



Freedom's

JOURNAL MAGAZINE

The Political Voice of Conservative Reform

Vol 3 Issue 2



The Problem with Big Government:

What should the role of Government be in our Society?

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The Political Voice of Conservative Reform

Volume 3 • Issue 2

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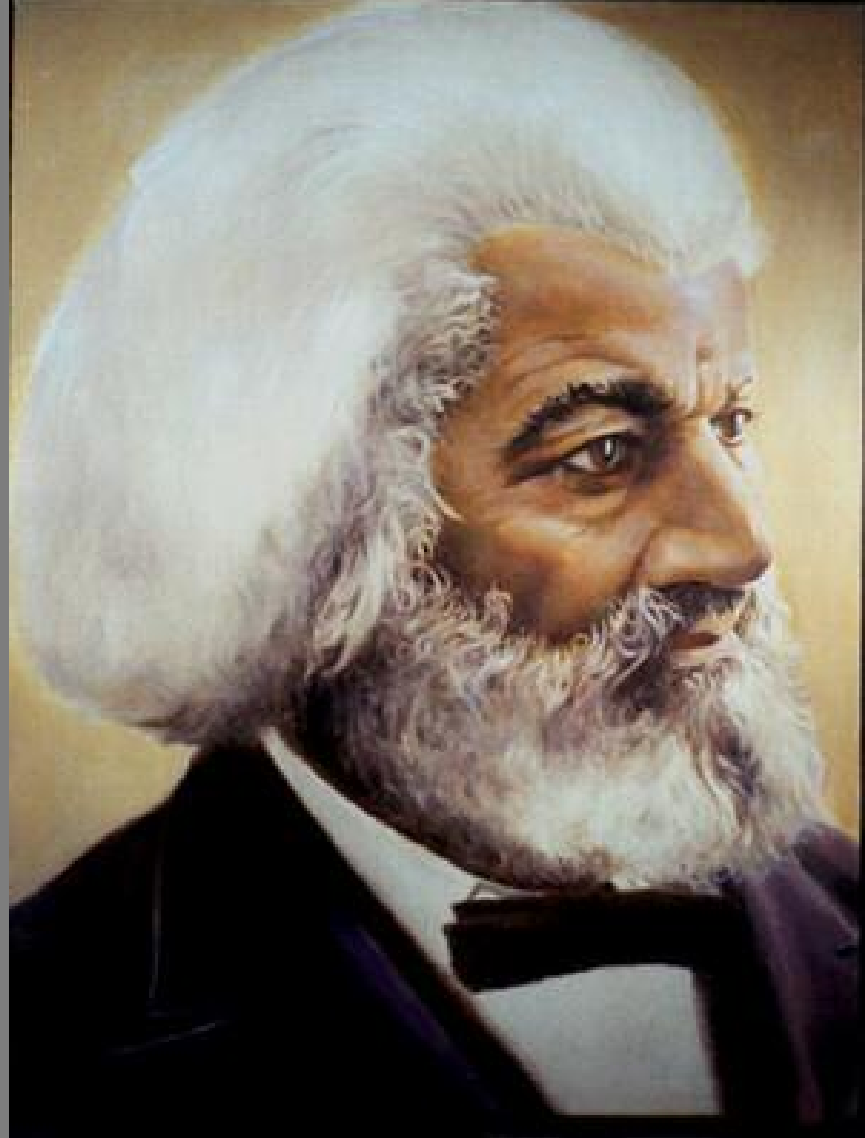
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*Find out just what any people
will quietly submit to and you
have the exact measure of the
injustice and wrong which will be
imposed on them.*

Frederick Douglass

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Publisher's Welcome

Welcome to the new issue of Freedom's Journal Magazine. In this March /April 2010 issue we tackle the Problem of Big Government and ask the question what should the role of Government be in our society? The Apostle Paul said that the governing authorities were established by God to keep order. They are ordained by God and sustained by the payment of taxes in order to maintain an orderly society, in the prevention Publisher's Welcome

Welcome to the new issue of Freedom's Journal Magazine. In this March /April 2010 issue we tackle the problem of Big Government and ask the question, "What should the role of Government be in our society"? The Apostle Paul admonished us that the governing authorities were established by God to keep order. They are ordained by God and sustained by the payment of taxes in order to maintain an orderly society, in the prevention of anarchy (Romans 13:1-7).

The founding fathers understood, having lived under the rule of a whimsy and despotic monarchy, that a system of checks and balances were required to lay the foundation for its governing body to ensure all citizens "the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Constitution was created to protect these liberties; and subsequently has for the American citizen clearly marked the role and reach of the federal government.

Given the modern day expansion of our government programs and spending under both Republican and Democratic administrations this question is better asked, "How should we understand the role of government"? Should the government provide its citizens with housing, health care or education? Are these things that the general public is entitled to; or simply things we have a right to pursue? Should the government be responsible for redistribution of wealth through taxation, or any means at all? As we consider these questions (and many more like them) our goal must be a more thorough examination of the intent our nation's founders had not only for the role of government in our society—but more explicitly, "what our individual role is in that society".

Invariably, this debate exposes stark differences between liberal/progressive and conservative ideology. Liberals argue for more government action while conservatives and libertarians argue for less. Ultimately, the answer lies in government, which governs by rule of law. This law is embodied in our Constitution: and it is from this body of law that we determine whether government exists to keep order and provide for its citizenry to pursue their own course in life; or if it should function as arbiter to not only keep order but to guarantee an equitable outcome through entitlements, redistribution, and more.

My hope for this issue, as with every issue, is that after reading the articles and watching the videos that we are inspired to "stand for what we say we believe and actively engage in the political process that represents us".

Eric M Wallace



WHAT *SHOULD* GOVERNMENT

By Ken Blackwell

A friend of mine tells the story of a Republican Congressman who came to Washington for the first time in 1995. This newly elected Freshman had never really visited our nation's capital before, except to play football there. The Congressman regaled his constituents with his tale of his first cab ride in the District. "Wow," he said, looking at all the big federal office buildings that lined the streets on his way from the airport. "How many people work in those buildings," the Congressman asked his cab driver. "Oh, about *half* of them," the cabbie responded.

That story, endlessly repeated on the campaign stump, is one of the things that prevents us from getting a better view of what government *should* be doing. The Congressman who told that tale could rely on getting a chuckle from his rural, Western constituents. Mostly conservative, these good folks had been fed tales of misdoings by the "feds" for generations.

Let me say for the record: I don't agree with that characterization of the federal work force. From my time at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, working with Jack Kemp, and from several other federal appointments, my experience was different. I found the federal civil service workers to be—in the main—honest, hard-working, and intelligent.

I think it hurts our cause to be constantly running down good folks who give their all for our government. The congressmen and others who love to create a caricature of federal workers need some lessons in history of federal employment.



DO?

Thousands of freedmen came to Washington after the Civil War. Denied civil rights and equal opportunity in the states of the Old Confederacy, many of these striving black Americans sought employment with the federal government. The government was not in those days the employer of last resort, it was too often the *only* employer who would give black Americans a decent chance to build a new life.

Having said all of this, that does not mean I think that all the things the federal government does in Washington, or in the states, *should* be done. But the fault in that lies not with the civil servants who are honestly doing what Congress tells them to do. The fault should rest with Congress itself.

Let me take a first example: Education. American education was a great success story with a great exception—racial segregation. Relief finally came in 1954 with the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown v. Board*. States were

ordered to move “with all deliberate speed” to end this historic wrong. That was an instance that clearly cried out for federal intervention.

Stopping racial segregation should have been sufficient to complete the federal responsibility on education. But liberal politicians and judges made it just the beginning. Ever since the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the federal role in state and local education issues has been growing. Today, the U.S. Education Department’s budget for Fiscal Year 2011 will be \$49.7 Billion. The government also includes \$173 Billion in loans, grants, tax credits and work-study programs that help low-income students afford college.

Surely, it’s a worthy goal to help all students who strive for college to get there. But does this have to be a *federal* program? We have seen college tuition—at both state and private colleges—skyrocket over the same period that we have had federal loans and college assistance.

Pennsylvania’s Grove City College and Michigan’s Hillsdale College are two of the very few private colleges that take no federal assistance. They have never discriminated on the basis of race or color (Hillsdale was founded by Abolitionists), but they don’t want the red tape and bureaucracy that comes with federal money. As a result, these two outstanding colleges offer students a high quality education at a *fraction* of the tuition cost (about 2/3) that most federally-funded colleges charge.

We should ask ourselves whether the benefits to the citizens of federal involvement in education have really yielded the results we want. Advocates of greater federal involvement in education like to point out that the federal government only supplies about 7% of all education funding in the country. That may be true. But that still does not mean there are no strings. The *mahouts* of India are slight fellows, who often weigh just 7% of what their elephants weigh. But the mahout has a stick that he uses to prod his elephant behind the ear—and *pretty soon the elephant goes where the mahout trains him to go*.

While vastly increasing the federal outlay for education—an area the Constitution reserves to the states and to the people—this administration is cutting off D.C. Opportunity Scholarships. Thus, low income parents in the nation’s capital are losing the best hope for their children to get a high quality education in safe and effective schools.

Another example of unwarranted federal involvement is

the 1970 Family Planning and Reproductive Health Act. We have literally sluiced billions into this program—called Title X. It’s been a cash cow—no, a cash *cattle herd*—for Planned Parenthood. This outfit has a long history of targeting minority communities. Planned Parenthood’s founder, Margaret Sanger, cooked up a “Negro Pastors’ Project” to try to seduce black clergy into going along with her eugenic schemes. Even now, 78% of Planned Parenthood facilities are located in or near minority neighborhoods. This supposedly non-profit organization is realizing huge profits from the billions it gets from the federal government.

What they do with this money is to persuade unmarried teens to have sex without their parents knowledge or consent. They give them devices and pills and send them out the door with a message that everyone is doing it. No, everyone is not doing it. And the best message for unmarried young people is wait until marriage. When those devices and pills fail, as they often do, Planned Parenthood is standing by to provide the abortion—often in the same facility. It’s a revolving door of destruction.

What have we to show for all of this money? There have been 52 million abortions. The ratio of black unborn children to white ones aborted is a shocking 3-to-1. We have an unsustainable national out-of-wedlock birthrate of 40%. There are 65 million sexually treated diseases. If ever there was a failed federal program, Title X is it. If family planning is necessary, let *families* do it. And let them consult their pastors and their own consciences about how to do it.

President Eisenhower, in a press conference, was once asked if we should *start* a program like Title X. “I can’t think of a role more *inappropriate* for the federal government,” Ike said.

So what *should* the government do? Having mentioned Eisenhower, I can say he gave us a good indication of the proper use of federal authority. In 1957, President Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne Division into Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce court-ordered school integration.

President Eisenhower was encouraged in that action by baseball great, Jackie Robinson. If Ike could send the 101st Airborne into France to liberate foreigners from tyranny, surely he could use those troops to protect the fundamental rights of Americans here at home. Ike agreed.

We should not want it to come to that, of course. But Eisenhower showed us the true role of the federal government—protecting our fundamental rights as Americans. The Declaration of Independence said it well: “...to secure these [inalienable rights] governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

The inalienable rights the Declaration spoke of included the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Many people today are saying they are only *fiscal* conservatives. By that, they mean they are more liberal on social issues—matters like the right to life, the defense of marriage, or the use of drugs and the spread of pornography.

Some of these people call themselves libertarian and say they only want “to get the government out of the bedroom.” Well, I don’t want the government in my bedroom, either. But my libertarian friends should recognize that when human life is at stake, government has a duty to defend it. Abraham Lincoln said “nothing stamped in the divine image was sent into the world to be trod upon.” He was speaking, of course, of the moral wrong of slavery. But his eloquent words apply with equal force to Jim Crow laws, segregation, and, of course, abortion.

Government has a duty to keep even the least of us from being trod upon. Then, there’s the defense of marriage. I’m especially proud that Bishop Harry Jackson is leading the fight to preserve marriage in the District of Columbia. If the people of the nation’s capital could *vote* on this vital question, I have few doubts that the pro-marriage side would prevail. In 31 state contests, defenders of marriage have won. We have won victories for marriage in conservative states like Utah and Kansas, and in liberal states like Wisconsin and Oregon. We have won victories for marriage at the Supreme Court levels in Washington State, Maryland, and New York.

That’s because people recognize that children need a father and mother who are married. It’s the best way to raise a child. All social science literature confirms this fact. It’s especially significant that minority Americans rally to the side of marriage whenever the issue is put on the ballot. That’s because we know that the attack on marriage is an attack on our communities.

We *reject* the notion that allowing a man to marry a man is equivalent to Dr. King’s eating at an integrated lunch

counter. The purpose of the great Civil Rights Act of 1964 was to affirm our God-given rights.

