

To the Environment Committee:

I have just learned of the meeting to take place tomorrow, March 11, 2016, to discuss the proposed ban on the personal possession of ivory on such artifacts as pre WWII pianos, teapots, beads, drawer escutcheons, etc., to declare such possession a felony, and to impose a considerable fine, and possible jail sentence for such possession.

While I support the ban on importation of ivory newer than is considered to be antique, and I strongly condemn the wanton poaching of elephant ivory, I wish to register my disagreement with this proposal. I cannot see how the forced destruction of family heirlooms and fine musical instruments will mitigate the contemporary slaughter taking place for the benefit of Asian speculators.

Further, I suggest that such a law would only result in what would then be considered sub rosa exchanges of family goods upon the death of a family member. Most people are quite unaware that the dirty yellow things on that teapot handle are ivory, and to play gottcha with estate sales for the purposes of revenue generating fines is at best unkind. For those who are informed on this matter, realistically, no one is going to trash a fine violin bow or a 50 year old Steinway for this, that too would be a sin. Talk about a "bonfire of the vanities"!

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Gaye Hyre  
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