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# Seaf City

New York Politics from a Libertarian Perspective

Volume 6 Issue 1

## MTA – Be Wise and Privatize

by Cameron M. Weber

Yes, it's true the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is severely in debt, one of the top five public debts in the U.S., depending as usual on how you measure it, around \$25 billion in debt, with its bond rating recently downgraded (but not yet to junk status).

For example, the City of New York is about \$65 billion in debt, New York State about \$120 billion, and the state of California about \$160 billion, when you include both outstanding debt issues and the health and pension fund IOUs for the government (labor union) employees. (The federal government is \$13 trillion in debt, but of course that doesn't count as they have – and we pay for through a devaluing dollar - the Federal Reserve blank check). Every year the MTA needs a hand-out from the state of New York, this year over one billion dollars, or, of course, the ever-feared fare increases are on the horizon. Yes, the MTA is a bottomless pit.

However, what separates the MTA from other public debts is that it actually provides revenue-generating services, which are voluntary and non-coercively demanded, unlike many other government "services." This provides an opportunity to earn



some cash for our cash-strapped cities and state. The solution is to privatize the entire MTA. The MTA privatized some of its freight services in 1997, but just parts of it, skimming the cream so to speak. Perhaps now is the time to try to privatize the whole thing! There is nothing like a profit incentive to reduce costs and improve service and safety (safety being "reputational capital," which turns into more profit and more ridership when safety is improved). And costs rise quickly at the MTA; between 2003 and 2008 alone labor costs increased 16% and debt service costs increased 45%.

The way to be wise and privatize is quite simple and has been completed throughout the U.S. for certain highway systems. Just bid out a concession for the right to operate the system for, say 50 or 75 years. The first step is to get feedback from potential investors and to see what type of service, fee (train ticket) structures and safety requirements they would agree to. Then combine these ideas into a bid document and go to the market, with the winner take-all. Needless to say, the process would have to be monitored (no doubt best achieved by a libertarian oversight committee, or barring that, an in-

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## A Free Society Would Have Safer Subways

by Darian Worden

The recent Moscow subway bombings brought out the only response the state could make – more cops, harder crackdowns, and tougher talk. But what if there was another way?

There are a number of reasons to believe that without the state, travel would be safer.

Russia, the United States, and all states that have the capability pursue aggressive foreign policies that are a major factor in motivating attacks on civilians. Governments forcibly project their power around the world, expanding their influence and protecting what they consider the national interest (which generally means whatever gives them personally more control).

This does not excuse the actions of those who would incinerate and dismember people who have no influence on foreign policy – nothing makes it okay to murder people who happen to be on the wrong train, plane, or office floor. But it must be recognized that when people are treated badly, they are more likely to act violently. When these people consider it okay to kill children to influence their enemies (like states do) violence will result in innocent deaths. This is not to say that without an aggressive foreign policy Americans would suffer no terrorist attacks, but a major incentive to do so would be gone.

Governments also create more pressure at home than a free

society likely would. Government can be seen as a game in which people scramble to rule over others. Losing factions desperate to grasp the reins of power might be more likely to pursue it using deadly methods (terrorism often resembles state policy done on a small scale). Desperation caused by economic vulnerability also motivates violence. A stateless society with a



free and fluid economy, resilient communities, and mutual aid would significantly decrease poverty and would abound with solid support networks.

It would not be unreasonable to assume that there would

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## Rethinking *Essential* Government Services

by Jacquetta Szathmari

The media has made much ado about state, county and municipal budgets struggling under the crushing weight of pension obligations and compensation. The city of New York is no exception, as legislatures across the country consider closing budget shortfalls by making cuts to employee salaries and benefits.

Supporters of the status quo cry that generous benefits compensate for comparatively low salaries, union contracts must be honored, and that government employees provide necessary public services. They often fail to suggest a realistic source for funding. Opponents argue that government employee total compensation is out of step with the private sector, bankrupts coffers and raises taxes, and that government needs to take this opportunity downsized.

There is a way to marry the two sides to achieve a socially economically favorable outcome: acknowledge that the taxpayer should not have to foot the ever-increasing bill for increasingly subpar services.

Government employees work for a conglomeration of public service providers that have lost taxpayer confidence while increasing taxpayer funding. In the private sector, this loss of confidence routinely results in consumers taking their custom elsewhere. In the public sector this is not always possible, but there are some excellent examples of taxpayers voting with their feet. We witness votes of no confidence daily as parents opt for private education, home school or relocate to avoid certain public schools. Fed up with the MTA, commuters opt for private, cars, bikes, relocate or telecommute rather than deal with shoddy overpriced public transportation. Savvier healthcare consumers have ambulances take them past public hospitals to private ones. Obviously there are many government services for which there are few or no alternatives, but this does not stop the public from transferring dissatisfaction from one area to another and insisting that all government services be worth their funding.