The purpose of these assaults on marriage is to *deny* the fundamental civil right of marriage. By counterfeiting marriage, homosexual groups are abolishing marriage itself. If everyone can get married, then no one can get married. There will be no such thing as marriage left.

There's been a lot of confusion—some of it deliberately spread by radical groups—on the law on marriage. In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down state laws that prohibited racial intermarriage. In *Loving v. Virginia*, the Chief Justice wrote that marriage is a “fundamental civil right of Americans.” He further stated that marriage is necessary for the survival of society. That Chief Justice was Earl Warren, the same man who delivered a unanimous ruling in *Brown v. Board* more than a decade earlier. Homosexual groups use the *Loving* case to claim that marriage is a civil right of all Americans. They're right about that.

But they're wrong in thinking that that means they can distort true marriage and twist the clear meaning of Chief Justice Warren's opinion. “Necessary for the survival of society” clearly points to the role of marriage in protecting children. And, no, Heather does not have two Mommys. Poor Heather doesn't have one Mommy. In that relationship, neither person is fulfilling the Mommy role.

The current administration is going out of its way to undermine and destroy true marriage. It's taking a wrecking ball to marriage. This is surely not the hope and change that so many of us voted for.

I'm not saying the federal government should be invading people's homes and trying to see how they are living. We all value our privacy. But surely if we want an end to culture wars, the federal government can help by not funding one side.

What I've laid out here is a vision not of a weaker federal government. The government under Eisenhower was prepared to use military force to secure basic civil rights. I don't agree that a less intrusive or scaled-back federal government is a weaker government. We all know that we are healthier and stronger when we're lean and fit. An out-of-shape federal government risks hardening of the arteries and heart attack.

I often tell student groups about the Auntie-Net that I

grew up with, long before the Internet. What I mean, of course, is that in my community, we had many close relatives and many a caring adult—Aunt Jane, let's say—who helped to guide us along the proper paths. In so many cases, these caring adults were people of faith. They were confident that the Good Book was a light unto our feet.

Our federal government has been, in the main, a blessing. It has defended our nation from enemies abroad and enemies at home. It needs to do more for homeland security. It needs to do less in trying to substitute for parents and local teachers, or in trying to take the place of pastors and priests.

Ronald Reagan is often quoted from his First Inaugural Address. “Government is not the solution,” he said, “government is the problem.” Reagan was no anarchist. And he was no segregationist. He was referring to an out-of-control federal government that was trying to interfere too much with our economy and with our health, education, and welfare.

Reagan knew that only a strong, lean federal government could protect us from an Evil Empire. You don't build a 600-ship Navy with a small government. But he also knew that parents knew better which school was best for their children than do unelected federal bureaucrats. That's why Ronald Reagan offered the first voucher proposal for lower income families. He was successful with the 600-ship Navy. When Congress went along with him, walls and iron curtains came down. But when, as with his voucher proposal, Congress refused to help him, walls remain.

The wall that remains today between too many lower income families and a quality education for their children is one that we could remove. It's one we should remove. It's one more area where spending too much and giving too much power to the federal government actually hurts the people.

I have great hope that leaders will come forward who will champion parental choice in education and who will roll back harmful federal programs like Title X. When that happens, it will indeed be a great advance for freedom.

Ken Blackwell is a senior fellow at the Family Research Council and a visiting professor at Liberty University School of Law.



IS LIMITED GOVERNMENT A THING OF THE PAST?

BY ERIC M. WALLACE, PHD

“That government is best which governs least” is a widely held sentiment passed down throughout the ages of American history. And while certainty of its author is still regularly a question for debate, whether Jefferson, Paine or Thoreau; its idea clearly advocates in favor of restricted government powers. In fact, early on in the late 18th and early 19th centuries the founding fathers— framers of the Constitution— settled on our need to limit the reach of government.

Thomas Jefferson warned that; *“the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.”*

Thomas Paine wrote; *when the government fears the people, it is liberty. When the people fear the government, it is tyranny.*

James Madison wrote; *there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by the gradual and silent encroachment of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpation.*

These earlier pioneers of the American experiment in Freedom understood that liberty is fleeting. If we are not vigilant we will wake up one day and find that government has over stepped its constitutional boundaries and we’ve tumbled down the slippery slope to a government to “big to fail.” Or is that, so big it can’t succeed?

What fascinates me (and at the same time frightens me) is that these warnings from our forefathers were echoed long before we had government run health care (Medicare, Medicaid, and on the horizon Obamacare). These warnings were heralded long before we had payroll taxes and April 15th was just another day. There was no welfare, no department of Education, no HUD, no department of Health and Human Services, and the list goes on. I can only imagine what our forefathers would think of the size of government today.

I recall the incredulous remarks of the young women who proclaimed that with Obama as president she’d no

longer have to pay her bills. She believed the government or the Obama administration would take care of her. She probably got this idea when then candidate Obama told Joe “the Plumber” Wurzelbacher that it was necessary to “spread the wealth around.” I can hear the words of Ben Franklin warning from the grave that; *“when the people find they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic.”* Or of James Madison, *“Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government.”* Or Thomas Jefferson who said, *“...democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.*

The founding fathers rightly believed that a government big enough to provide you all you need is big enough to take it away. They knew that government, and the people who ran it, had to be restrained by the rule of Law. Let’s be clear, this was not just any law but the Constitution, which would be the spectacles through which all other laws would be viewed and judged. The limiting of the federal government by the constitution is essential to understanding the framework of our government. Jefferson said, *“I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground: That ‘all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people.’ To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.”* In quoting the tenth amendment Jefferson establishes its intent, that is, that the federal government be limited to those powers and duties enumerated in the Constitution. To go beyond that would give the government limitless power.

The survival of our Republic depends upon a set of laws that restrict the government, and at the same time protect the freedoms of us all. The primacy of the Constitution is explained by John C. Calhoun, former Vice President under John Quincy Adams, when he said; *“to maintain the ascendancy of the Constitution over the lawmaking majority is the great and essential point on which the success of the [American] system must depend; unless that ascendancy can be preserved, the necessary consequence must be that the laws will supersede the Constitution; and, finally, the will of the Executive, by influence of its patronage, will supersede the laws.”* The primacy of the Constitution protects us from bad laws

and lawmakers. It is the constitution that keeps the three branches of government in check.

Unfortunately, it would appear that we have long since rejected the wisdom of liberty’s pedigree. The federal government has extended its reach into basically every area of our lives. It has infected the free market system so that it is no longer “free” but a “restricted” market. It has recently extended its influence into the car industry, housing market, banking and insurance. Most recently Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services Secretary, called into question the pricing of health insurance premiums. The Obama administration felt the increases were too high. While the administration may have a valid point, where in the Constitution does it give the President, Congress or any cabinet member the right to mandate pricing practices? Except for illegal manipulation of the market by monopolies and/or collusion the feds should stay out of the market place of goods and services and allow for interstate purchasing of any item including health insurance. This would fall under the purview of Article I section 8 of the Constitution. Yet, we run into problems when government tries to regulate private businesses and over steps its authority. Can anyone point to an article of or amendment to the Constitution, which allows for the government to direct the activities of the free market system?

The collapse of the housing market and subsequent down turn of the economy were a direct result of government interference in our markets. Many in Congress felt that the banks and other loaning institutions were a barrier to home ownership. Liberals argued that people had a right to own a home and insisted that it was the government’s job to make this happen. Subsequently, Congress ignored free market principles to create a desirable result, which produced any number of unintended consequences. Social engineering by the government caused a housing bubble that, in effect, eventually burst (see Thomas Sowell video).

Additionally, problems continue to arise from the fact that the Federal government is the largest employer in the United States. The Labor department estimates that the government employees over 2 million people, excluding the post office. It is estimated that this year that number will increase to 2.5 million. The average salary for a government worker is \$74,406.00. Multiply the salary times the number of employees and you get over 148 billion dollars in salaries alone. This does not in-



clude benefits. These figures exclude the 1.5 million in the armed services, and as mentioned, the \$850,000 in the US postal service.

Now, keep in mind the billions of dollars in liabilities for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security—and you have the makings of a Republic our founding fathers would neither recognize, nor had envisioned. They would say that we are on the road to serfdom. Through cap and trade, health care reform, banking takeovers and off the chart federal spending we are headed to a totalitarian society where the government is not only expected to take care of you, but also tells you what you can and cannot do. The only way to arrest the inevitable decline of liberty, as we have come to know it, is to again bring to bear the full force that the Constitutional republic originally proposed. As James Jackson said, *“We must confine ourselves to the powers described in the Constitution, and the moment we pass it, we take an arbitrary stride towards a despotic Government.”* —**James Jackson**, *First Congress, 1st Annals of Congress*, 489

This country has been moving toward a despotic government since its radical beginnings. The founding fathers knew that keeping a Republic would require constant vigilance. In 1787, shortly after the close of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, a woman interested in the proceedings approached Benjamin Franklin. “Well, doctor,” she asked, “what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” The revered champion of American liberty replied, “A republic, Madame, if you can keep it.” The increase of government intervention from the New Deal, the Great society and the era of “Hope and Change” have pushed us toward a government that ignores the Constitution and free market principles. These days, government is looked to in order to solve all of society’s ills—undoubtedly a role it was never intended to have.

“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety”. Ben Franklin



The Constitution and **FREEDOM**

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Is Health Care a Constitutional Right?

By Ada M. Fisher, MD

A thorough reading of the United States Constitution will reveal that nowhere is health care or education a mandate to be fulfilled by the federal government. It is in understanding the 10th Amendment to the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution—that of Reserve Powers—that all things not covered in the constitution are ceded to the states or are state's rights.

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

This allocation of State's Rights by constitutional authority has so irritated many that it has been fraught with charges of racism against the southern states wishing to retain the economic benefits of slavery, imperialism in those states seeking control and management of lands within their boundaries even when it imposes on Tribal Treaties, and class warfare when those with power and money through benign neglect have been allowed to build unchallenged fiefdoms as did many of the old boy “Robber Barons” such as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Mellon, and DuPont.

Seizing on populist discontent, crafty legislators, particularly Congressmen and Presidents have used the advent of unionization and resultant benefits as a forerunner for Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare which slid in on the backside of that door. The usurping of Article I. The Legislative Branch, Section 8 – Powers of Congress depended and depends on a generic interpretation to expand congressional powers outside of those constitutionally mandated by drumming the beat for implied powers in the areas of art, education and health care actions to name just a few.

The laziness of states and their unwillingness to buck Congress for fear of losing federal support has allowed Congress to compel citizens and allow aliens participation in compulsory retirement, benefits and other programs thereby assuming constitutionally stated inherent powers of the states claiming them as its own. Such actions have allowed an unfettered undermining of state's authority and financing in unprecedented taxation at the federal level to control as well as dictate the lives of citizens by increasingly unfunded mandates on their personal choices and life options.

Health Care Reform is the latest effort in an unbroken chain

of attempts to centralize or socialize more of the goods and services of this nation possibly regulating us towards the much bantered about New World or One World Order. This sad and expensive joke is less funny appreciating that everyone knows health care is becoming increasingly unaffordable but no one wants to pay fair market value for it or have the government in control. Medicaid and Medicare have already shown that when the government is involved choices of providers will be limited, services cut and pertinent problems not dealt with, as the cost becomes prohibitive with continuing escalations no matter who pays. Doing what we are doing is not the way, but there are *options, which aren't as burdensome and allow more access to care* than those being discussed.

A vital part of our national preparedness is the public health departments which should be the entry level for health care focusing on prevention, immunizations, screenings, and mental health services while in more remote areas rehabilitation assistance to allow folks in need of it to remain at home. These services are also needed to address issues of water safety and quality, bioterrorism and epidemic triage. We know not to eat the tainted peanut butter in part thanks to our public health departments.

Each county in the USA has such a public health department available to all citizens which could additionally cheaply serve as the gatekeeper for baseline health care services. \$10 million dollars in each of the nations 3,145 counties [\$310,141,000,000] would do more to trim the fat out of health care than all the other malarkey thus far proposed in our drunken stimulus spending spree. Another 100 or so jobs per county gets the number of new jobs up by 314,500 in such a move. Spend the unspent stimulus money here.

If **Congress** is serious about cutting costs, start with their own salaries and benefits, insuring that they have to put themselves in the pool where ordinary citizens go to purchase health insurance. Freeze their benefits and salaries for five years. Congress should not be allowed to take unto itself that which is not available to others.

We need to require of health care providers a truth in billing provision noting what the actual cost is within 90 days of service or risk losing their reimbursement. Stipulations should be added that all must pay something (use a sliding scale), if nothing more than a dollar; for nothing is free and people must buy into their own care which also helps them take ownership for their health. Governmental reimbursements for Medicaid and Medicare must be at least 75% of standard and acceptable charges with an independent board to review these costs.

