

Words Poorly Used #82 — Process

Process overwhelms purpose. We wanted to live in a world free of crime, so we asked the state to make that guarantee, now we are guaranteed the abuses of crime and the abuses of the state. Substitute any antonym for a “public good” for which we have whored ourselves, and the statement holds. For instance replace “crime” with “illegal immigration,” “homelessness,” “poor roads,” “terrorism,” “war.” Process replaces the purpose alluded to in political promises. A mission-free bureau soon replaces any effort with day dreams of power, revenue, placebos, and continuation. If anyone calls them out, they change their name and transfer a few place-holding personnel to other bureaus, equally without purpose.

— Kilgore Forelle