

Re Jim Russell on Wolfe's Politics

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 19 Aug 2000

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Talarican — 19 Aug 2000, 21:45

<quote>

From: Jim Russell <J.A.Russell at exeter.ac.uk>

Subject: Another tangent

Date: Wed, 16 Aug 2000 11:21:41 +0100 (GMT Daylight Time)

...

What would you guys say is GW's political stance? What is he, where is he coming from?...At the moemtn I only really know what he is against, not what he is for. <unquote>

We can think of two intriguing passages which might conceivably be construed to shed light (or more obfuscation) upon this topic.

At the end of Sword, there is an appendix entitled "A Note on Provincial Administration", written, you will note, by Mr. Wolfe, not Severian, the first paragraph of which observes that the American concept of "separation of powers" legislative, judicial, and executive, does not seem to exist in the Commonwealth. Our intrepid translator interjects this editorial observation: "[Officers of the Commonwealth] would consider such a system unworkable, as indeed it is proving to be." Is Wolfe weighing in against separation of powers? That hasn't been an overt political issue that we've heard of.

For the other example, we must draw upon our nonSeverianlike memory to recall an exchange recorded in "V.R.T." in 5HC, wherein "Dr. Marsch" (Victor Trenchard) and one of the interrogating officers of St. Croix get into a debate about the morality of slavery, outlawed on St. Anne, but upon which St. Croix' economy is based. If we recall correctly, the officer pointed out that slaves get their needs provided for by the masters, to which V.R.T. replies something about medical services and so forth being provided free to poor people on Earth (which evidently is a welfare state) by the government, to which the officer retorts "Then you know who their owners are."

If we ever get around to writing a book systematically debunking the big sugar daddy pork barrel welfare state, we'll certainly want to use that exchange as a lead-in quote in the pivotal chapter. It has been our impression, ever since reading 5HC, that Mr. Wolfe leans toward fiscal conservatism, at least.

But then again, we exultants seldom concern ourselves with such things so long as our peasants bring in their quotas, and those officious gadflies from the House Absolute, with whom our autarch sees fit endlessly to afflict us, deign to attend to their own business rather than ours...