

The bread dough is rising, the cabin is warm, the dogs are sleeping, and Muzzy the Cat is enlightening his old age with pursuit of a mouse that is huddled behind the freezer in the basement. A mouse in the house, even in the cellar, is an unusual occurrence here. Our population of barn cats has made the appearance of a mouse anywhere in the vicinity of the house or farm buildings a rare thing. But, this one white-footed mouse has found a way in from our sudden—and all too late—spell of winter. So, all is well in the world here in the backcountry.

One cannot say the same for the nation as a whole, however. But, although I rant on about the dangers of technology from time to time, there is no excuse for most people in this country to be ignorant of national issues. With a phone in nearly every hand, it would not be a difficult task of most fingers to find a way to the words that are being said involving the future of this country.

This was the focus of our evening last night. Although cameras were not allowed in the courtroom, a recording of the Trump lawyer and the government attorney, and, most significantly, the three judges in the appellate court, should have made it pretty clear to the average American citizen what the stakes for the nation are.

I have no legal background. History—primarily American history—was my focus in college and on in graduate school. But, even that is not a necessary prerequisite to understanding both the issues before the country and the stakes involved. The court hearing yesterday made it quite clear that the former president's argument—in nearly all disputes—is that he had (and has) the right to do exactly as he pleases, that laws and rules do not apply to him.

The three judges—all women—were incisive in their questioning. And they focused in on the extent to which Trump was asserting his immunity from prosecution. In the end, his lawyer worked himself into such a corner that he could not say that a president or former president was liable for prosecution if he or she had a political rival murdered. That is what people who are supporting the former president for another term in office are swallowing.

Think about that when you hang up that Trump flag or push the wires of the yard sign in the ground. Think about what you mean with that. And, educate yourself. It isn't that difficult. Technology, while providing us with much more information—both legitimate and bogus—than we need, does also have what we DO need—a pretty direct line to actual testimony, to facts, and to good resources for educating ourselves so that we can make reasoned and fact-based decisions regarding the future of this country.