

Thomas Van Riper

16 December 2009

### The Redemption Process: Too Good to be True

There is a massive movement spreading across the nation that promises legal immunity and free money. This “process” is significantly more dangerous than other conspiracy theories due to the fact that the hundreds that believe in it and put it to practice end up in prison (Becraft).

Many web sites can be found that sell “The Redemption Manual” or other informational packages and even services to help you file the necessary complicated legal paperwork in order to free your straw man and become a redeemed “freeman.” However the websites promoting and selling this bizarre legal maneuver do not tell you the cold hard facts, that this fallacy was founded by a con man and that many others have been convicted trying to employ it.

The Redemption Movement is based on the idea that the United States of America is a corporation being run under maritime laws as signified by the gold trim around the American flag. It is said that for every birth certificate issued in the United States since the gold standard was abandoned for the 1936 Social Security Act a straw man is set up for that new born baby and a bank account is established in his or her name, holding up to \$630,000 per citizen (Barton). The belief is that there is a separation between your physical person (your un-capitalized name) and your straw man whose name is completely capitalized on your birth certificate. The capitalized name is in fact not a person at all but a sub corporation of the United States and is holding this bank account. To “capture your straw man” is to file a notarized Claim of Right and a Uniform Commercial Code-1 financing statement in a court of law to gain access to that money (Potok).

If you read further into the redemption philosophy it goes on to explain how you can become a freeman by getting power of attorney over your straw man corporation, becoming a secure party creditor

and actually achieving some form of sovereignty from the United States. Allegedly, you can use this separation to place liens on any person or business, be immune to court convictions and lawfully discharge any debts you may have (Kelly). Of course this sounds bizarre and ridiculous but the Redemption Manual (which sells for \$115.00 on Amazon.com) is in its fourth edition and apparently is a great seller by itself. Not to mention the dozens of copycat sites that sell “Redemption Process” informational packets, videos and paperwork filing services.

Roger Elvick created the Redemption Process in the 1980’s while he was a national spokesman for the white supremacist organization; the Committee of the States. Elvick primarily used the Redemption theories to scam money with a type of bad check called a “sight draft”. He was convicted of passing more than \$1 million in sight drafts, filing fraudulent IRS forms and ended up spending most of the 1990’s in federal prison (Potok). Elvick perfected his Redemption model in prison and began holding expensive seminars upon his release but by 2005 was back behind bars, this time in an Ohio State prison for corruption, extortion and forgery charges.

The freeman movement which includes the infamous Montana Freemen and other violent right wing extremists like Timothy McVey and Terry Nichols all believe in this whole Redemption philosophy (Barton) despite the apparent downfall of its creator, and people are apparently still buying into the numerous web sites selling this scheme in the form of online redemption kits. The Redemption Process makes a very interesting conspiracy theory but it’s just too bad, that it is too good to be true.

#### Works Cited

Becraft, Larry ESQ. “The Straw Man Sight Drafts.” *Becraft*.

12 July 2008. Web. 16 December 2009

Barton, Travis. “The Freeman on the Land myth: Debunked.” *Denver Skepticism Examiner*.

7 October 2009. Web. 16 December 2009

Potok, Mark, et al. “Patriots for Proft.” *Intelligence Report*.

Summer 2005. Web. 16 December 2009

Kelly, Barton. "Have You Heard of 'REDEMPTION' and the STRAW-MAN?" *The American Bullitin*.

Web. 16 December 2009

"Offender Search." *Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction*.

Web. 16 December 2009