

Monday, November 26, 2007

Milton WV Water Supply

There appears to be a water crisis in Milton WV. An unauthorized person has apparently tampered with the Milton WV water supply in Milton West Virginia and the health department has shut down the public water supply pending testing and investigation. There is a story on this at WSAZ. <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/11814441.html>
Update: The water moratorium has been lifted.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Cabell County West Virginia at 15:16

Milton West Virginia Message Board and community blog

The new Milton West Virginia Message Board and community blog is really doing well. It is a place where those in eastern Cabell county West Virginia can go and discuss community affairs. There is a section of Cabell County concerns for those who live in rural Cabell County. Milton West Virginia Message Board and Community Blog
The message board software generates an RSS XML feed like a blog but for a group rather than an individual.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Cabell County West Virginia at 09:08

Friday, November 23, 2007

DirectTV Satellite TV in West Virginia

I recently replaced my cable TV replaced by Direct TV satellite TV at my home in Huntington West Virginia as part of a bundled package deal from Verizon. I am very much unhappy with the satellite TV service that I get from Direct TV. The receiver boxes that they installed by the DirectTV installers are called "standard" boxes. However the standard receivers are not capable of receiving HD signals. This is 2007 and not 1997 and I have an HD TV. High definition HDTV is the standard in 2007 and the standard equipment used by DirectTV is OBSOLETE. You have to pay more for the up to date receiver models. I feel that pawning off out of date equipment and charging more for the up to date models is very deceptive. They promised me 180 TV stations and once it is installed I find out that a large number of the promised TV stations in this package are nothing more than crummy XM radio stations and not actual video content. If I subscribe to a TV service I expect TV and not a bunch of crummy XM radio stations playing some types of music/noise that I don't even like. I am quite disappointed that Verizon is pawning this third rate Direct TV satellite service off on their West Virginia customers. DirectTV is pretty bad in West Virginia and I advise my West Virginia readers to avoid it like the plague and this is especially true with Verizon bundled packages to which Direct TV is a portion. I bought Direct TV as part of a packaged bundle deal from Verizon. I have since discovered that Direct TV has made an unauthorized inquiry on my credit report last October. This abuse of my privacy has been done to me even though I do not have a direct financial relationship with direct TV. I have never applied for employment or credit from Direct TV. I never agreed to Direct TV fishing around in my credit history thats modestly good. I assume they intend to sell the information that they are harvesting from Verizons customers and that is why I am mad at Verizon. It seems Verizon has tarnished their otherwise good reputation by subjecting their vaunerable West Virginia customers to the obnoxious behavior of Direct TV. I am buying the Direct TV service through Verizon, and Verizon is acting as a wholesaler for Direct TV and my financial relationship is only with Verizon. My account is secured by my relationship with Verizon. There was absolutely no reason for Direct TV to access my credit report.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia at 16:32

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Religious Freedom In West Virginia

In the days of the founding fathers things were much different than today. There were many people in that time who believed that the statement "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesars and unto God that which is Gods." meant that political allegiances and religious allegiances should and must be separate matters. It was widely believed at that time that politics was a thing of the world, and it was widely believed that ministers should refrain from politics and other vices and concentrate only on spiritual matters alone. Political discussion was a rowdy affair in that era and commonly done in taverns and pubs. It was commonly thought to be best if the clergy dedicated their pursuits to spiritual matters only at that point in history. In short, in that era, politics was seen as having the potential to corrupt the morality of those involved. People did not want ministers practicing politics for the same reason that they wanted clergy to refrain from gambling and prostitution. At that time politics was seen as being beneath the dignity of a legitimate man of God. At that time it was not permissible to corrupt the affairs of god by contaminating religion with the practice of politics. At that point in history, any minister who preached politics from the pulpit would have been immediately denounced as a charlatan and a fraud and then promptly run out of town. The separation of church and state is merely a byproduct of the prevailing mindset in the era in which this country was founded. There is much to be said for a peaceful religion that keeps itself above political agendas. The Christians of that era demanded a high standard of morality from clergy. Political preachers like Past Robertson and Jesse Jackson would have never lasted more than a week in that era. How does this effect us in West Virginia? West Virginia entered the union in 1863 with the understanding that the citizens of the new state would enjoy all legal rights that they previously enjoyed as citizens of Virginia with the notable exception of slavery. The Virginia Statute for religious freedom was in effect at the time that West Virginia became a state, and is therefore part of our common heritage with Virginia. The author of the statute was none other than Thomas Jefferson. A truncated version of this statute is replicated in Article Three Section Fifteen of the West Virginia State Consttution. If one desires to know the mindset of the founding fathers as it relates to religious freedom, a review of Mr. Jefferson's statute for religious freedom is obligatory reading. The full text of the statute is written verbatim below. Stephanie Heck

VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM [Sec. 1] Whereas Almighty God hath created the mind free; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burthens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the Holy author of our religion, who being Lord both of body and mind, yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as it was in his Almighty power to do; that the impious presumption of legislators and rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who being themselves but fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavouring to impose them on others, hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world, and through all time; that to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical; that even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion, is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor, whose morals he would make his pattern, and whose powers he feels most persuasive to righteousness, and is withdrawing from the ministry those temporary rewards, which proceeding from an approbation of their personal conduct, are an additional incitement to earnest and unremitting labours for the instruction of mankind; that our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry; that therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence by laying upon him an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion, is depriving him injuriously of those privileges and advantages to which in common with his fellow-citizens he has a natural right; that it tends only to corrupt the principles of that religion it is meant to encourage, by bribing with a monopoly of worldly honours and emoluments, those who will externally profess and conform to it; that though indeed these are criminal who do not withstand such temptation, yet neither are those innocent who lay the bait in their way; that to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion, and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency, is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty, because he being of course judge of that tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgment, and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own; that it is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government, for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order; and finally, that truth is great and will prevail if left to herself, that she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error, and has nothing to fear from the conflict, unless by human interposition disarmed of her natural weapons, free argument and debate, errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them: [Sec. 2] Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish enlarge, or affect their civil

capacities. [Sec. 3] And though we well know that this assembly elected by the people for the ordinary purposes of legislation only, have no power to restrain the acts of succeeding assemblies, constituted with powers equal to our own, and that therefore to declare this act to be irrevocable would be of no effect in law; yet we are free to declare, and do declare, that the rights hereby asserted are of the natural rights of mankind, and that if any act shall be hereafter passed to repeal the present, or to narrow its operation, such act shall be an infringement of natural right.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia at 19:34