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Civil Liberties

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Selling furs- A Right to Economic liberties is an article that was featured in the New York Times on September 25, 2011. West Hollywood endorsed the first fur ban in the United States. This ban meant that the residents of West Hollywood could not buy or sell fur coats within the state, however, the other states had not banned fur. This action by the council of West Hollywood raised a law question that is, is it permissible for the state to ban an economic activity or transaction that does not harm any person or that does not pose any threat to the community(<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/09/25/ban-fur-then-why-not-leather/selling-furs-a-right-to-economic-libert>). This is a restriction of economic freedom of the locals on the basis that animal life was more valuable. According to the Supreme Court, the government has the power and ability to restrict or ban any economic transaction as long as there is a basis for the restriction and in the case of banning fur in West Hollywood, the basis was that animal life should be valued and establishing West Hollywood as a cruelty-free zone for animals. That was the basis of the case.

This article affects several civil rights and also the economic liberty of the individuals living in West Hollywood. Economic liberty is the freedom to purchase, trade, and consumer goods and services without the use of force, fraud, or theft. As learned in the chapter, Economic freedom has five main principles as follows, property rights, rule of law, free trade, constitutionally limited government, and lastly sound money supply. Banning the selling of fur in West Hollywood violated economic liberty directly since it limited the freedom of its residents to purchase and trade fur within the state. And by violating the economic freedom of the locals it directly traces back to civil rights and civil rights of the people which are meant to limit the power of the government to ensure personal freedoms and guarantee equal treatment of everyone

by the government authorities respectively since the banning was not countrywide thus this was promoting unequal economic opportunities to the people of West Hollywood and personal freedoms such as the freedom to participate in any economic activity of choice that does not harm any member of the community or does not pose a threat to the community generally.

The article *Selling Furs: A Right to Economic liberty* written by Ilya Somin, presents the issue in a way that influences the people to stand up for their rights and it also informs the people. Ilya Somin informs the people about their rights by raising the constitutional issue that I have mentioned; does the government have the power or authority to ban or restrict an economic transaction or activity that does not harm any person in the community in any way. He also emphasizes that the fourteenth amendment on the protection of liberty should at least have a say in economic liberty cases.

I think that the banning of selling fur in West Hollywood was not constitutional and it violates three major laws that we learned in the chapter namely economic liberties, civil liberties, and civil rights. The council should not have banned the selling of fur in the state since fur is an animal product and animals are reared as an economic activity thus the omission of the fur trade is restricting the people an opportunity to participate in free trade that does not harm any person in the community and this according to the constitution is a violation of the laws.

Work Cited

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/09/25/ban-fur-then-why-not-leather/selling-furs-a-right-to-economic-liberty>.

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