There is a great disconnect between those who pay taxes and those who consume the services provided for by taxes.

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# Serf City

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## Meet the Libertarians

The Manhattan Libertarian Party meets the second Monday of every month.

Guests welcome. Food and drink available.

Meeting begins at 7:00; Guest speaker at 7:30

## Ukrainian East Village Restaurant

140 Second Avenue, between 9th St. and St. Mark's Pl.

## Letters

### Atlas Will Shrug

No one has ever cited an example of a government that taxed, borrowed and spent its way to prosperity. Yet President Barack Obama continues to impose discredited economic theories and practices on an accelerated and gargantuan scale hoping to change the outcomes. One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

More troubling is the president's notion that government is the only solution to every problem. After Katrina, New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin announced 314 public rebuilding projects. Over two and a half years later, just six were completed. Wal-Mart on the other hand, had 110 of 126 damaged stores up and running within ten days. In the 1980s, NYC spent \$12 million dollars and could not get the Wollman Skating Rink built in six years.



Donald Trump spent \$2.25 million dollars of his own money and built it in six months.

In April of this year, an access road to Hawaii's Kauai Island State Park was damaged due to flooding. The government estimated the repair to take two years at a cost of \$4 million dollars. The business owners and residents completed the repair in eight days for free.

Our engine of prosperity has always been free men creating, producing, and supplying our needs in a free market economy protected by the Constitution. The government produces nothing; it only redistributes what it has taken from those who do.

Ever wonder what will happen when the engine of prosperity stops and there's nothing left to take?

Atlas will shrug.

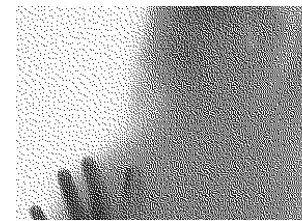
**Ed Konecnik**  
Flushing, NY

### Psychiatric Slave

Some of the "so-called" schizophrenics are being hit with stun guns by the police when these poor souls refuse to go for a psychiatric evaluation. This happened to me when I refused to go for a psychiatric evaluation at a nearby hospital. I had been in a day program at the hospital and I had told my psychologist beforehand that I was quitting that voluntary program. Well, the police came into my home without a warrant and proceeded to tackle me, hit me with their stun guns, and bring me to the hospital! I did nothing wrong!

Many of the medications for schizophrenia have terrible side effects. During my unnecessary hospitalizations, I was injected with drugs like Haldol that made me incredibly restless and uncomfortable! On another occasion, the injections made my hands, neck, and feet clench up for days.

On another occasion, I was brought to Rikers Island, where some of my teeth were knocked out and my face was smashed in after I refused psychiatric treatment. What happened was that, after I refused psychiatric treatment, I was transferred to an area of the prison that was worse than the area I had been in. I was beaten unconscious, and all the guards did was stand there laughing as I lay in a pool of blood. After that, I wound up being committed at Creedmoor Hospital in Queens. I live there at the present time and I am a "psychiatric slave." I have never read my records, and God only knows what lies are in them! The Queens Bar, the New York City Bar, and



the New York State Bar Association have not helped me over the years. Neither has the "free" Mental Health and Hygiene Legal Service! I even wrote to my local district attorney, and he has not responded to my letter.

Would you know of a God-fearing lawyer who might listen to what I have to say? The controlled mainstream media in New York

City won't; they want persons like myself to be silent in the face of tyranny! I was going to offer up all my suffering and my family's suffering for the souls in purgatory, but I think God wants me to fight back; I can't let it slide. I'm a Johns Hopkins grad; I feel

very strong about right and wrong, and I don't take trouble for very long. My e-mail address is [Macesup@aol.com](mailto:Macesup@aol.com). Please contact me. I'll respond in a heartbeat! I don't have much money to spend on legal fees, but I definitely want to fight back!

**Michael Mullaney**  
Bayside, NY

### Dirty-Minded Poles

I am bothered by the media and the politicians turning a good natured comment by a proud parent into a filthy statement. When Scott Brown said "My daughters are available" only people whose minds are in the gutter would interpret that, to mean available for sex. I am a senior citizen and I have heard that statement used many, many times by loving parents that are anxious to see their children happily married.

**John Procida**  
Flushing, NY

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[serfcity.wordpress.com](http://serfcity.wordpress.com)

# How to Get Rid of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand Without Really Trying

by Alton Yee

April 8 should be another “Day of Infamy.” That was when 97 years ago the Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified and changed the way Senators were chosen to Congress. It did this by mandating that Senators be “elected by the people thereof,” that is, by popular vote.

Until 1913 state legislatures had elected U.S. senators, which Article 1, Section 3 mandated: “The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years. . . .”

