



Coons' vote on Adegbile defied reality

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To understand Sen. Chris Coons' vote against Debo Adegbile's confirmation to head the Civil Rights Division requires a trek back to the plantation. On the plantation, slaves were forbidden and punished for aiding one another unless sanctioned by the master and plantation owner. The punishment was meant to prevent any future aid and to warn others (particular the smartest) of the dangers of providing assistance. Regardless of the notoriety of their clients, it is normal for lawyers to defend their clients without being complicit in their crimes or having their future jeopardized. For Sen. Coons, Mr. Adegbile is the exception.

The role played by Sen. Coons was to uphold the first rule of the plantation and punish and sanction Mr. Adegibile for defending Mr. Abu-Jamal. Little political damage would have resulted had Sen. Coons ignored this precedent-setting lobby by Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police. Since the police are the enforcement arm of the legislative process, yielding to police lobbies provides them excessive power which easily leads to a police state.

For Sen. Coons to succumb to an agency that exhibits higher per capita crime rates than the general public – assaults (265 vs. 263/100,000), sexual assaults (67.8 vs. 28.7/100,000), and fatal excessive force (18.97 vs. 0.1/100,000) – shows a lack of courage and gives more power to an agency that is in need of restraint. These Cato Institute statistics are probably low since many police crimes are neither reported nor recorded. Well, Sen. Coons we're not on the plantation anymore; hopefully you will come of age and get another chance to do the right thing.

Waldron H. Giles

Wilmington