In an age of increasing unemployment—downsizing or right-sizing as some like to term it—world markets and global competitiveness, maybe it is time to consider dissolving the bond linking health insurance to jobs and let employers give employees set monies to purchase their insurance on the open market. Give citizens money from the job or vouchers from Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare to choose according to their needs. This will force insurance companies into competitive spending and should also force them to operate as non-profits.

Such insurance regulation would require better government oversight of the insurance industry to ensure that these companies didn't "cherry pick" clients, offered competitive services, were sufficiently funded from their applicants and provide minimal coverage for some things required, as well as demonstrated a fair appeals provision when disagreements arose. (The concept of for profit health insurance companies belies this mission.) This should make health plans competitive and allow better choices.

Eliminate an employer's responsibility for making health insurance choices and allow individuals an opportunity to choose a plan compatible with their needs cafeteria style. Doing such would allow businesses to focus on their core competencies and hopefully build a better mousetrap; thereby stimulating job growth. This would make employees responsible for their own health care, not their job, as the 10th Amendment envisions.

Genetics and lifestyle choices are the most critical pieces not being discussed regarding the high cost of health care. We do indeed need to provide all of the above, but we are deceiving ourselves if we believe that funding these alone will eliminate health care disparities without massive lifestyle changes, genetic considerations, and other edgy invasions of individual freedom. These are issues that public policy alone may not be able to solve. Lastly worker's compensation and disability benefits need standardization and cost containment if we are to reign in the high cost of health care.

It is also past time we said to government: quit practicing medicine without a license. If you or any other citizen did what the federal government is trying to do you'd be bound for jail.

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ARE WE A REPUBLIC OR A DEMOCRACY?

By Walter E. Williams, PhD

We often hear the claim that our nation is a democracy. That wasn't the vision of the founders. They saw democracy as another form of tyranny. If we've become a democracy, I guarantee you that the founders would be deeply disappointed by our betrayal of their vision. The founders intended, and laid out the ground rules, for our nation to be a republic.

The word democracy appears nowhere in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution — the two most fundamental documents of our nation. Instead of a democracy, the Constitution's Article IV, Section 4, guarantees "to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government." Moreover, let's ask ourselves: Does our pledge of allegiance to the flag say to "the democracy for which it stands," or does it say to "the republic for which it stands"? Or do we sing "The Battle Hymn of the Democracy" or "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"?

So what's the difference between republican and democratic forms of government? John Adams captured the essence of the difference when he said, "You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe." Nothing in our Constitution suggests that government is a grantor of rights. Instead, government is a protector of rights.

In recognition that it's Congress that poses the greatest threat to our liberties, the framers used negative phrases against Congress throughout the Constitution such as: shall not abridge, infringe, deny, disparage, and shall not be violated, nor be denied. In a republican form of government, there is rule of law. All citizens, including government officials, are accountable to the same laws. Government power is limited and decentralized through a system of checks and balances. Government intervenes in civil society to protect its citizens against force and fraud but does not intervene in the cases of peaceable, voluntary exchange.

Contrast the framers' vision of a republic with that of a democracy. In a democracy, the majority rules either directly or through its elected representatives. As in a monarchy, the law is whatever the government determines it to be. Laws do not represent reason. They represent power. The restraint is upon the individual instead of government. Unlike that envisioned under a republican form of government, rights are seen as privileges and permissions that are granted by government and can be rescinded by government.

How about a few quotations demonstrating the disdain our founders held for democracy? James Madison, Federalist Paper No. 10: In a pure democracy, "there is nothing to check the inducement to sacrifice the weaker party or the obnoxious individual." At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, Edmund Randolph said, "... that in tracing these evils to their origin every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy." John Adams said, "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There was never a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." Chief Justice John Marshall observed, "Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos." In a word or two, the founders knew that a democracy would lead to the same kind of tyranny the colonies suffered under King George III.

The framers gave us a Constitution that is replete with undemocratic mechanisms. One that has come in for recent criticism and calls for its elimination is the Electoral College. In their wisdom, the framers gave us the Electoral College so that in presidential elections large, heavily populated states couldn't democratically run roughshod over small, sparsely populated states.

Here's my question. Do Americans share the republican values laid out by our founders, and is it simply a matter of our being unschooled about the differences between a republic and a democracy? Or is it a matter of preference and we now want the kind of tyranny feared by the founders where Congress can do anything it can muster a majority vote to do? I fear it's the latter.

Dr. Walter E. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics and is the author of More Liberty Means Less Government: Our Founders Knew This Well.



American Government

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Government is The Wrong Weapon for the “War on Poverty”

By Ceasar I. LeFlore III

There is no more emotionally volatile discussion being held in American politics today than the one concerning how we as a society are to deal with the poor and under privileged among us. Thoughts concerning them are imbedded in every political discussion we have, ranging from health care and public education to military spending, as each side tries to *out compassion* the other and establish their own particular approach as the most sympathetic and righteous way to solve the poverty crisis.

For the most part, political correctness has replaced practical thinking when it comes down to addressing the issue of American poverty in any objective manner, making it almost impossible to speak truthfully about its root causes and possible solutions without offending some special interest group heavily invested in appearing to advocate on behalf of the less fortunate.

Instead of dealing assertively with the fundamental issues concerning poverty, which many times are personal responsibility issues; many people view poverty as a way of establishing their own self importance – whether through government or charity- and treat the poor as nothing more than a helpless mass of people with nothing honorable to offer our society and no real responsibility for themselves. This thinking is dangerously misguided.

As we continue to discuss poverty in our nation I believe it is important to ask ourselves some very critical questions.

Is it at all possible that God allows poverty to exist in order to motivate generosity in some people and to change the behaviors of others? What happens when government steps in to interrupt that process with a programmatic approach to ministering to the poor?

I believe the answers could be summed up best in the words of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan when he said: *“In this present crisis government is not the solution to the problem. Government is the problem!”*

There is a well proven wisdom found in a Biblical proverb that reads: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” (Proverbs 16:25)

Basically this thought deals with the fact that man, being caught up in the hubris of his own thinking, often convinces himself that what he is doing is good and honorable, even pleasing to God. But the end of the exercise often leads to unintended calamity.

Truth is we can't have a better idea than God on any subject. Therefore, we should allow Him to be the one who outlines our doctrine (thinking) and directs our discipline (doing) in every facet of our life; even the way we approach our relationship and responsibilities to the poor.

Establishing our own righteousness in the politics of how we deal with those who live in poverty is a dangerous thing – both to us and the poor – and counterfeit compassion can be a clever disguise for those who seek only to empower themselves in the name of helping the poor, but whose policies actually result in oppressing them.

The cruelest thing that government can do is to oppress the poor by making them more dependant on government than they are to God. In many cases the political effort to guarantee everyone's freedom from poverty has only served to motivate it.

Ever since President Lyndon B. Johnson issued his well intentioned “declaration of war on poverty” during his State of the Union Address where he proposed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; America has imprudently sought to fight a government run, programmatic war on poverty that has on a many levels done more to perpetuate poverty than it has to diminish it. For the most part the program has been a complete failure.

Instead of liberating people from their economic disadvantages by promoting the principles of a free market, capitalist economy and removing government restrictions that hinder economic development as the title of the act implies; social engineers involved with the effort chose rather to expand on the new deal philosophy of government hand outs and entitlements that have served only to imprison low income Americans within political and ideological paradigms that offer only limiting choices and produce more poverty than prosperity.

Even if we give President Johnson the benefit of the doubt and consider the motives of the act at the outset to be pure and well intentioned for the benefit of the nation; it's obvious that over the years the act itself has morphed into a multi-layered political opiate administered solely to induce a dependence on the federal regime, particularly the Democratic party; and not to set people free to use their God given creative power to produce their own economic empowerment.

Confucius said “give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he'll never go hungry again.” Today, those who are the political heirs and beneficiaries of liberalism gone amuck and who profit politically because of public dependency on government seem to espouse a philosophy that says “give a man a fish and he'll eat for today. Make him think he can't fish for himself and he'll need us forever.”

Considering how things have evolved, it's easy to understand why some conservatives and critics of Johnson's ambitious program might believe that this was the intention right from the beginning.

President Johnson issued his declaration of war just weeks after taking the oath of office following the assassination of John F. Kennedy at a time when many economists who opposed extensive government involvement in the economy believed that we were already winning the war on poverty through free market enterprises that would only be derailed by massive government intervention and increased taxation.

Some economists, like Milton Friedman, have argued that Johnson's policies actually have had more of a negative impact on reducing poverty, and on the economy in general, than any benefit we could point too in an attempt to justify the trillions of wasted tax dollars spent since they were initiated.

Between 1959 and 1964 the poverty rate had already fallen from 22.4 % to 19% without expansion of the new deal policies. It's no wonder that many right thinking people were wondering why Johnson wanted the feds to take over - through government run instruments - that which had been working so well to reduce poverty in the private sector.

Making poverty a major government concern set in mo-

tion a series of bills and acts that created tax funded programs such as Head Start, food stamps, work study, Medicare, and Medicaid; which still exist today.

And even though the programs initiated under Johnson and continued by Nixon produced some positive initial results in improving the living standards for America's poor; trillions of tax dollars and innumerable programs later, the overall poverty rate has failed to decline in any significant measure since the 1970's and has in fact increased within certain demographic groups who were supposed to be helped by them.

It could be said that the biggest casualty in the war on poverty has not been poverty itself; but rather individual initiative and personal responsibility which had for years been the core values and bedrock principles that led to wealth creation and prosperity on a level unique to the American experience, and envied by the entire world.

Through government funded programs like welfare (Aid to Families with Dependant Children) that subsidized a mass abandonment of those principles, several generations of Americans have become trapped within a vicious cycle of irresponsibility and dependency that has choked out personal initiative and made irresponsibility appear to be more of a profitable enterprise than working, going to school, and/or getting married.

For many welfare recipients, the increase of the incentive to stay on welfare is directly related to the increase of benefits that match or exceed what could be earned by working a minimum wage job. Entitlement has replaced initiative towards enterprise and created a generation of P.O.W.'s (prisoners of welfare) who have in ever increasing numbers become dependant on the federal government in every area of their lives.

It's a study of good intentions gone badly; and we've heard it said that the pathway to hell is paved with good intentions. For many Americans – especially African-Americans- the data realized from social measurement agencies concentrating on poverty and education since the war on poverty began indicate that the road to hell - thanks to the misguided efforts of government – appears too have been diverted to run right past their front door.

In 1964, at the start of the Great Society, only 17% of Black families were on welfare. By 1980 that number had grown to more than 25%, with more than 40% of

black homes having a female as the head of household.

In 1960 the black illegitimacy rate was 22%. By 1982 that rate had more than doubled to a whopping 55%. Today, in certain American cities the illegitimacy rate among African Americans has risen to an almost unimaginable rate of more than 80%.

Why was it not obvious to everyone - even back in 1964 -that we would get more of whatever we subsidized the most? In retrospect, the numbers make it very obvious.

It was only after the passage of the Welfare Reform Law (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act) of 1996 which ended federal entitlements and allowed the states to place limits on assistance, to include the amount of time one could receive benefits and to require recipients to work, that we saw any significant decline in the growing percentages of welfare dependency and increased employment across the board. Go figure!

According to the 2000 Census, between 1996 when welfare reform was passed and the year 2000, poverty declined significantly in America among all ethnic groups except for women receiving Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF). The EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) program – which is a tax cut - combined with welfare reform and the economic growth of the late 1990's are obviously responsible for these gains. Employment among low-income single mother household heads also increased from 59% to 68% in that same short time frame, exceeding gains in employment realized by men. Again, go figure!

For an institution that supposedly attracts the best and brightest minds of America; the federal government often appears to have a severe learning disability that prohibits it from learning from past failures and locks them into a pattern of behavior that continually leads us down the primrose path of bleeding heart liberalism that fails every time it's tried.

For whatever reason, whether well intentioned or wicked, the government seems determined to ignore the lessons of past failed social experiments, like welfare, restrictive labor laws, and minimum wage requirements and still embraces the ideals of the nanny state.

In the name of protecting the nation's poor, the federal government wound up hurting them by establishing al-



most insurmountable obstacles for them to overcome through the establishment of bureaucratic intense programs that are totally ineffective in accomplishing the stated purposes of their creation; and which places an excessive drain on the tax-payers - to include the working poor – in order for some politician in Washington to keep his job.

Bureaucracy breeds apathy and contempt, and it's the poor who wind up suffering the most, which is no surprise. The Bible says: *If you see oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight; for one official watches over another official, and there are higher officials over them.*

When it comes down to meeting the needs of our nations poor and underprivileged; it has become painfully obvious (especially to the poor) that the federal government is without question the worst tool possible to be used to meet the multi-faceted needs of those living in poverty. But the government does not bear the blame alone.

Because the church has been a poor steward of many of its sacred trust and has relinquished its rightful place of leadership in meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of the poor through Biblical accountability; the federal government has stepped in to fill a void it was never intended fill on its own, and has made a mess of things.

So what is our responsibility to the poor?

