

Notes on Jan & Molly's article

Constitution for rich white males

Almost all of our constitutional protections are expressed as the *absence of a negative* rather than the *presence of a positive*.

States had strong bills of rights in their state constitutions, and at that time, the states had more power than the federal government

If those rights were actually guaranteed in the Constitution, people could, for example, take the Bill of Rights into the workplace, but we can't. Anyone who thinks workers have free speech while they're on corporate property should ask the workers or talk to a union organizer

the pattern over more than two centuries of US legal history is that people acquire rights by amendment to the Constitution — a long and difficult, but democratic, process — and corporations acquire them by Supreme Court decisions.

Corporations are whatever *those who have the power to define* want them to be to maintain minority rule through corporations. As long as superhuman "corporate persons" have rights under the law, the vast majority of people have little or no effective voice in our political arena,

Today the work of corporatists is to take this system global. Having acquired the ability to govern in the United States, the corporation is the ideal instrument to gain control of the rest of the world. The concepts, laws, and techniques perfected by the ruling minority here are now being forced down the throats of people everywhere

After corporate personhood is abolished, new legislation will be possible. Here are a few examples. If "corporate persons" no longer had First Amendment right of free speech, we could prohibit all corporate political activity, such as lobbying and contributions to political candidates and parties. If "corporate persons" were not protected against search without a warrant under the Fourth Amendment, then corporate managers couldn't turn OSHA and the EPA inspectors away if they make surprise, unscheduled searches. If "corporate persons" weren't protected against discrimination under the 14th Amendment, corporations like Wal-Mart couldn't force themselves into communities that don't want them.

Some notes on the Timeline— Jan Edwards

As one looks at the timeline, it is apparent that people get their rights primarily by constitutional amendment (the Bill of Rights being the first 10 amendments) and corporations get rights by Supreme Court rulings. This relates directly to the issue of democracy. Judge-made law (even though we sometimes like their rulings) is not democracy.