

I have come to believe that the right wing elements in this country—not all conservatives, for sure, but those who bow down before Donald Trump and his ilk—have only two articles of amendment in the U.S. Constitution that they respect. Most famous, of course, is the Second Amendment that they construe to mean they can carry assault weapons into the State Capitol in Lansing and any other place they wish. Ignoring the first part of that Article of Amendment is common: “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State...” This is not the portion of that sentence that has gripped their attention.

Then, as we have seen so frequently recently, the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution is getting plenty of use. Remember when Trump wondered why anyone would “plead the Fifth” as the saying goes, his answer was that, of course, that person must be guilty.

The part of the Fifth Amendment that is used relates to just one portion of the sentence: that no person “shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself...” So, when Trump’s General Michael Flynn “took the Fifth” more than 100 times during his deposition before the January 6 committee, it seemed significant. This is the guy who led the chant of “lock her up” regarding Hillary Clinton’s missing e-mails.

Trump himself, in a New York case this week, invoked the Fifth Amendment more than 440 times. I wonder if most of his followers have ever read the Constitution.

Some of those in Congress who probably have graduated from the supposedly best law schools in the country may be among the number who have never looked closely at the Constitution of the United States. Article XIV of the Amendments to the Constitution famously made the change that gives citizenship to all persons born in or naturalized in the United States. This was intended to ensure equal rights to people of all races—not to women, of course. And it certainly hasn’t worked the way it should regarding persons of color. But there is another part of this Amendment that certain people—Senator Josh Hawley, for example—should read: Section 3 of the Amendment states: “No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil, or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, SHALL HAVE ENGAGED IN INSURRECTION OR REBELLION AGAINST THE SAME, OR GIVEN AID OR COMFORT TO THE ENEMIES THEREOF.”

Enough said. But a whole lot of Republican Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate should take note.