The framers of the Constitution gave this elective power to the States because they hoped to protect State independence and sought to restrain what they regarded as the potentially destructive forces of democracy, namely, “majority rule.” Thus, while providing for direct election of Congressmen to the House of Representatives, they countered the “people’s will” by allowing state legislatures to select members of the Senate. Those Senators would represent the interests of the States and their citizens. (Whose interests does Senators Schumer and Gillibrand represent, anyway? Certainly not those of NYS which they “represent.”) This was also a way for States to be represented in and vote in Congress. It was part of the system of “checks and balances,” and “federalism.” Most important, by allowing states an equal voice in the federal government, a barrier was established against the Federal government from lording it over

States and its citizens and tyrannize the entire nation. Tragically, the Seventeenth Amendment removed that barrier by mandating that Senators be selected by popular vote and not by the States. No longer could States represent their interests in Congress.

Indeed, as Thomas J. DiLorenzo said, “The Seventeenth Amendment was one of the last nails to be pounded into the coffin of federalism in America. The citizens of the states, through their state legislators, could no longer place any roadblocks whatsoever in the way of federal power.” (See his reasons to “Repeal the Seventeenth Amendment” and his scholarly treatment of this Amendment: <http://www.lewrockwell.com/dilorenzo/dilorenzo93.html>) And since the enactment of the Seventeenth Amendment, States have been reduced from an equal partner with the Federal Government to a common lobbyist. The loss of State Sovereignty, State Rights and a host of Federal mandates, some funded and some unfunded, were the result. These mandates include the No Child Left Behind Act with its system of compulsory tests and that recently enacted “Obamanation” known as “Obamacare.” And States can look forward to new versions of “RealID” shoved down their collective throats.

But did the Seventeenth Amendment actually remove States’ equal representation in Congress? Did it actually end the system of federalism?

The answer is “no.”

What is not known, forgotten or overlooked is the clause at the end of Article 5, which states that no Amendment

may be made that deprived any State, “without its Consent . . . of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.” A well understood principle in Constitutional law is you cannot amend the Constitution by inference. Thus, although the Seventeenth Amendment allowed for two Senators from each state to be “elected by the people thereof;” it only inferred that States no longer have “equal Suffrage in the Senate”; that is, it did not amend the Constitution by repealing that clause at the end of Article 5. To actually repeal that clause, the Seventeenth Amendment would have to explicitly say something like, “this Amendment repeals the rights of States of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.” But the Seventeenth Amendment did not say this, so it did not repeal that clause. Indeed, if anything, the Seventeenth Amendment did not mandate that Senators be elected by popular vote, it only gave States the option of having their Senators elected by popular vote.

If this fact were made more widely known, do you think any State would choose this option? Do you think it worthwhile to “spread the word” for States to once again choose their Senators to send to Congress, a right they always had, contrary to popular misconceptions about the Seventeenth Amendment? And once States begin to again select their Senators to represent their and their citizens’ interests in Congress and thereby reassert their sovereignty against the tyrannical power grabs emanating from Washington, D.C., do you think we might see a true rebirth of federalism

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## Department of Business Prevention: A First-Hand Account

by Jim Lesczynski

About two-and-a-half years ago, I set out to open a check-cashing store. Having been laid off from my Wall Street job and tired of cubicle life, I summoned my inner entrepreneur and set out to claim the elusive American dream. The many regulatory obstacles that the government put in my way should not have been a surprise to me. As a libertarian activist, I’ve been railing against stupid, counterproductive regulations for years. Still, it’s one thing to understand the nanny-state as an abstraction, and quite another to experience it first-hand as a rookie business owner.

Truthfully, if my goal was to avoid regulation, I could have hardly picked a worse industry than check cashing. In the minds of busy-body bureaucrats, check cashing combines the seediness of an adult bookstore with the money-laundering potential of a Cayman Island bank. Both stereotypes are absurd to anyone who gives them more than a moment’s thought. There is nothing unsavory about a working person wanting to cash a paycheck without dealing with a bank. Check cash-

ers have a reputation for charging high fees, but every day I have customers tell me they come to me because the minimum balance fees, overdraft fees and other assorted charges make banks too expensive to use. As for money laundering, the whole point of that practice is to move cash into the financial system; check cashing does precisely the opposite.

Nevertheless, I felt confident that I could open a check-cashing store in short order. After all, there are check cashing stores seemingly everywhere in most working-class areas. If all these other people could open one, so could I. What I didn’t anticipate (but should have) is that, like most regulations, those governing the check-cashing industry are designed primarily to protect the established stores from competition.

These anti-competitive rules, combined with New York City’s high retail rents (a product of other regulations), led me ultimately to cross the Hudson River and open my store in New Jersey. That was not an easy decision for me. I live in Manhattan and would have loved

to open a business close to home. But despite the rhetoric of its politicians, New York does everything it can think of to discourage small businesses. A good example is the state regulation saying that no check cashing store can open within four-tenths of a mile from an ex-



isting check casher. New Jersey has a similar rule, but the real deal-killer for New York is that prospective new check cashers must have as a co-applicant for the check-cashing license someone with at least a year of experience owning or managing a check-cashing store. Outsiders need not apply.