God has established two clear observations about the

poor which are both illuminated in one Old Testament verse that reads: *There will always be poor people in the land. "Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."*

Unfortunately, there will always be poor people among us, even in a land as prosperous as America, and for many differing reasons which government cannot address. Our compassion and concern for the poor should be obvious in the way we respond to their needs through sharing of our goods, but it should not include relieving them of their own responsibility to look to God and themselves for their economic improvement.

The Bible teaches that we should bear each other's burdens as a way of fulfilling the laws of Christ. Helping people through tough times is the foundation of Christian compassion and love. But the Bible also teaches us that everyone should carry their own load; to do their creative best to take responsibility for their spiritual, as well as natural lives; and to work to provide for their own basic needs.

Proverbs 16:25 reads: *"The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on."*

Eliminating the consequences for failure in this area through government entitlement is criminal and does more to oppress the poor than to empower them. Poverty of the soul is far more crippling than that of the pocket. Excessive government wrecks them both.



SOCIAL JUSTICE: NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

By R. Dozier Gray

Who could possibly be against social justice?

Despite a lofty history and an altruistic premise, there is plenty to be leery of when it comes to “social justice” in this day and age.

In one sense, social justice is the basis for a sound and civil society. The struggle for social justice is, in its purest form, the struggle for equality of opportunity over outcome. That’s not a problem.

Consider that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in and the 55th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. These were struggles for social justice, and were key to ending the scourge of enforced segregation in our nation.

Abolishing slavery, Women’s suffrage were all social justice movements of their time. All good.

But there is a problem in modern times, where social justice is often redefined for progressive political gain. This problem usually comes when social justice is intertwined with a quest for economic justice.

Take, for example, then-candidate Barack Obama’s conversation with Sam “Joe the Plumber” Wurzelbacher. When Joe expressed his concern to Obama that the nominee’s economic plans would raise his taxes, Obama replied: “I just want to make sure that everybody who is behind you that they’ve got a chance for success, too. I think when you spread the wealth around it’s good for everybody.” Then there’s a 2008 settlement between the federal Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission and the Salvation Army, in which the charity's "English only" on-the-job policy was determined to be discriminatory of national origin. The charity was compelled to allow employees to be able to speak their native tongues while at work.

Both of these examples of modern social justice would likely make rank-and-file progressives today beam with pride. But the victory, and the means of achieving it, pales in comparison to the bus boycott or the sit-in of the past.

In this new interpretation, social justice can more appropriately be considered "collective retribution" or "restorative justice." The lingering question, however, is to restore what to whom and at what cost. It opens up a Pandora's Box of unsettling possibilities.

Merely suggesting that "justice" needs a qualifier is appalling. To be just or equitable is a simple task: all parties must be treated fairly as reasoned conscience dictates.

Taking this into consideration, it would appear there is no real way to find consensus anymore on the definition of social justice.

Conservatives will likely consider current definitions of social justice as part of progressive plans to promote some flavor of Marxism. It also should raise concern because political liberals these days tend to veil their agenda in a gauzy film where outcomes justify the means.

Additionally, conservatives' libertarian tendencies would also naturally cause them to be wary of anything that could infringe upon freedoms.

Friedrich Von Hayek, the famed economist and philosopher, believed the term "social justice" is allowed to float in the air as if everyone welcomes and appreciates it — and that its meaning will somehow be self-evident. The fact is, trying to define it creates seemingly insurmountable intellectual difficulties.

More often than not, defining it becomes an art in itself whose operational meaning is "we need a law against that." In a sense, Hayek said, it is more an instrument of ideological intimidation than anything else.

Surely, one would think, progressives must be able to understand that there are inherent difficulties that the common man would have with outcome-based equality and justice over plain old equality and justice. They should, considering they claim the mantle of enlightenment.

Yet these progressives seem to have turned away from a trust in absolute truth regarding our social order and away from the idea that "order" within our society is necessarily filled with a mix of happenstance, individual entrepreneurship and all manner of the human exercises of free will.

But a society that forgoes a respect for free will and instead endeavors to assist the "intellects" in producing an equality of outcome ignores the talents of those men who would strive to improve themselves.

This new definition of social justice is wedded to ideas such as progressive taxation and income redistribution. Remember, as Karl Marx advocated, it takes from each, according to his ability, and provides for each, according to his need. This social justice would similarly promote property redistribution for the same equality of opportunity-related reasons.

Inherently, that's not fair.

In a political utopia, the end might justify the means. But, seeing that a heaven on earth is neither practical nor can be prescribed, this is a dangerous notion. This is dangerous because what usually ends up being prescribed anyway ends up regulating peoples' free will to act on their own accord and to their own positive or negative outcomes.

In the classical sense, government mediates between conflicting free wills so that everyone might coexist within a society as freely as possible. Government should not be enlisted to dream up, and then protect, "rights" under the guise of social justice. This is unnatural.

That's why there is no "right" to free or cheap health care, charity, a college education, retirement or other current government entitlements. There just isn't.

There is similarly no right to equitable outcomes — or

any particular outcome, for that matter.

All of this is reminiscent of the Aesop's Fable about the grasshopper and the ant. The ant works and saves during the spring and summer months while the grasshopper plays. When the grasshopper later beseeches the ant for a share of the ant's savings so that he might make it through the winter, the ant denies him — as is his right.

The ant and the grasshopper are, in fact, equals in the respect that they each had the same opportunity to prepare for winter. The ant certainly has the right (and, perhaps a moral reason) to be charitable, but there is no obligation for the ant to share under the circumstances.

As the political philosopher John Rawls so eloquently said, "... the loss of freedom for some [cannot be] made right by a greater good shared by others." In the case of the Fable, the ant's natural freedom to enjoy his collected bounty in the winter is derived from his freedom to work prior to winter's onset and from his right to exist. This is inalienable, as it occurs in nature.

Both the ant and the grasshopper have the right to fail or succeed, but the outcomes are different because they exercised their free will differently. Period.

If one slides a wide-toothed comb over the Internet searching for "social justice," countless manifestations enshrined in mainstream communism, Marxism, the Green Party, the Social Justice Training Institute and others. Taken at face value, their intentions seem to have a dangerous strategic outcome beyond the sweet-smelling rhetoric.

There simply is nothing good or right about a flavor of justice that seeks to level a playfield assumed to be unbalanced by individual freedom. Yet that's what the popular notion of "social justice" has become.

If you want to go down the road of equality of opportunity where individual preparedness paves the way, I will walk with you. Other than that, you walk alone (or, at least, without me).

Dozier Gray is a member of the national advisory council for the Project 21 black leadership network and is combat veteran with both an expertise in counterterrorism and significant experience in the civilian defense industry.

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An Interview with Peter Robinson
Uncommon Knowledge



Government Climate Claims Will Cost You More Than You Know

By Deneen Borelli

Radical environmentalists have long sought harsh regulations on emissions of “greenhouse gases” that, they say, are responsible for global warming.

While our planet has gone through hot and cold cycles throughout history, it is alleged that our industrialized society is responsible for an unnatural spike in the earth’s temperature. Not doing something about it, environmentalists say, will doom our planet.

Because of our love of cars, air travel and consumerism, it is claimed, ‘the atmosphere is getting hotter.’ Miami will soon be underwater. Hurricane Katrina will someday be considered a mild storm.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., in a September 2008 *Los Angeles Times* commentary, lamented that the Washington, D.C. area had changed dramatically since he grew up there. He wrote: “Snow is so scarce today that most Virginia children probably don’t own a sled.”

Then the nation’s capitol set a new all-time record for snowfall in 2010. And the storm forced the cancellation of a Senate hearing on global warming.

Too bad for the global warming lobby that the facts don’t meet the rhetoric. Too bad for the rest of us that, despite this, it is still set on imposing its flawed agenda on our nation.

“Cap-and-trade” is being peddled as the solution. This risky scheme sets limits on business’ emissions. As the emissions limits get smaller, it’s a sure bet that costs will be passed along to consumers. Such a bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009.

As with so many regulations, this dubious proposal would hurt those least able to afford it the most.

Proponents of the theory of global warming say embarrassing examples of global warming predictions not coming true are just anecdotal. But the amount of anecdotal evidence piled up so high, they sought to change terms of the debate by calling the alleged problem “climate change” rather than “global warming.”

Whatever they call it, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), the ranking member of the Senate’s Committee on Environment and Public Works, calls it “the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American public.”

Senator Inhofe appears to be right.

Apart from the cold winters and mild hurricane seasons, a recent flurry of scientific scandals has set the premise of man-made global warming on its ear:

- In late 2009, a series of e-mails verified to have come from the Climate Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia — a key scientific institution driving the global warming debate — revealed questionable activities on the part of its affiliated scientists. Among these e-mails were discussions about deleting material the scientists were legally obligated to disclose, manipulating data to maintain a pre-determined conclusion and collusion to silence scientists not sharing their views — thus hobbling legitimate peer-review.

- The U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in 2007 that claimed the Himalayan glaciers would melt away by 2035. This past January, a lead scientist contributing to the IPCC report — Dr. Murari Lal — admitted the oft-cited data was based on flawed data that came from an environmental lobby group. Lal also admitted that this assertion, a basic math error allegedly not caught by over 500 reviewers, was added to the report to “impact policymakers and politicians and encourage them to take some concrete action.”

Previously, when the Indian government released a report that disputed the IPCC claim about Himalayan ice, IPCC chairman Raj Pachauri dismissed the Indian report as “voodoo science.”

Phil Jones, the head of the CRU, who took a leave of absence after the e-mail leak, recently agreed with a BBC interviewer’s statement that there has been no “statistically significant global warming” since 1995.

The collapse of the global warming lobby’s scientific house of cards, it could be expected to be the end of calls for a swift regulation of emissions.

Unfortunately, it hasn’t been.

While the possibility of a Senate version of the House’s cap-and-trade bill grows increasingly dim, the Obama Administration is still hopeful about implementing the policy through executive decree. In December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an “endangerment ruling” regarding carbon dioxide that would give the agency broad regulatory powers under the Clean Air Act.

At the time, this was a clear shot across the bow to an unresponsive Senate, with an unnamed White House staffer telling Fox News Channel reporter Major Garrett: “If you don’t pass this legislation, then ...the EPA is going to have to regulate in this area. And it is not going to be able to regulate on a market-based way, so it’s going to have to regulate in a command-and-control way, which will probably generate even more uncertainty.”

This is troubling, especially when the full economic extent of cap-and-trade is understood.

At its core, cap-and-trade is a tax directed at people who use fossil fuels. The lofty intent is to promote alternative energy sources, but — seeing as there are not yet such abundant or feasible sources available — this means virtually everyone will suffer under the tax for the foreseeable future.

In particular, cap-and-trade will hurt the poor. David Ridenour, vice president of The National Center for Public Policy Research, has noted that one of the major cap-and-trade proposals would “cost the poorest fifth of Americans nearly double what it would cost the wealthiest fifth of Americans, as a percentage of wages, in added energy costs.”

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office similarly noted in 2007 that “most of the cost of meeting a cap on [carbon dioxide] emissions would be borne by consumers, who would face persistently higher prices for products such as electricity and gasoline... [and] poorer households would bear a larger burden relative to their

income than wealthier households would.”

Specifically, a report for the National Black Chamber of Commerce conducted by CRA International suggested cap-and-trade regulations would:

- reduce national GDP roughly \$350 billion below the baseline level;
- cut net employment by 2.5 million jobs per year (even with new “green jobs”);
- reduce earnings for the average U.S. worker by \$390 per year.

And the U.S. would be imposing cap-and-trade unilaterally, without other major nations governments such as India and China imposing similar limitations on themselves. In going it nearly alone, the U.S. risks all of the economic harm while getting none of the alleged environmental gain.

It’s a folly the Obama Administration’s EPA is walking into with eyes wide open. At a July 2009 hearing, when Senator Inhofe presented EPA administrator Lisa Jackson with the EPA’s own data that showed a unilateral cap-and-trade policy would have no effect on global climate, Jackson replied: “I believe the central parts of the [EPA] chart are that U.S. action alone will not impact world [carbon dioxide] levels.”

With all of these revelations and the state of the economy, it’s no surprise support for cap-and-trade is so low. Cap-and-trade was one of the catalysts for the tea parties and for the town halls of 2009. In a recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press, just 28 percent of those surveyed called global warming a top priority for 2010 — as opposed to the economy (83 percent), jobs (81 percent) and terrorism (80 percent).

What about the black community in particular?

A poll of black Americans conducted for The National Center for Public Policy Research by Wilson Research Strategies found that 76 percent of blacks want Congress to make economic recovery — and not climate change — its top priority.

