I guess we are in forever wars all around the world these days anyway, so no matter. He will most likely receive a military, non-public trial, and we may very well never hear from him what his real motivations actually were. He stands to be sentenced to decades in solitary confinement in a Supermax Federal prison, with the likes of domestic terrorists, like Terry Nichols, Ramzi Yousef, Eric Rudolph, and Ted Kaczynski.
2. The former President, having been fired from his job, no longer held Top Secret clearances and has not been yet charged, **after many years**, with anything much less under the Espionage Act. If he is actually convicted, and the proof is overwhelming, especially the proof from his own mouth and online posts, at most we could expect some limited home confinement to his luxury resort in Florida. I do not guess that the Secret Service agents would be inclined to share a prison cell with him. The best we could hope for here is that his property floods due to continuing climate change, and his refusal to acknowledge this, nor do anything about it. At 3ft. above sea level, this should only take a few years.

It is interesting to note that Teixeira being a racist, white supremacist, and self-proclaimed gun nut, did not disqualify him from this Top Secret security clearance FBI background check. On the other hand, this did not disqualify the former President either, even after you also add misogynist, sexual predator, Islamophobe, Xenophobe, grifter, and pathological liar to his lifetime resume.

Fox told me that Antifa was the biggest problem, you know because of them being against Fascism, racism, them *being the libs*, being woke, and all of that.

Seems similar to the cases of Assange, (four years to this point in London's Belmarsh prison, dubbed "Britain's Guantanamo Bay) Manning (seven years in solitary confinement in a Federal prison) and Snowden (forced to exile to Russia) for their revelations. This most current document release did in fact bring to light some wrongdoing, embarrassing incompetence, and possibly war crimes committed by our government on our behalf. I am not putting Teixeira in that same idealistic company as the others, but we most likely will never actually really know for sure. That in itself is shameful.

On another historical note, at his naturalization hearing victory asked about his years-long battle to continue live in NYC, John Lennon commented that "*time wounds all heels.*" This was in reference to his fight against the crook and war criminal Nixon, who with the assistance of then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover tried to prevent his immigration to the US in the 1970's over dubious legal grounds. The legal precedent established in his case formed the basis of contemporary immigration reform. It became an integral part of the legal foundation the Obama administration relied on in 2012 to set up a program (the DREAM ACT) that has deferred the deportation of more than 580,000 immigrants who entered the country illegally as children. They are called DREAMERS. Can you *Imagine* that? Lennon was in fact not the only dreamer.

A few years after obtaining his Green card, he was assassinated by a *lone gunman* outside his home at the Dakota in NYC.

So just who is kidding whom here?