As if that weren’t bad enough, the application for a New York check-cashing license takes approximately one year for the Department of Banking to process. And the application must be for a specific store address where the applicant already has a lease. So they expect applicants to pay astronomically high rents for a year on an empty storefront while waiting for the government to give them permission to open for business. In all likelihood, what they expect is that prospective applicants will get discouraged, as I did, and leave the established businesses to their protected turf.

Not that New Jersey is any laissez-faire walk in the park. Their regulations are horrible, just not cosmically horrible like New York. Indeed, the main reason it took me more than two years to open my store is that I spent most of that time trying to find a location where I would be permitted to do business. In addition to the above-mentioned half-mile rule, many towns have zoning regulations that restrict check cashers to certain marginal areas or prohibit them altogether. I started my search in the obvious inner-city neighborhoods of Newark and Jersey City, but quickly realized that those areas were completely saturated. You can drive Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City and measure how far you’ve traveled by counting the check cashers every half mile.

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# Health Care Reform: We're Being Fooled Again

by Sheldon Richman

The medical system does need reforming — radical reforming. It's more expensive than it ought to be, and powerful interests prosper at the expense of the rest of us. The status quo has little about it to be admired, and we shouldn't tolerate it.

Thus, the American people should be fed up with Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, and Harry Reid for insult-

ing our intelligence with their so-called health-care reform. It is nothing of the sort. What they call progressive reform is little more than reinforcement of the exploitative system we suffer today.

Whether intentionally or not, Obama & Co. have misdiagnosed the problem with the current system and therefore have issued a toxic prescription as an alleged cure.

They essentially say that the problem is too free a market in medical care and insurance; thus for them the solution is a less-free market, that is, more government direction of our health-care-related activities.

Yet if the diagnosis is wrong — which it is

— the prescription will also be wrong.

Note that the attention of nearly all the "reformers" is on the insurance industry. What ostensibly started out as "health-care reform" quickly became health-insurance regulation. A common theme of all of the leading proposals is that insurance companies have too few restrictions on them. So under Obamacare, government will issue more commands: preexisting conditions must be

covered; policy renewal must be guaranteed; premiums may not reflect the health status or sex of policyholders; the difference between premiums charged young and old must be within government specs; lifetime caps on benefits are prohibited, et cetera.

In return for these new federal rules, insurance companies are to have a guaranteed market through a mandate that will require every person to have insurance. So what looks like onerous

new regulations on the insurance companies turns out to be a bargain they are happy to accept. Instead of having to innovatively and competitively attract young healthy people to buy their products, the companies will count on the government to compel them to do

so. Playing the populist role, Obama & Co. bash the insurance companies, but in fact the "reform" compels everyone to do business with them.

What about this would the insurance companies dislike? Health insurance is not the most profitable business you can be in; the profit margin is 3-4 cents on the dollar. So a guaranteed clientele is an attractive prospect. The people who will be forced to buy policies are the healthy, who will pay premiums and make few claims. The only thing the companies don't like is that that penalty for not complying with the mandate is too small. Many young people may choose to pay the penalty rather than buy the insurance because it will be cheaper. But that presents a problem: when the uninsured get sick and apply for coverage, they won't be turned down because that would be against the law. So look for harsher penalties in the future to prevent this gaming of the system. The insurance companies win again.

What's missed is that the "reformers" leave untouched every aspect of the uncompetitive medical and insurance cartels that exists

entirely by virtue of government privilege. Most of this privilege is extended by state governments through monopolistic licensing, but Congress could repeal the prohibition on interstate insurance sales and the tax favoritism for employer-provided medical coverage. The ruling party has refused to consider those sensible moves.

The upshot is that this reform is a fraud. It leaves in place the government-created cartels and throws a few crumbs to people who are struggling — but mostly by bolstering the insurance monopoly.

Two myths must be shattered. First, the choice is not between this phony reform and the status quo. The "reform" merely puts makeup on the status quo. The free market is the real alternative.

Second, the free market couldn't have created the medical mess because there has been no free market in medicine. For generations government has colluded with the medical profession and the insurance industry to force-feed us the system we have today.

The Who's prayers weren't answered: We are being fooled again.



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## A Libertarian Approach to Health Care Reform

by Dr. Stephen Finger

I had a physics professor in Brooklyn College who was asked one day about a book entitled *Physics Made Simple*. The question was whether or not physics could indeed be made simple. His answer was, "Of course it can be made simple. Just leave out all the hard stuff."

A similar question is often asked about health insurance, i.e. whether it can be made cheap. The answer is, "Of course it can be made cheap. Just leave out all the expensive stuff, like MRI's, coronary artery bypass, etc."