Among other key findings:

- 38 percent of blacks believe job losses from climate change legislation such as the cap-and-trade bill that passed the House would be felt most strongly in the black community. Seven percent believe job losses would fall most on Hispanics and just two percent on whites;
- 56 percent of blacks believe economic and quality of life concerns of the black community are not considered when addressing climate issues;
- 52 percent of blacks don’t want to pay more for gasoline or electricity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 73 percent are unwilling to pay more than 50 cents more for a gallon of gas, and 76 percent are unwilling to pay more than \$50 more per year for electricity.

Will the Obama Administration continue to force cap-and-trade global warming policy on a public that doesn’t want it and at a time when it cannot be effectively defended?

One key prognosticator may be the rapid erosion of support for cap-and-trade among the business community. USCAP, a key special interest/corporate lobby coalition, recently lost the support of Conoco-Phillips, BP, Xerox, Marsh and Caterpillar — three of which were charter members.

Obama cannot rely on the scientific community, the public has abandoned him and now his once-loyal allies in the corporate world are beginning to drop off. While Miami may never be under water as the global warming lobby has warned, the President certainly seems to be in over his head.

At least he still has Bo.

Deneen Borelli is a fellow for the Project 21 black leadership network. Comments may be sent to DBorelli@nationalcenter.org.

The Wisdom of Milton Friedman and Conservative Ideology

In the history of the conservative movement Dr. Milton Friedman has done more to promote individual freedom around the world than any one person. A former professor of economics at the University of Chicago, he taught leading scholars such as the Thomas Sowell and average citizens free market principles. He was a catalyst in helping to change the way many people think about money, government spending, incentives and freedom.

One of his landmark programs series was entitled “Freedom to Choose.” It was from this platform that he espoused his opinions on, limited government, school choice, free markets economies and a host of other, what today we call, “conservative” ideas. In the video presented here (Open Mind), Dr. Friedman lays out his philosophy even redefining conservatism as classical liberalism. He contends that conservative ideas are about setting people free, which is the classical definition of liberalism. He was a classical liberal, which is today’s conservative.

Dr. Friedman passed away on November 16th 2006, but his contributions to conservative thought live on. Please take a moment to hear the wisdom of Dr. Milton Friedman in this early interview. You will only be the wiser for it.



[Click Here to watch Video](#) ▶



What's Brewing in America? A Tea Party Revolt!

By Emery McClendon

Since his election, Barack Obama and his supporters have sought to move our nation leftward at breakneck speed. In the process, they've exhibited a blatant disregard for our Constitution, traditions, military and the general rule of law.

Americans accepted it at first, but now their patience is wearing thin.

Young people are being indoctrinated in left-wing politics, personified by figures such as Mao and Bill Ayers - enemies of our nation's founding principles nonetheless admired by members of the Obama Administration.

Those same people also appear bent on taking us further away from our traditional Judeo-Christian morals and values.

It's shocking that a nation with more freedoms and liberties than most others could fall for such garbage. What happened to the hearts and minds of so many Americans? It's clear there's a battle for the soul of America being waged.

White House ranks are flush with people of an anti-American mindset. Some of these are "czars" with powerful portfolios that are virtually exempt from legislative branch oversight.

But the radical tendencies aren't reserved for staff. Obama calls a known terrorist - the aforementioned Ayers - a friend. Obama is an adherent of Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals and studied Fareed Zakaria's Post-American World. He has bowed to foreign leaders, apologized for our nation's strong leadership and is spending America into staggering debt.

Obama, it also cannot be forgotten, was groomed for this day. He was helped by many who would love to see our nation lose its superpower status. It contradicts his campaign rhetoric.



A childhood mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, was a known communist organizer. Yet communism has never worked in practice and never will. It is the free market system and limited government that our nation's founders wanted and has served us well.

Similarly, how could people believe equitable hope and change could come from someone who worshiped for two decades under the Reverend Jeremiah Wright and the hateful "black liberation theology" he preaches? Despite his claims to want a post-racial America, his actions speak louder than words.

The contradictions and radicalism have reached the tipping point.

Witness the growth of the Patriot Tea Party movement. People are waking up and saying enough is enough. They want America returned to its founding principles.

Even those who voted for him are now finding them-

selves opposed to Obama's "change." They are saying no to government-run health care, cap-and-trade energy taxes, "card check" unionization schemes, wasteful spending, bailouts, back room deals, illegal immigrant amnesty and other proposals contrary to our Constitution.

We of the tea parties are fighting back.

Beginning with rallies and town hall meetings, we are asking our elected officials: "Can you hear us now?" Elections in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts found actions were even louder than words.

We know limited government and a free market economy makes America work. We see Obama's policies as an impediment to America's future success.

Every day, more people are waking up to this truth. We cannot and will not allow our children to be denied the American Dream while simultaneously being burdened with staggering debt.

America is our land, given to us by those who fought and died to create the greatest nation on earth. We cannot allow a few to destroy it.

The Tea Party movement in America has developed as a way for the general public to express their discontent with the direction the administration is taking the country. It is a movement that has drawn thousands nationwide since its inception.

Rick Santilli, of CNBC is credited with starting the movement as he stood on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange on February 19, 2009, and yelled out a rant against the Obama administration's proposal to help homeowners facing foreclosure refinance their mortgages. He continued by declaring that he wanted to organize a Chicago Tea Party. The purpose of the event would be to dump some derivative securities into Lake Michigan. A video of his rant became a hit on YouTube, and others around the country followed by organizing these Tea Parties nation wide. They were a clear reference to what The Colonists did in the Boston Harbor to protest taxes imposed by King George. The name became an acronym for "Taxed Enough Already."

I became involved in the Tea Party during Santilli's event by co-hosting a Blog Talk Radio show that broadcasted live interviews from cities around the country, which held events to coincide with the Chicago Tea Party of Santilli's.

Later I organized the Tea Party, which took place in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The event featured Dr. Alan Keys as the keynote speaker, and drew a very large crowd.

As Congress and The Obama Administration continued to move forward with unpopular left-winged socialist legislation, more and more of these Tea Parties began to pop up around the country. The largest of these events took place in September of 2009 in Washington D.C.

The movement is an outreach of American citizens from all walks of life and diverse cultures that are unhappy with the direction that our elected leaders are taking this country. They come from all political backgrounds and they encourage all Americans that wish to preserve our nation as it was founded to join together to restore America to its founding principles as set forth in the Constitution. These unhappy citizens are those that believe in the fundamental principles of The Constitution

Of The United States, and the Rule Of Law. They also believe that America is straying away from its Constitutional role of limited government, low taxes, and wasteful spending; and is spending itself into massive debt. They also dislike the government takeover of private enterprise, and our healthcare system.

Tea Parties are one of many ways that Americans are coming together to restore our nation's founding principles. Numerous other groups are forming and working together as a coalition to achieve this purpose. They are training our citizens in matters of importance that relate to our political system. They have formed book clubs that study our founding principles, they are holding candidate forums, registering people to vote, and educating people in the political system so that they can make good choices at the polls. Many of the Tea Party groups are working together to form coalitions to help send solutions to our elected officials.

These people are not making an attempt to destroy our current political system, or to begin a new third party system. They just want to hold our elected officials to the highest of standards, and make sure that we continue to elect people to office that respect our Constitution, and will defend it with laws that do not violate its principles.

I have been involved in the Tea Party rallies, and other patriotic events since its inception. I am an African American, and I have been invited to participate with open arms. I have been invited to speak at these events, and to sit on panels that make suggestions as to where these groups want to take the movement in the future.

It is my experience with these rallies and events that has lead me to see that the people involved have a deep love and respect for his nation, and our Constitution, and they are willing to stand up to save this nation for our posterity. They also would like to see people from all walks of life, and diverse cultures participate.

We must - and we will - save our country, as we stand up for our founding principles and work together to keep America strong. God Bless America!

Emery McClendon is an Air Force veteran and native of Fort Wayne, Indiana where he organized their first Tea Party. He is a speaker at and an organizer of Tea Party events across the nation.



Point, Cou

REDISTRIBUTING WEALTH IN AMERICA

By S. Doyle III

A Unique Multicultural Look at “Wealth” in America

Powerful men in groups and tribes have always taken wealth from men in less powerful groups. Recall the Crusades, slavery in America, Bosnia, Darfur, and Wall Street. Historically, wealth, in the form of land, property, women and children — is divided up among the winners. The women of losing tribes are routinely abducted, raped, enslaved and made wives to the abductors. It is also well-documented that families in some cultural communities willingly trade and sell family members for services and as future debt, without criminal consequences. Of course, men with more land and more wives hold higher status and power.

Did you know that there are Americans who consider their wives (husbands?), their children, their servants and live-in employees to be personal possessions? Have you seen or read reports about slavery in America in 2010? (For biblical context, readers are directed to The Holy Bible, King James version, Numbers, 31.)

People often hold strong views about religious practices, sexual orientation, choice of marital partner, time and method of childbirth, parenting choices, neighborhood of residency and other potentially deeply personal matters. Some Americans believe that all Americans should follow one, prescribed set of rules that govern each of these issues in American families and communities, as decided by church and state.

On the other hand, many Americans believe that individual rights and culture demand individual freedom, flexibility and the right to choose, given a unique set of circumstances.

Although rarely discussed in this context, common views and opinions on religion, family values and individual



Inter Point

Wealth Redistribution

By Kiara Ashanti

Turn on any news channel these days, and there will be at least one story about the Tea Party movement. Some of the reports are fair, and others disparaging toward the individuals involved in the protests against big government and taxes. It's the latter subject; taxes, that the Tea Parties have become known for most. However, the protests are not about taxes per se. The fundamental issue is the question of the proper role of government.

Conservatives in the country have fought for smaller government. It's one of the ideals on which this country is founded. Liberals want the exact opposite. They believe that government is obligated to handle certain problems, and that government should be larger to deliver on that obligation. In the confines of a college campus, it can make for an interesting debate. In the real world going the way of more government always turns bad.

The most blatant area that the philosophy of big government plays out in is the belief in wealth redistribution. It's the notion that government must engage in "social justice." The idea that a Wall Street CEO can make 150 million, when there are people living without heat is an abomination to Liberals. The poorest among us must get help, and that help has to come from the coffers of the hated rich. Redistribution via taxes is championed as a way to give everyone equal opportunity, to even the playing field. The problem is that the premise behind social justice is false.

Advocates for wealth redistribution believe that the rich get richer, and that keeps the rest of Americans down. Except that most rich people are not born rich. Even if you use a snap shot of the richest 400 Americans, a study by

continued p. 39

freedoms can be severely challenged when presented as issues of “wealth.”

Should non-Christian tribal, ethnic, family and individual rights be honored in America, when no one is physically harmed? If so, why? If not, why not? What is “right?” What is “wrong?” Who decides?

A Traditional Approach to Wealth Redistribution and Economic Recovery in America

In a visit to top CEOs at a group called the Business Roundtable, on February 24, 2010, President Obama shared this message:

“... government has a vital, if limited, role to play” by setting fair rules of the road, investing in infrastructure like roads and education and providing a social safety net for society’s most vulnerable.”

President Obama knows that “New Deal” and “Great Society” mandates were successful post-Great Depression, government interventions that regulated industries, spurred economic growth, increased middle-class prosperity and promoted social solidarity.

These combined forces created what famous economist John Kenneth Galbraith called “countervailing power” where America’s unions, local organizations and the equivalent of local political action committees joined to nudge government and to negotiate with big business to implement reasonable controls on markets, prices and wages.

Well-planned government interventions could go far in restoring what Robert Reich calls “democratic capitalism” from the jaws of the “supercapitalism” that has wreaked havoc with the American economy and social infrastructure.

The following actions represent some of the best thinking and economic policies available to American voters seeking to restore American Democracy and long-term middle class prosperity:

- 1) Eliminate the legal definition that gives a corporation the rights of a “person”
- 2) Eliminate the corporate income tax (tax individuals only)
- 3) Eliminate tax shelters (shareholders pay income taxes on all income)
- 4) Limit corporate contributions to politicians and political campaigns (contributions)

- 5) Make corporate access to politicians transparent (lobbying)
- 6) Eliminate the right of corporations to initiate litigation on behalf of citizens, employees, customers and shareholders (individuals litigate on their own behalf)
- 7) Hold company employees personally responsible for criminal activities when acting as an agent of a company (civil liability)
- 8) Initiate a progressive tax structure (increase taxes on the super-rich to fund U.S. infrastructure and growth)
- 9) Assign high stock and bond ratings to reward companies that reflect democratic values
- 10) Limit the ability of banks and investment banks to gamble with investor dollars
- 11) Increase the reserves needed by banks and investment banks, when they use risky investment products (like CDS, CDOs, etc.)
- 12) Eliminate employee-sponsored health insurance (apply tax savings to healthcare for all)

The 44th Congress must initiate the above actions to regulate supercapitalism and to create a “profit-sharing” partnership with U.S. workers/middle class. In this way, increasingly wealthy shareholders will assume their fair share of responsibility for eliminating a massive budget deficit and for funding American state and local infrastructure investments.

