

JOHN LENNON VS. THE USA

I just finished reading an incredible book, John Lennon vs. The USA written by Lennon's immigration attorney Leon Wildes.

In March of 1971, Congress passed the 26th Amendment which lowered the voting age to 18. The first National election would be the 1972 Presidential election. President Richard Nixon was extremely concerned that the approximate 10 million new voters between the ages of 18-21 would be highly influenced by certain individuals in society making it more difficult for him to be reelected. One of those individuals was John Lennon, the ex-Beatle. Both Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono were in the United States on short-term visas. The purpose of their visit to the U.S. was that she and John were attempting to locate her child and ex-husband. Yoko was involved in a bitter custody battle with her prior husband. She had obtained temporary orders giving her custody of her child, however, her prior husband absconded with the child in violation of the court order.

John and Yoko's Visas were due to expire so they applied for an extension which was routinely granted at that time. However, Nixon had targeted Lennon for his outspoken criticism of the war in Viet Nam as well as many other policies.

The book is an insider look as to what is arguably the most influential and bitterly contested deportation case in United States history. The reader is provided a behind the scenes look into the "dirty tricks" that the Nixon Administration engaged in to get Lennon and Ono deported as well as the behind the scenes lives of one of rock and rolls most legendary couples.

At a time when immigration law is one of the hottest issues in the United States, this is a book well worth reading.