Nevertheless, the good news is that, though good quality health insurance will never be cheap, it can be made cheaper. One of the problems is that each state regulates health insurance differently, requiring a variety of expensive "mandates" (addiction treatment, chiropractic, etc.) and prohibiting residents who don't want to pay for all the "bells and whistles" from purchasing insurance in other states.

There is a better way.

I propose that we make the District of Columbia into a "health insurance free trade zone," supervised by the Department of Health and Human Services (or maybe another czar or czarina). The Constitution grants Congress the duty to "exercise exclusive Legislation in all cases" over the District. While home rule was granted in 1975, Congress still has final authority.

We should allow any insurance company operating within the District to offer for sale any type of health insurance offering any benefits subject only to the following restrictions:

- 1) Demonstration of sufficient reserves to pay claims.
- 2) Benefits and restrictions be clearly spelled out in the policy.

Companies that want to organize and operate as a "cooperative," fine. Those who want to operate individually, also fine. You want to come here to buy insurance because you can get a better deal? Come on down! Want to keep what you've got? No problem. Isn't that what the President promised?

Not only will this make insurance more affordable, it will also serve as a non-compulsory "laboratory" for any insurance company with a good idea about how to offer a better product at a more affordable price. All we ask is that you put up your own

dough and that you don't lie to us. Isn't that what the American Way was supposed to be all about anyway?

As to the question of a possible illegal preemption of state prerogatives by the federal government, this will be a question

for the lawyers to decide. However, the Constitution's Supremacy Clause addresses this question: "The Laws of the United States [i.e. the Federal government]...shall be the supreme law of the land." Besides, why would the states want to continue mucking around in the insurance business if this were all to work out and the Congress, for once, got it right?

We should also make health insurance deductible for individuals purchasing their own insurance

just the way it always has been for those getting their insurance from their employers. Fair is fair.



# On H.L. Mencken's *Notes on Democracy*

by Becky Akers

You're either dead or you work for the government (pretty much the same thing) if you don't relish Henry Louis Mencken. His erudite wit danced with his hatred of the State's scams and sham to bless us with one electrifying essay after another. Now Dissident Books has resurrected Mencken's *Notes on Democracy*, which, it tells us, has been "long out of print." The revival couldn't be timelier; this slim text accurately diagnoses our current disaster with such quips as "[Politics in democracies] is a combat between jackals and jackasses" and "The victims delight in [the politician's] ministrations as an hypochondriacal woman delights in the flaying of the surgeon."

The *Notes* are so tasty they ought to be intellectual junk food rather than a feast of meaty analysis. Mencken describes and dissects the tyranny of the mob we euphemize as "democracy," as well as the "inferior man" who composes that mob. Though he wrote almost a century ago,



the material and his insights are as pertinent now as then --- perhaps even more so because we see the fulfillment of much that Mencken could only theorize or predict. I often shivered with the eerie conviction that Mencken's surfing the net or watching the news: how else can he so precisely narrate our woes?

He begins by tackling that eternally puzzling question: why are Americans content with their serfdom? Why don't they want freedom? In fact, not only don't they want it, they even fear it. Mencken merrily solves this mystery by proving that most men are lower than Barney Frank's morals: "What is true daunts him, but what is *not* true finds lodgment in his cranium with so little resistance that there is only a trifling emission of heat." How then can democracy, with its glorification of the average moron, produce anything but a government full of Chuck Schumers and Michael Bloomborgs?

Second, "liberty...is a concept that lies quite beyond the reach of the inferior man's mind. He can imagine and even esteem, in his way, certain false forms of liberty -- for example, the right to choose between two political mountebanks, and to yell for the more obviously dishonest -- but the reality is incomprehensible to him. And no wonder, for genuine liberty demands of its votaries a quality he lacks completely, and that is courage. The man who loves it must be willing to fight for it; blood, said Jefferson, is its natural manure. ... Liberty means self-reliance, it means resolution, it means enterprise, it means the capacity for doing without." Add to that burden the conformity and cowardice public education instills, and we finally understand why most Americans loathe freedom as much as their political masters want them to. And so the inferior man, faced with the Prohibition of alcohol (or drugs), "mourns the loss of his beer, not the loss of his liberty."

Mencken warns of democracy's dangers so presciently it's uncanny: because "the people" rule, they may at any time "introduce burning at the stake, flogging, castration, ducking [or its Bushian variant, waterboarding]...into our system of legal punishment... They could abolish the jury system, abandon the writ of habeas corpus, authorize unreasonable searches and seizures..." When Mencken discusses the poltroons inferior men elect, you'll swear he's writing about George W., Harry Reid, John McCain, Nancy Pelosi, Charles Rangel, or Obama: "Out of the muck of their swinishness the typical American lawmaker emerges. He is a man who has lied and dissembled, and a man who has crawled. He knows the taste of boot-polish. ... He has taken orders from his superiors in knavery and he has wooed and flattered his inferiors in sense. His public life is an endless series of evasions and false pretenses. He is willing to embrace any issue, however idiotic, that will get him votes, and he is willing to sacrifice any principle, however sound, that will lose them for him." Perhaps Churchill would have refrained

from his drivel in defense of democracy had he read these *Notes*.