A commonly-shared view among progressives is that, if not too late, these familiar rule changes (adopted from the 40’s and 50’s) might slowly and painstakingly bring the American economy and middle class back to life, after the predictable results of unprecedented hypocrisy, corruption and excess during the last ten years of neo/conservative rule in America.

Your thoughts?

S. Doyle, III
Large-Scale Change and Business Improvement Consultant, Author

Peter Bernstein found that two-thirds of the people listed were not rich 20 or 30 years ago. Most were working class individuals that opened a business and grew it to massive levels. Beyond that, how many immigrants have arrived on our shores, cannot talk or read the language, have no money, and in 10 to 20 years have thriving businesses and a big house in the suburbs? If immigrants can do it, then what excuse do natives have?

The true aim of redistribution is to equalize results, which are not possible. The government cannot provide equal results at any time, let alone using higher taxes. What impact does the income of the rich have on me? It does not prevent me from getting a job, going to college, or opening a business? Those are decisions an individual makes.

When you put it in another context few people agree with it. The Los Angeles Lakers have won multiple championships, so should we discard last year's results and give the trophy to the Orlando Magic? No one would think that. Wealth redistribution via the government is the same thing. Advocates can scream that it's unfair that the top two percent has more money than others, but it's a hollow argument. Earl Graves founded Black Enterprise magazine with a five thousand dollar loan. He worked hard for over 30 years to make it a success. How is it unfair that he's rich because he decided to open a business with five thousand dollars, and others have used the same amount for a vacation?

Nobody disputes there are those that need help at times or cannot help themselves because of disabilities. However, to take more than a fair share of tax money from someone that is financially successful is patently unfair. You cannot create equal results, only equal opportunity. You can teach a man to fish. You cannot make him actually go out and fish. And government certainly could not make the fish bite that day.

If you think of America as a ladder with the poorest at the bottom and the richest at the top, the goal should be to have a system that allows an equal opportunity to move up that ladder—if you want to. Redistribution of wealth is about pushing those at the top of the ladder down, rather than promoting policies that lift everyone up.

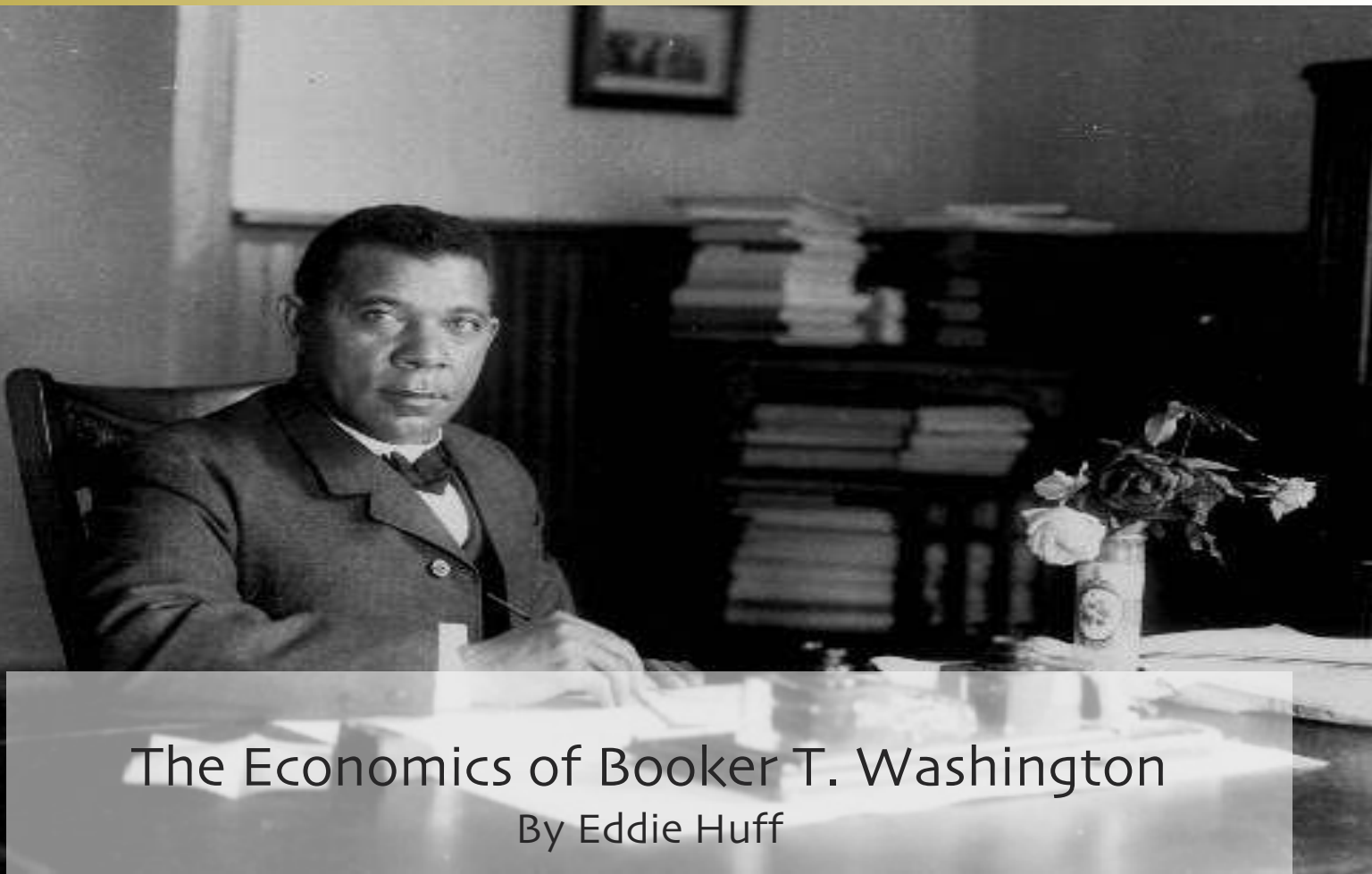
The world has already seen what wealth redistribution and government control can do. Just look at Russia in

the aftermath of World War II. The government confiscated property and started many government-run programs. Millions in Russia died from starvation alone. The wonderful society socialism was supposed to provide never materialized.

Government's role is to do the things that an individual cannot do. An individual cannot keep the whole country safe, fight crime, build roads, or provide disaster relief. Buying a house, car, groceries, working or not working is something individuals can do for themselves. Success is always a function of the individual and the choices they make. Handing over money to them does not promote success. If you disagree, just look at lottery winners. Winners suddenly have money that can change their lives, and most lose all the money within five years. In the end, advocates need to accept the fundamental truth about achieving financial success in America. Some will, some won't, some won't try and government can't help any of them.

A graduate of University of South Florida, Kiara Ashanti is a freelance writer and financial professional based in Central Florida. He considers himself an independently minded Conservative first, and Republican second."





The Economics of Booker T. Washington

By Eddie Huff

“Economic independence is the foundation of political independence... we must act in these matters before others from foreign lands rob us of our birthright... Land ownership is the foundation of all wealth.”
- Booker T. Washington-

These words before the National Negro Business League in Chicago, August 12, 1912, more than any others, represent the thought of Booker T. Washington regarding the road to prosperity for the descendents of African slaves in America.

While there are many within the black community in America today who claim to have the answer to black economic development, I doubt that most understand or share Dr. Washington’s vision for it.

The buzz word of the day, and actually for the past several years, has been the term “Economic Empowerment,” or “Black Economic Empowerment” (BEE). While the term sounds good, and I am sure is well intentioned, it speaks more to “economic entitlement,” than to empowerment. Black Economic Empowerment, simply put, appears to be a system where normal standards are relaxed, thereby making it easier for black enterprise and black individuals to succeed and harder for them to fail. Unfortunately, even given the preferential treatment, the majority of these endeavors have a negative outcome.

A Wikipedia post on Black Empowerment mentions a program launched in South Africa in 2008 “to redress inequalities.” It states the following:

“Black Economic Empowerment is a program launched by the South African government to redress the inequalities of Apartheid by giving previously disadvantaged groups (black Africans, Coloureds, Indians, and Chinese—declared as Black in June 2008—who are SA citizens) economic opportunities previously not available to them. It includes measures such as employment equity, skills development, ownership, management, socio-economic development and preferential procurement.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Economic_Empowerment

While much is stated in this paragraph, the operative and most significant concept is found in the phrase - "preferential procurement." Translated this means lowered standards and preferential treatment.

A striking aspect about BEE is that the idea is not limited to any one side of the political or ideological spectrum. A quick internet search will reveal a myriad of groups dedicated to the idea of Black Economic Empowerment. Liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans seem enamored with the idea of Black Economic Empowerment. They are all fixated on the idea that government should facilitate this so-called empowerment through special grants, tax breaks, or the outright gifts of land or money. Of particular interest to me, and somewhat surprising, is the fact that many Black Conservatives, Independents and/or Republicans hold the same notion that it is somehow empowering to receive the largess of the federal government. In my opinion, they are mistaken. In fact it is exactly the opposite of empowerment to rely on the government's beneficence. It is enslaving and not empowering.

Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington never envisioned such a concept as they considered how to build the economy of their race very early after slavery had ended. To quote Douglass:

*"Everybody has asked the question, and they learned to ask it early of the abolitionists, "What shall we do with the Negro?" I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us. Do nothing with us! If the apples will not remain on the tree of their own strength, if they are worm eaten at the core, if they are early ripe and disposed to fall, let them fall! I am not for tying or fastening them on the tree in any way, except by nature's plan, and if they will not stay there, let them fall. And if the Negro cannot stand on his own legs, let him fall also. **All I ask is, give him a chance to stand on his own legs! Let him alone!** If you see him on his way to school, let him alone, don't disturb him! If you see him going to the dinner table at a hotel, let him go! If you see him going to the ballot-box, let him alone, don't disturb him! If you see him going into a work-shop, just let him alone,—**your interference is doing him a positive injury. Let him fall if he cannot stand alone!**"*
Frederick Douglass- What The Black Man Wants 1865
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=495>

Booker T. Washington expressed it in a different way. He said: *"The wisest among my race understand that the agitation of questions of social equality is the extremist folly, and that progress in the enjoyment of all the privileges that will come to us must be the result of severe and constant struggle rather than of artificial forcing. No race that has anything to contribute to the markets of the world is long in any degree os-*

tracized. It is important and right that all privileges of the law be ours, but it is vastly more important that we be prepared for the exercise of these privileges."

Booker T. Washington- Cotton States and International Exposition Speech September 18, 1895

He did not simply leave it at that. In a 1912 speech to the National Negro Business League, he said, *"Our great Creator has ordained that races and nations shall prosper in proportion as they find, develop and use the natural resources of the earth in promoting wealth, intelligence, happiness and justice....But to do these things we cannot start at the top, but must begin at the bottom. I call upon the men and women from our colleges and universities to lead the way in these fundamental directions."*

While the drift toward reliance upon government is not limited to the black community it is most devastating to it. I have long maintained that the best way for the wealthy white elite class to prevent others from competing with them or their children and to entrench their elite status is to convince those outside the fold that they cannot or they need not compete. This attitude applies to most all endeavors, including; academics, politics and economics. The single endeavor where black competition is still required and rewarded is in the field of sports. Is it our desire to continue to be so marginalized?

At the core of what Douglass and Washington sought to convey was the idea that competition, on a level playing field, results in sharpening and bringing out the best in the individual. To remove obstacles and competition does not produce the strength and quality desirable in individuals or in businesses.

The great black inventors, pioneers, teachers and others of our rich past did not benefit from any "Black Empowerment" program. They benefited from the strength of their core values which gave them a drive to do what is right, and to do it better than anyone else. That prescription is still the operative one for today and will continue to be the operative prescription for the future.

What is the real key to Black Empowerment? First, to empower ourselves with the knowledge that if God is for us who can be against us. Second, to be ready to work harder to provide a better service or to produce a better product than others in our field. We must then pass this ethic on to our children and from generation to generation. This is the formula that has worked and the formula that will always work.

Eddie Huff is a financial services representative in Tulsa, OK. He also serves as executive director of the Booker T. Washington Inspirational Network (BTWIN)

Polls: Concern About Global Warming Is Waning

By: Krystle Russin

A trio of new polls shows the public does not believe alarmist assertions that people are causing a global warming crisis. The new polls reinforce stinging public criticisms of alarmist science in the wake of a growing Climategate scandal involving numerous false claims relied on by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its call for government limits on carbon-dioxide emissions.

BBC Reports ‘Dramatic Shift’

A February 7 BBC poll found only 26 percent of the British public believes “climate change is happening and is now established as largely manmade.” The remaining 74 percent believes either climate change is not happening or there is insufficient evidence to link ongoing climate change to human activities.

Strikingly, 41 percent of respondents to the same BBC poll question in February 2009 stated climate change is happening and had been established as largely manmade.

“It is very unusual indeed to see such a dramatic shift in opinion such a short period,” Michael Simmonds, managing director of the poll, reported on the BBC news Web site.

