

## Il Duce Cuomo

November 13, 2018

A federal judge has ruled that the National Rifle Association has a plausible case against New York Governor Andrew Cuomo; the NRA's lawsuit, alleging that the organization's rights have been violated by the governor, is going ahead.

As related by Jacob Sullum in two pieces over at *Reason*, Cuomo sure looks guilty.

Indeed, the governor's own words convict him: "If the @NRA goes bankrupt because of the State of New York, they'll be in my thoughts and prayers. I'll see you in court."

Precisely.

What has Cuomo done? "I am directing the Department of Financial Services," he



And it reminds me of Mussolini's method, of The Leader taking control and bullying businesses and groups to do his bidding. (For the "public safety" and to "end violence" — of course.)

commanded, "to urge insurers and bankers statewide to determine whether any relationship they may have with the NRA or similar organizations sends the wrong

message to their clients and their communities."

Is this just regulatory business as usual, as defenders of Cuomo harrumph? Or is it a real violation of rights?

It can be both.

This is more than "bully pulpit" power, it is actual, gun-under-the-table power — the kind you give to regulators when you set up regulatory bodies rather than establish general principles under a rule of law.

It is a problem on every level of our society, especially the federal government. But states like New York are obviously not immune.

And it reminds me of Mussolini's method, of The Leader taking control and bullying businesses and groups to do his bidding. (For the "public safety" and to "end violence" — of course.) The essence of fascism.

It's good to see Il Duce Cuomo get some legal pushback.

In this Land of the Allegedly Free.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.