The astute Mencken does fall prey to a few errors. In his zeal against the mob, he sometimes implies that other forms of government are better -- tantamount to asserting that breaking your right leg isn't as painful as breaking your left. Besides, a moment's reflection proves that King Jimmy is every bit as reprehensible as President Carter was. (Mencken might respond that such imbeciles would never rise above the station of boot-black under a monarchy. In rebuttal, I point to the royals of ancient Judah and Israel [or those of any "noble" house before or since]. Even with the Almighty's superintendence, criminals such as Rehoboam and Ahab reigned.) Mencken's incessant hostility against Christianity also irritates since he's essentially claiming that sensible folks will ascribe only to those parts of the faith he personally approves.

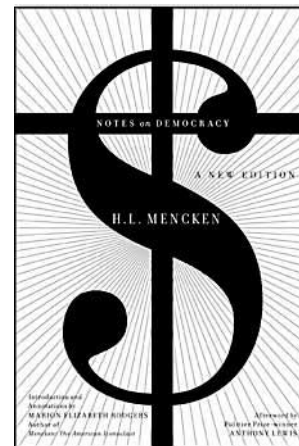
This new edition contains an introduction by Marion Elizabeth Rodgers, a "Mencken scholar." Who knew such folks existed? And how very encouraging that they do. Ms. Rodgers also explains the ephemera of Mencken's

life and times via extensive endnotes. Alas, she assumes we are as inferior as Mencken's democrats and ignorant of such transparencies as "*Homo vulgaris*." The publisher excuses this excess as being "aimed...at a younger generation." Perhaps he also explains the puzzling cover art (a graphic of an "S" -- a dollar sign? -- draped around a "t" -- a cross?), but if so, it passed me by.

Curiously, given Dissident's supposed market, there's an afterword from Anthony Lewis, Establishment Socialist, Former (Fifth) Columnist for the *New York Times*, and A Heck of a Wearisome Writer. Why? Mencken is one of the language's superior craftsmen: what he's so clearly and engagingly said requires nothing further. And following his tough act guarantees failure to anyone short of Samuel Johnson. Mercifully, Lewis' stint

runs to only a few hundred words. Such quibbles aside, Mencken's *Notes* glitter with the perspicacious wit he's taught us to expect. They probably can't slow the country's precipitate dash to totalitarianism, but they'll keep us laughing lest we cry.

*Published by Dissident Books, New York. Paperback, 206 pages including introduction, afterword, and endnotes, \$14.95.*



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# Silver Tongued Criminals

by Bob Armstrong

*"We must be ready to employ trickery, deceit, law-breaking, withholding and concealing truth. We can and must write in a language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion, scorn, and the like, towards those who disagree with us."*

– Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Whatever color you might label his lips, Obama's tongue is pure silver. And he displays the chin-up arrogance of his predecessor super-statist orators like Lenin, and FDR and his contemporaries, Stalin and Hitler. (His HOPE poster could be right out of 1984.) He was elected to get rid of Bush and the neo-con RINOs, not to replace the Right's excuses to increase the Domain of Force in our lives with the Left's. Lenin's quote, which I seem to keep repeating, certainly applies to the recent goals and tactics of Obama and his cadre.

While the Washington, DC, termites never stop munching, two recent high-beam attacks illuminate concepts discussed in my past *Logic of Liberty* columns.

We seem to have the criminal statist besieged in their provably fraudulent<sup>1</sup> War on Carbon, the very element of life. But they are already hiring tens of thousands of bureaucrats to demand the accounting of each of our medically related transactions and collect fines for daring to use our own judgment.

The would-be neo-tyrants have only been contained in their lust to create a literal dark age of permanent global state-rationed deprivation based upon anti-life anti-science.

- **Anti-life** thru starvation at every level -- from killing millions by intentionally increasing the minimal cost of 21st-century life, to (and for the purpose of) literally strangling the biosphere they claim to worship of the gas that is the anabolic half of the respiratory cycle of life .

- **Anti-science** by the absolutely pathetic understanding of the 100-year-old physics on both sides of the debate. Gaining an understanding of that classic physics at a level that should be required by anyone having an academic degree in "climate science" has consumed a painfully expensive amount of my time over the last several years. My progress is archived in a couple of my LoL articles.

To me, to understand something is to be able to compute it. That has driven me to spend the last 30 years in the most expressive Array Programming Languages (APL) so I can implement that classical physics, with its true spherical geometry, in a handful of sentences. Those few lines<sup>2</sup> leave only about 9 degrees Celsius of the difference between our temperature and that of a gray (flat spectrum) ball in our orbit unexplained. Perhaps some ambitious student will add the couple more lines to handle full spectra, and reduce that "unexplained" to a couple of degrees at most.