Pew: Warming Ranks Last

A January 25 Pew Research Center poll found only 28 percent of Americans consider global warming a “top priority” for the President and Congress. This ranked dead last among 21 options, falling four points below the next-lowest priority, trade policy.

Pew has been conducting the same poll since January 2001, adding global warming to the available options in 2007. In 2007, 38 percent of Americans called global warming a top priority. Public concern about warming has been slipping steadily since then.

Yale: Minority Blame Humans

A January Yale University/George Mason University poll found fewer than half of Americans believe global warming is occurring and is primarily the result of human activity.

When told to “Assum[e] global warming is happening” and asked to identify the most likely cause, 47 percent attributed the assumed



global warming primarily to human activities.

However, only 34 percent of respondents agreed most scientists think global warming is happening at all.

Just 12 percent of respondents said they are very worried about global warming, and another 38 percent said they are somewhat worried.

Grassroots Opposition to Laws

In Kentucky, where state Rep. Jim Gooch (D-Providence) is at the forefront of legislative action to combat global warming alarmism, these poll numbers reflect growing public frustration with environmental activists’ overreaching regarding the global warming issue, says Bluegrass Institute Director of Policy and Communications Jim Waters.

“This is a unique concern to Kentucky because of our dependence on coal for energy. Here, we have a real concern that the general claims of global warming will be used to destroy our coal industry, which would decimate our economy,” said Waters.

“Look at the winter we have had, and any commonsense perspective comes to the conclusion that we should not destroy an entire coal industry based on the whims of a bunch of environmental extremists.”

Krystle Russin (Krystle@purepolitics.com) writes from Texas. Originally Published by Heartland Institute.

Study: Head Start Has No Lasting Impact From \$167 Billion Spent

By: Lindsey Burke

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released the results of a long-overdue evaluation of the federal Head Start program, four years after it was completed.

Data collection for the federally mandated Head Start Impact Study, which began in 2002, was completed in 2006. The randomized experiment measured the program's impact on a nationally representative sample of 5,000 children. The federal Head Start program, created in 1965, provides comprehensive preschool services, including health and nutrition services, to more than 900,000 low-income children nationwide. With more than \$9 billion in annual funding, Head Start has received more than \$167 billion from taxpayers since 1965.

The national evaluation was the first scientifically rigorous study to examine the program's long-term impacts on children.

Feather Touch

The study found the program's few benefits—a small, positive impact on vocabulary—dissolved by the time participants reached first grade.

“In sum, this report finds that providing access to Head Start has benefits for both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds in the cognitive, health, and parenting domains, and for 3-year-olds in the social-emotional domain,” the authors wrote. “However, the benefits of access to Head Start at age four are largely absent by first grade for the program population as a whole.”

Dr. Jay P. Greene, endowed chair and head of the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, said the evaluation revealed children who participated in Head Start sustained virtually no lasting results.

“The study used a gold-standard, random-assignment design and had a very large, nationally representative sample,” Greene said. “For students who were randomly assigned to Head Start or not at the age of 4, the researchers collected 19 measures of cognitive impacts at the end of kindergarten and 22 measures when those students finished first grade. Of those 41 measures, only one was significant and positive. The remaining 40 showed no statistically significant difference.”

Because of the more relaxed standard of statistical significance used in the study, even the impact on vocabulary could have happened by chance, he notes.

Lax Methods?

“For students randomly assigned to Head Start or not at the age of



3, the researchers also collected 41 measures of lasting cognitive effects. Again, 38 of the 41 measures of lasting effects showed no difference, and the few significant effects—which could be produced by chance—showed mixed results,” Greene said.

This could be a result of what Greene notes was the HHS' more relaxed standard for measuring statistical significance.

Andrew Coulson, director of the Center for Educational Freedom at the Cato Institute, expressed similar concerns.

“After controlling for the proliferation of false positives that you'd expect in a study that reports dozens and dozens of test results, the authors of the Head Start Impact Study found the program had no statistically significant effects at the end of 1st grade in any area,” Coulson said. “Not in cognitive outcomes, not in socio-emotional outcomes, not in parenting practices.”

“Completely unmoved by these results, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius declared that Head Start remains ‘a key part of the Obama administration's strategic focus on early learning,’” Coulson continued. “Translation: Damn the kids, taxpayers, and evidence, full speed ahead!”

Double Standard

Coulson thinks the Obama administration also uses a double standard when deciding whether to expand or end certain education programs.

“Compare [the treatment of Head Start] to the administration's treatment of the DC Opportunity Scholarships voucher program. Poor kids attending private schools for three years under the OSP read two grade levels ahead of their peers who remained in public schools, and the program costs taxpayers a quarter of what DC spends on public education,” Coulson said. “Democrats in Congress, with only a handful of exceptions, voted to kill it, and the president and Education Secretary Arne Duncan let it die.”

“All this from the president who has repeatedly promised ‘to eliminate programs that don't work’ and champion efficient and successful ones. It's enough to make you doubt politicians' promises,” he concluded.

Lindsey Burke (Lindsey.burke@heritage.org) is a research assistant in domestic policy studies at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC.



Proposed Caps for Massachusetts Doctor Payments Could Lead to Shortages

By: Thomas Cheplick

A new piece of legislation in Massachusetts could fundamentally change the conditions of licensure for doctors in the state, requiring them to accept reduced pay and commit to seeing certain patients.

Senate Bill 2170, introduced by state Sen. Richard T. Moore (D-Uxbridge), has the support of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, a non-profit representing 11 health care plans in the state. It would compel doctors to accept specific patients, predominantly from the small business community, with an insurance plan that will pay them at rates of Medicare plus 10 percent before they could become a licensed doctor in the state.

‘Over Our Dead Body’

Mario E. Motta, M.D., president of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), strongly opposes the proposal.

“It will pass over our dead body,” Dr. Motta said.

“The insurers in the state artificially lumped high-risk pool patients with small businesses to try and spread the cost, but small business groups have lots of insurance claims, and because of that, Gov. Deval Patrick and a number of other people are up in arms, and appropriately so, because insurance has become unaffordable for small business. Large companies and other risk pools are much more stable, but small business pools have high fluctuation in rates because of this decision to pool high-risk patients with small business,” Motta explained.

Massachusetts’ Commonwealth Care plan has reduced the uninsured population in the state from 6 percent to 4 percent, but rising health care costs and doctor shortages continue to plague the Bay State. According to an annual study conducted by MMS in June 2009, a total of seven physician specialties are operating under “severe labor market conditions,” including Ob-gyns.

“The percentage of primary care practices closed to new patients is the highest it’s ever been as recorded by the Medical Society,” the report found.

MAHP Supports Capping Profits

Eric Linzer, senior vice president at the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, argues Senate Bill 2170 is a good piece of legislation which will reduce costs for Massachusetts. He claims another piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Harriett Stanley (D-West Newbury), House Bill 4452, will sunset the 2170 measure, making it expire at the end of 2012

“This idea was to build on the idea of shared sacrifice between health care providers and health care insurers in the state, and 2170 sets a statutory reimbursement rate for one product in the insurance plans at 10 percent above the Medicare rate. It also requires that insurers in Massachusetts cannot make more than a 2 percent profit, and it reduces small business’ health care premiums by 22 percent,” Linzer said.

Fewer Doctors, Higher Costs

Motta believes doctors will feel the pinch if Senate 2170 passes. Because they will be expected to see patients at dramatically reduced rates, new doctors will be hesitant to come to Massachusetts, and with fewer doctors will come higher costs and longer wait times, he argues

“Who in their right mind as a student or a resident would want to set up shop in Massachusetts?” Motta asks. “Already, there are 38,000 licenses in the state, but only 22,000 of those actually have addresses in Massachusetts, [and] out of those a large number are retirees and a number work in research and work maybe one day a month at Massachusetts General. So the real number of doctors in the state is already low — it’s practically in the teens.”

Motta believes 2170 is an attempt to cover over mistakes inherent in the Commonwealth Care system.

“This is a manmade problem, the result of the universal health care law that was forced by the legislature, a policy designed to get everybody insured. 2170 tries to solve this by making it a part of a condition of licensure, without thinking of the consequences of a system that desperately needs more doctors,” Motta said. “This bill is just the beginning of more harebrained schemes by a few people in legislature who have taken over the practice of medicine in Massachusetts.”

Thomas Cheplick (thomascheplick@yahoo.com) writes from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Originally published in Health News by the Heartland Institute.

Executive Summary: The Impact of Government Spending on Economic Growth

by Daniel J. Mitchell, Ph.D.

A growing government is contrary to America's economic interests because the various methods of financing government—taxes, borrowing, and printing money—have harmful effects. This is also true because government spending by its very nature is often economically destructive, regardless of how it is financed. The many reasons for the negative relationship between the size of government and economic growth include:

The extraction cost. Government spending requires costly financing choices. The federal government cannot spend money without first taking that money from someone. All of the options used to finance government spending have adverse consequences.

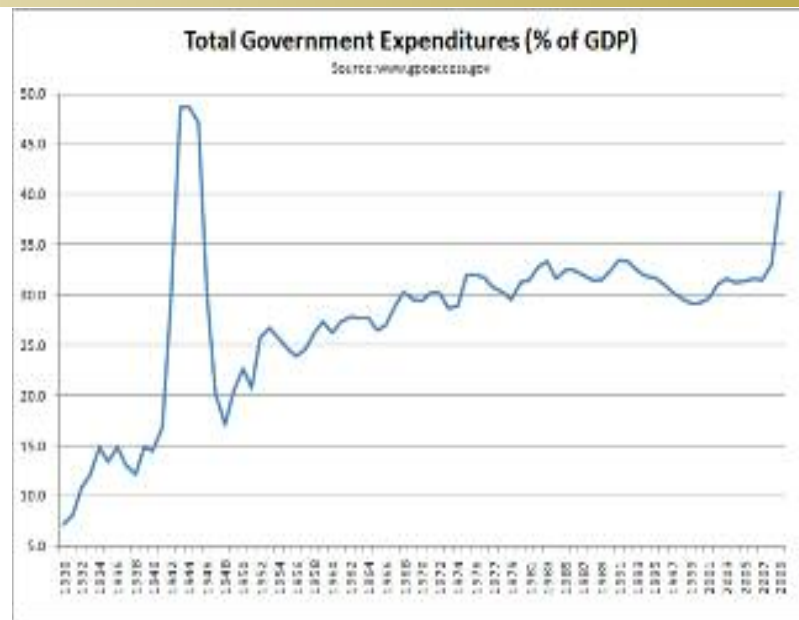
The displacement cost. Government spending displaces private-sector activity. Every dollar that the government spends means one less dollar in the productive sector of the economy. This dampens growth since economic forces guide the allocation of resources in the private sector.

The negative multiplier cost. Government spending finances harmful intervention. Portions of the federal budget are used to finance activities that generate a distinctly negative effect on economic activity. For instance, many regulatory agencies have comparatively small budgets, but they impose large costs on the economy's productive sector.

The behavioral subsidy cost. Government spending encourages destructive choices. Many government programs subsidize economically undesirable decisions. Welfare encourages people to choose leisure. Unemployment insurance programs provide an incentive to remain unemployed.

The behavioral penalty cost. Government spending discourages productive choices. Government programs often discourage economically desirable decisions. Saving is important to help provide capital for new investment, yet the incentive to save has been undermined by government programs that subsidize retirement, housing, and education.

The market distortion cost. Government spending hinders resource allocation. Competitive markets determine prices in a process that ensures the most efficient allocation of resources. However, in both health care and education, government subsidies to



reduce out-of-pocket expenses have created a “third-party payer” problem.

The inefficiency cost. Government spending is a less effective way to deliver services. Government directly provides many services and activities such as education, airports, and postal operations. However, there is considerable evidence that the private sector could provide these important services at higher quality and lower costs.

The stagnation cost. Government spending inhibits innovation. Because of competition and the desire to increase income and wealth, individuals and entities in the private sector constantly search for new options and opportunities. Government programs, however, are inherently inflexible.

The common-sense notion that government spending retards economic performance is bolstered by cross-country comparisons and academic research. International comparisons are especially useful. Government spending consumes almost half of Europe's economic output—a full one-third higher than the burden of government in the U.S. This excessive government is associated with sub-par economic performance:

Per capita economic output in the U.S. in 2003 was \$37,600—more than 40 percent higher than the \$26,600 average for EU-15 nations.

Real economic growth in the U.S. over the past 10 years (3.2 percent average annual growth) has been more than 50 percent faster than EU-15 growth during the same period (2.1 percent).

Job creation is much stronger in the U.S., and the U.S. unemployment rate is significantly lower than the EU-15's unemployment rate.

Living standards in the EU are equivalent to living standards in the poorest American states—roughly equal to Arkansas and Montana and only slightly ahead of West Virginia and Mississippi, the two poorest states.

