

DOMESTIC POLITICS

Massachusetts Decriminalizes Crime

CAMBRIDGE, MA — In November 2008, Massachusetts residents voted 2 to 1 to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Capitalizing on the success of that measure, state legislators voted today to decriminalize small amounts of everything else illegal. Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick spearheaded the move and hailed it as “pure common sense, especially with the strained police budget.” The measure includes the following allowances:

Prostitution: Sexual congress with a prostitute is allowed if it lasts less than 4 minutes, costs less than \$20, or is done with no eye contact. Governor Patrick explained, “Elliot Spitzer just wasn’t thinking. If he had gone with an inexpensive hooker, spent less time chatting her up, and done so 18 months later in Massachusetts, he’d still be in office”.


Shoplifting: Stealing is okay as long as the item is worth less than \$10, can fit comfortably in a 3 oz. Ziploc bag, or is stolen by children. “It can be tough to be a kid these days. Why not give them a leg up by making the latest in small electronics, DVDs, and snacks freely available to our youth.”



Murder: Given that clinical death only results after 30 minutes of respiratory cessation and lack of blood circulation, killing someone is allowable as long as they are resuscitated before then. “We’ve all seen those shows where you think someone is dead but comes back to life in a coughing fit after about 15 seconds of CPR. It’s basically a catnap.”

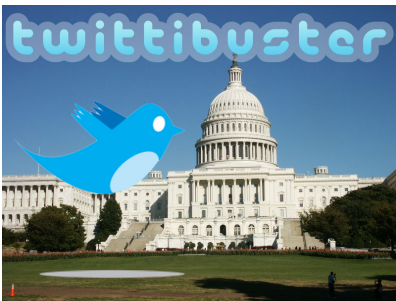
Spousal Abuse: Turning back the clock, now spouses can hit each other as long as it draws less than 3 oz. of blood. Women, because of their smaller physical stature, are also allowed to use tools, including but not limited to hammers, screwdrivers and pneumatic nail guns. “Let’s be honest,” Patrick said, “Sometimes the

people we love really get on our nerves. And nothing solves that like a nice smack on the head with a desk lamp.”

Overall, the move will save the state millions of dollars, but it does have its opponents. One elderly woman speaking for the Christian right said, “First they made blacks legal, then gays, and now all this? What’s our society coming to?” In response, this reporter bitch-slapped the bigoted old woman, but not hard enough for it to be illegal. 

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Senators Turn to Twitter For On-The-Go Filibusters



WASHINGTON, DC — “Read my tweets, we will not shut up if taxes are raised for any American...” writes Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) in one of his pithy Twitter messages that are quickly becoming the norm for U.S.

senate filibuster hearings. In a little known agreement between Republicans and Democrats this year, it was decided that senators would be able to use Twitter to instantaneously send short electronic filibuster messages in lieu of the existing practice of speaking continuously on the senate floor. “We used to have only a maximum of 100 characters in the senate, so it’s really changed the way we go about blocking legislation,” explained McConnell in a rare live speaking appearance. “The old rules were so outdated. Can you believe they used just stand up there and talk for hours, or days even? I don’t know how they prevented anything from getting done back then.”

According to recent updates, filibusters are up 5000% since the Twittibuster Agreement of ‘09, as it is referred to in beltway circles. Russ Feingold (D-WI) uses Twitter to filibuster “almost everyday.” “It helps me stay hyper-connected to my friends, family, and political opponents in the minor party,” Senator Feingold posted in a virtual press conference via Twitter. “This will make filibustering, and America, more efficient. Also, from now on all of my communications with the public,

press, or colleagues will be posted on my official Twitter page. g2g/ttyl.” While Republicans like Senator McConnell enjoy the quality of life improvements brought on by new technology, they warn against some of the potential abuses of fraudulent accounts. “A few weeks ago the Democrats were able to achieve a supermajority to prevent Susan Collins’ filibuster over the stimulus bills thanks to posts from a user named ‘Sen8trMMcCnl’, which turned out to be a 20-year-old Berkeley student pretending to be me, tweeting from the restroom.” Senator McConnell recently sent a Facebook message to every member of Congress to be sure they followed “TheRealAddisonMitchellMitchMcConnellJr” Twitter user to avoid any further confusion.

In addition to making Senate procedures less time and cost-intensive, Twitter-based filibusters are also allowing senators to learn more about each other’s daily routines, culinary habits, and pop-culture tastes. “I had no idea Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) enjoyed light jogging, butternut squash soup, AND ‘Return of the Jedi’ as much as I do, but there it was mentioned in his filibuster over judicial appointments,” described Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN). “Sometimes I like to filibuster in all CAPS,” he added, “to really show members of Congress how passionately I oppose stem cell research, universal health insurance, and that new Rihanna song.” If the growing prevalence of Twitter Berries, Tweetie iPhone apps, and Blue Tweeth in the north wing of the Capitol building is any indication, Senators will enjoy years of learning useless information about each other while blocking virtually any legislation from being passed into law. 