These equations don't permit "runaways" or "tipping points" of any consequence. Gavin Schmidt at NASA, who has a PhD in applied math, assured me that the extreme surface temperature of Venus being due to "heat trapping" by greenhouse gases does not violate the basic fact that heat flows from hot to cold, yet hasn't found time to send me, or point me to, the at most couple of pages of equations quantifying the phenomenon.

Humanity cannot allow itself to be ruled by anti-science. The EPA has now become a criminal organization acting against the very environment it was created to protect. Failure to quash this cultish fraud is to face a future of bleak subservience to illogic backed by force. And we have too much of that already.

As Harry Browne was fond of quoting, war is the health of the state. When the state cannot make enough external

enemies to sate its thirst for omnipotence, it turns to criminalizing the normal behavior of its own citizens. Now with ObamaCare, the state has criminalized choosing *not* to buy state-approved medical insurance no matter how rational that decision might be in some particular situation.

They forcibly conflate charity with insurance because you are not charitable like them.

One would hope that voters could generalize from the provable criminality of the statist with respect to carbon, and realize these are not people to cede control any aspect of their personal decisions, particularly when it comes to one's own, and one's family's physical survival. With the fascistification of health care, there isn't the objective science to incontrovertibly expose the anti-prosperity fraudulence. One just has lessons of economics and history. But those alone are overwhelming.

The federal interference in medical market decisions, and consequent increases in costs -- or outright prohibitions -- goes back at least to the creation of the FDA. Mary Ruwart has written brilliantly on the subject from the perspective of an insider.<sup>3</sup> But of more direct consequence for the issue of market distortion in medical insurance is the corporate tax benefit for employer sponsored coverage versus individual family-purchased policies. The entire issue of portability of coverage or whether children can stay on their parents' policy until age 26 stems from this distortion that dates back to World War 2 wage and price controls.

Prosperity might well be defined as {Product % Person}, approximated by measures like GNP per capita, although what counts, of course, is actual product, not its value expressed in some currency. Despite politicians' fixation on "jobs," it's not jobs that produce prosperity, it's how much desirable product is produced per job. It would be great if all of us could work half as much yet still produce all the goods we currently enjoy. But that's impossible unless we stop the state from forcing on us products we don't enjoy, and all the costs associated with those products.

Not all "product" is desirable. For instance, military expenditures create jobs but at best, at a net cost to the nation as a whole. Military accounts for more than half our deficit. 1984 contemplated perpetual war, but not as just a line item in the state's budget siphoning just a fraction, although substantial, below the level of causing outright privation.

So what is it that the socialists have made law over more overt opposition to any government action since W executed his personal jihad on the basis of lies? What is government's cash cow other than, as Browne put it "the greatest national offense in history"?

"At the bottom of the endless pile of paper work that characterizes all regulation lies a gun."

-- Alan Greenspan: "The Assault on Integrity," 1963, in *Ayn Rand: Capitalism: the Unknown Ideal*, 1967

**Paper Work.** The futility of the Left's arrogant attempt to codify all medical decisions is witnessed by the kilo-page magnitude of their voted upon outline of detailed regulations to come. The immediate announcement of the need to hire an additional dozen billion dollars worth of IRS agents was as inevitable as any law of physics. And it will have to be matched, by regulation and in self-defense, by an equal phalanx of lawyers and accountants on the market side.

The parasites thrive on paperwork. I'm taking the time to write this polemic from time I need to spend in slave work filling out the hundreds of byzantine blanks the IRS demands be filled in a couple of days. Giovanni Coratolo of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce quotes a figure of a trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) regulatory cost in the U.S. That's close to a third of our total product, and therefore, time.

But all their imposition of their codified decisions in place of each of ours dealing with life as it arises is doomed to failure. The Austrian economists libertarians revere, Ludwig von Mises and his student F.A.



Hayek, more than a half century ago explained the Knowledge Problem -- why it is impossible for a central bureaucracy to be as functionally intelligent and productive as a free market following price signals. And that is not even considering personal knowledge of counter-parties and other factors. Local (not money-center) banks, like the ones here in Teller County, CO, complain that frequently federal regulators won't, in fact, let them lend, or

have forced them to foreclose on loans they know to be solid in the long term.

Why are so many so willing to cede their, and our, freedoms of choice, particularly to make medical and charitable decisions, to bureaucratic force based corporatist monopoly? Well, I've got to admit it's easier being treated like a child, relieved of the work of evaluation and planning and the stress of responsibility. But, as the USSR and numerous other socialist experiments have shown, it is fatal for a nation's welfare to hobble its adults' freedom to apply their maximal intelligence to their individual and family decisions.