The global evidence is augmented by dozens of academic research papers. Using varying methodologies, academic experts have found a clear negative relationship between government spending and economic performance. For instance, a National Bureau of Economic Research paper found: “A reduction by one percentage point in the ratio of primary spending over GDP [gross domestic product] leads to an increase in investment by 0.16 percentage points of GDP on impact, and a cumulative increase by 0.50 after two years and 0.80 percentage points of GDP after five years.” According to a New Zealand Business Roundtable study, “An increase of 6 percentage points in government consumption expenditure as a percentage of GDP, (from, say 10 percent to 16 percent) would tend to reduce the annual rate of growth of GDP by about 0.8 percent.”

An International Monetary Fund study confirmed that “Average growth for the preceding 5-year period...was higher in countries with small governments in both periods.” Even the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development admitted:

Taxes and government expenditures affect growth both directly and indirectly through investment. An increase of about one percentage point in the tax pressure— e.g. two-thirds of what was observed over the past decade in the OECD sample— could be associated with a direct reduction of about 0.3 per cent in output per capita. If the investment effect is taken into account, the overall reduction would be about 0.6–0.7 per cent.

This is just a sampling of the academic research presented in the main paper. While no single research paper should be viewed as definitive, given the difficulty of isolating the impact of one policy on overall economic performance, the cumulative findings certainly bolster the theoretical and real-world arguments in favor of smaller government.

Daniel J. Mitchell, Ph.D., is McKenna Senior Research Fellow in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

A Time to Laugh





A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste

By **Harry R. Jackson, Jr.**

Most of us remember the stellar advertising campaign A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste designed at giving underprivileged elementary children a bite at the educational apple. This week Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) decided to use this concept to become an advocate for middle school and high school students as well. Lieberman and five colleagues weighed in on D.C. politics, filing an amendment to a tax extenders bill to reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

The D.C. OSP was created in 2004 under the Bush administration. These \$7,500 scholarships made it possible for students to attend a private school. The students that used these scholarships felt a greater degree of safety as well as made major academic strides. A federally mandated evaluation of the program also showed these private school students received the equivalent of 3.7 months of additional learning than others. This has been done while actually reducing the District's costs as these students only received half of the city's \$15,000-per-pupil assessment.

At a press conference last month, Sen. Susan Collins (R., Maine) stated that if the scholarship is not saved, 86 percent of these students will be forced to return to failing schools. In that same press conference, Senator Lieberman said, "If Dr. King were here today, he'd be fighting his heart out for the OSP." The Senator vowed then to find a way to save the D.C. OSP.

Before we talk more about the scholarship and its merits, let's go back to 2004 and find out what the environment was that led to the program's initiation. D.C. schools led in violence nationally, while ranking academically near the bottom. In 2004, 14 percent of students said they didn't go to class because they felt unsafe. As a result of this unprecedented violent atmosphere, private money also was invested in the city to curb violence. A personal hero of mine, Robert Woodson, was given 1 million dollars by the Chevron/Texaco Corp. to support his Violence-Free Zone initiative. Woodson is the direc-

tor of The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise in Washington.

The million-dollar grant focused on just four elementary schools, funding several after-school activities based on the Violence-Free Zone's seven-year track record at that time. The initiative had successfully quelled gang banging and violence in DC's Benning Terrace public housing complex and received national acclaim that led to its replication in cities like Dallas.

In 2010 we still have problems with the schools in D.C. More than 60 percent of fourth graders cannot read at a basic level. In addition, we have a 50 percent high school dropout rate among African-American males. What about crime?

The conservative think-tank Heritage Foundation reported several additional statistics about D.C. schools this past fall. Data obtained from the D.C. police department showed that the schools reported 3,500 incidents of crime during the 2007-08 school year. Obviously this level was many more than D.C. chartered or private schools reported. "Of the calls by public schools, 912 concerned violent incidents, including one homicide and 43 sex offenses. The most common, violent crime was simple assault; there were 648 reports of this and 114 reports of aggravated assault."

Against this current backdrop of violence and lost academic opportunity, the administration's FY 2011 budget has cut the D.C. OSP funding to 8 million dollars for scholarships. Further, the White House administration has been unsympathetic to the cries of the people, while President Obama sends his own kids to Sidwell Friends School. If this isn't bad enough, some residents have cited the irony that the president, himself, received scholarships but wants to take them away from D.C. kids.

Parents in the city are outraged for obvious reasons - a proven scholarship program that is good for everyone has been suspended for doctrinaire or ideological reasons. To add insult to injury the administration has been resolute in promoting policies that do not give D.C. kids safe or effective education.

Most parents also feel that maintaining the D.C. OSP budget would be little more than a rounding error in the grand scheme of our national indebtedness. These D.C. voices believe that when they add the inefficiency of the D.C. school system under Mayor Fenty to the White House administration's disinterest, they see an example of broken government. They see both a local and a federal government that does not serve them.

Black parents in underprivileged areas know that educational opportunity is the premier civil rights struggle of our time. They also know that keeping an opportunity for school choice alive in the nation's capital will make all the difference for their kids.



Government that “works?”

By Eric Wallace, PhD

“What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them — that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long, no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works — whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified? Where the answer is “yes,” we intend to move forward. Where the answer is “no,” programs will end. Those of us who manage the public’s dollars will be held to account — to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day — because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.” President Obama

In President Obama’s inaugural speech, last year, he mentioned that the “stale political arguments” regarding the size of government are obsolete. From his perspective, it’s not the size of government— but whether government “works” that really matters. Well, if you are anything like me a red flag immediately went off when he said this. How is government supposed to work? This frankly is the fundamental question, which distinguishes the two major parties from each other.

Liberal Democrats believe government should be about securing certain desirable results through social engineering such as affordable housing, living wages, universal healthcare and racial quotas to name a few. They believe it is the government’s job to make sure that everyone has certain material comforts even if these comforts come at the expense of others (taxes).

On the other hand, conservative Republicans believe the Federal government must be limited to those things explicitly enumerated in the constitution. Any attempt to manipulate results requires too much interference by the government in the everyday lives of ordinary people. To that end, government’s major role should be to keep order; protect us from enemies foreign and do-

mestic and ensure access to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Furthermore, Conservatives would argue that the process to acquire the necessities or comforts of life is just as important as the results themselves. They maintain that any attempt to manipulate results so that everyone, at least for appearance sake, is equal always comes with unintended consequences. Equality in process is optimal; not equality in results. No one can guarantee results. In part, because there are too many variables that make this idea untenable.

Consequently; government works, for the conservative, when government is not trying to redistribute wealth via burdensome taxation. Government works when it allows the free market to determine the cost of goods, services and labor. Government works when it encourages self-sufficiency and promotes the work ethic among Citizens. Government works when charity is the prime responsibility of its citizenry, not the government. Government works when it promotes the rule of law. This is limited government, at its best.

For the liberal; government works when according to president Obama, it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, [and] a retirement that is dignified. While admirable, I would ask where in the constitution is there a mandate like this of government? Or where is it written that any of these aforementioned objectives be the measure of whether government works?

I say these things are best accomplished when government focuses on what it is supposed to do and gets out of the peoples’ way. It is then that individuals, on their own, will find wages they can live on, care they can afford and retirement that meets their needs. We understand this to be the liberty to both succeed, as well as fail.

What President Obama fails to mention is that these arguments about big and small government are as old as civilization. Thomas Jefferson once said, “The issue today is the same as it has been throughout all history, whether man shall be allowed to govern himself or be ruled by a small elite.”

If we believe history repeats itself, the evidence shows we should not depend on government; but be vigilant to assure that government not grow so big that it believes the people should serve it, rather than it serving the people. We have been warned before, “that government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.” (Gerald Ford) Or as Ronald Reagan said, “Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.”

It is clear that President Obama is only interested in bipartisanship when it agrees with his position. Government works when it gets out of our way. Mr. President, I suggest you take this to heart.



The Democrats delusional 'jobs' bill

By Herman Cain

It started with the prediction by the administration that passing the \$787 billion stimulus bill would keep the unemployment rate under 8 percent. It exceeded 8 percent in 2009 and has not gone below 9.0 percent since.

The administration then wanted us to swallow the concept of "saved jobs" when it became apparent that the stimulus bill was not working. Most of us did not swallow the imaginary concept.

Job creation geniuses.

In the president's State of the Union, address he declared job creation to be a top priority. So now the Democrat-controlled House has passed a "jobs bill" that might generate 250,000 jobs according to economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.com. He also points out that the economy has shed 8.4 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007. That's an average of 310,000 jobs per month.

Oops! All of this legislative hot air to maybe offset less than one month worth of job losses since the recession began.

I will caution you that the date when the recession started is not unanimous among analysts, but we will use the December 2007 date for purposes of this discussion to illustrate two additional simple facts:

The \$35 billion House bill is 4 percent the size of the \$787 billion stimulus bill

A decrease of 250,000 in the number of unemployed workers

would decrease the unemployment rate from 9.7 percent to 9.5 percent. That would assume that employers did not cut any more jobs between now and year end.

The administration will argue that not all of the stimulus money has been spent yet. Good! Then stop spending! The \$787 billion stimulus bill is not working, so why should we expect the \$35 billion House bill to work. We should not, because if you do not invest \$787 billion dollars the right way to create jobs, throwing another \$35 billion at the problem almost the same way is not going to work either.

To add insult to this delusional jobs-creation legislation, the Senate is working on a \$15 billion jobs bill that would have to be reconciled with the House version. It would be a debate over which thimble of Washington water they are going to pour into the Potomac River while looking for a ripple.

Unemployment is very real to the 14.9 million people who would like a job, but can't find one. Businesses are in real danger of having to let even more workers go because of no real signs that the administration and Congress are going to do anything substantive to stimulate jobs and economic growth. Worse yet – many businesses are in real danger of having to shut down completely.

Exempting businesses from paying the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax through the end of the year for new workers, and offering an additional \$1,000 tax credit if they stay on the job for a full year, are not real tempting to businesses to start hiring again. Nor is it real tempting to businesses to continue the write-off of equipment purchases that they are already allowed to take.

Now here's some real jobs stimulus substance!

Exempt businesses from paying both the employer and employee portion of the Social Security payroll tax for one year. Additionally, make the tax credit a tax cut up front for hiring an unemployed person, *and* make the current tax rates permanent before they expire at the end of the year.

Now add to that list the permanent suspension of repatriated profits and you create not only millions of new jobs, but some certainty in this economy that would cause businesses to invest again, and the recession would soon be in our rear view mirror.

That would be a real jobs bill to help real people, who are having real economic difficulties. Imagine that!



The Evolution of Social Security

By Mychal Massie

Franklin Roosevelt, a Democrat, introduced the Social Security program (FICA). Roosevelt promised:

1. Participation in the program would be completely voluntary. It's no longer voluntary.
2. Participants would only have to pay 1% of the first \$1,400 of their annual income into the program. Now it's 7.65% on the first \$90,000.
3. The money the participants elected to put into the program would be deductible from their income for tax purposes each year. It's no longer tax deductible.
4. The money the participants put into the independent 'Trust Fund,' rather than into the general operating fund, and therefore would only be used to fund the Social Security Retirement Program, and no other Government program. Further, under Johnson the money was moved to The General Fund and spent.
5. The annuity payments to the retirees would never be taxed as income. Under Clinton and Gore, up to 85% of your Social Security can be taxed. Since many Americans have paid into FICA for years and are now receiving a Social Security check every month and taxed on 85% of the money we paid to the Federal government to 'put away,' you may be interested in the following:

Q: Which political party took Social Security from the independent 'Trust Fund' and put it into the general fund so that Congress could spend it?

A: It was Lyndon Johnson and the democratically controlled House and Senate.

Q: Which political party eliminated the income tax deduction for Social Security (FICA) withholding?

A: The Democratic party.

Q: Which political party started taxing Social Security annuities?

A: The Democratic Party, with Al Gore casting the 'tie-breaking' deciding vote as President of the Senate, while he was the U.S. Vice President.

Q: Which political party decided to start giving annuity payments to immigrants? MY FAVORITE!!

A: That's right! Jimmy Carter and the Democratic Party.

Immigrants moved into this country, and at age 65, began to receive Social Security payments! The Democratic Party gave these payments to them, even though they never paid a dime into it.

Then, after violating the original contract (FICA), the Democrats turn around and claim that the Republicans want to take your Social Security away!

The worst part is uninformed citizens believe it. If enough people receive this, maybe a seed of awareness will be planted and maybe changes will evolve. Maybe not, some Democrats are awfully sure of what isn't so. Actions do speak louder than bumper stickers.

Mychal Massie is the chairman of the black leadership network Project 21. Project 21 is an initiative of The National Center for Public Policy Research to promote the views of African-Americans whose entrepreneurial spirit, sense of family and commitment to individual responsibility has not traditionally been echoed by the nation's civil rights establishment.



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