As I pointed out in "Ron Paul and the End of the Broadcast Age" (*Serf City*, Volume 3, Issue 3) the hierarchical-center-knows-best structure imposed by the statist is so 20th century "been there, enough of that" in this peer-to-peer internet age. The would-be emperors and their sycophant media face immediate rebuttal from many of us, just as smart, outside their chains of power and influence.

The free collective mind of the internet has brought the global warming scam to its Waterloo. Let all who understand the importance of freedom of choice to the welfare of their posterity amplify their efforts to convey that understanding to an undeniable majority of our fellow citizens so we can enjoy our own Moskow Spring, casting off the burden of our own burgeoning apparatchik.

1 <http://cosy.com/views/warm.htm/>

2 <http://cosy.com/Science/TemperatureOfGrayBalls.htm>

3 "The Law Most Likely to Kill You" <http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig3/ruwart2.html/>

# Coffee, Tea or Freedom?

by Ron Moore

The Coffee Party is a new movement founded as a response to the Tea Parties (according to the CSPAN subtitles). They talk a lot about being civil and bringing people together to foster understanding and cooperation in politics. Here is the mission statement from their website.

"The Coffee Party Movement gives voice to Americans who want to see cooperation in government. We recognize that the federal government is not the enemy of the people, but the expression of our collective will, and that we must participate in the democratic process in order to address the challenges that we face as Americans. As voters and grassroots volunteers, we will support leaders who work toward positive solutions, and hold accountable those who obstruct them."

All the clues are there. Let's see what they tell us.

"Give voice to Americans" – awesome, I'm all about that.

"who want to see cooperation in government". Okay, cooperation is potentially good but not always. It really depends on who I am cooperating with and why.

"We recognize that the federal government is not our enemy" – OK – if that's true can you explain the IRS? If it quacks like a duck... you are starting to lose me here. .."but an expression of our collective will" -Whooooa – Sirens blaring, lights flashing... this does not compute..

I do not live in a collective. We are all individual human beings with our own strengths, weaknesses, cultures, hopes and dreams.

Am I overreacting?

I watched a Coffee Party meeting on CSPAN last night. Darrell West of Brookings started by applauding the health care bill and then rattled off a list of left-liberal causes that have not become law and made it sound like evidence that Congress was broken. Apparently the collective will has not caught up with West's brilliant vision of a better world. He added that "if he was Czar..." he would reform the filibuster.

Then Linda Killian of the Woodrow Wilson Center spoke. She asked for Republicans in the audience to raise their hands – none raised. Democrats: about half. Independents: about half. Wait – did she ask for Greens or Libertarians or Constitution Party etc... If you want to understand the opposition talk to some people from those groups.

Coffee Party co-founder Annabel Park, a documentary film maker was an Obama volunteer. She said the Tea Parties had been successful creating political theater. It didn't sound quite so bad in context. But isn't that a little dismissive? Here are few other things Ms Park said. They aren't perfect quotes but they are very close.

- We need the federal government to be part of the solution



- We need democracy
- We need to adopt a certain language
- this is what we believe in

So we have substantial evidence that the Coffee Party is a progressive collectivist organi-

zation. Ok some people like that sort of thing. I don't.

There is no collective will. Collectives don't make decisions – individuals within the collective do. That means there is a majority and a minority. In a collective the minorities' interests are sacrificed for the benefit of the majority. That means if you are different you lose. That is not what America is supposed to be about. America is supposed to be a pluralistic society where people of diverse backgrounds and situations can cooperate voluntarily and thrive and become self-actualized. The collective assumes the majority knows better what's good for every individual and that they have the right to force the collective will on the minorities. The collective mentality is not the solution, it's the problem. It works against personal responsibility and it is the opposite of freedom.

The Coffee Party stresses civility and cooperation. As I said before, that's potentially very good but not always.

I see no reason to be civil with liars, cheats, thieves and leg breakers. I'm not name-calling. I didn't call the government any of those

(continued on page 11)

## LPNY 2010 State Convention Results

At the LPNY State Convention, on April 24, 2010, the following individuals were selected as the candidates of the Libertarian Party for statewide office:

**Governor** - Warren Redlich

**Lt. Governor** - Alden Link

**Comptroller** - John Gaetani

**Attorney General** - Carl Person

**U.S. Senate Seat** (Shumer) -

Randy Credico

**U.S. Senate Seat** (Gillibrand) -

John Clifton

New members of the State Committee (excluding State Reps)

**Chair** - Mark Axinn

**Vice-Chairs** - Audrey Capozzi, Donald Silberger

**Secretary** - Brian DeMarzo

**Treasurer** - Gary Treistman

**At-Large Members** - Max Kessler, Chris

Padgett, Chris Garvey, Chris Cantwell,

M Carling

## Freedom Activism 101 for r3VOLutionaries

by Ernest Hancock

*The following aphorisms are the work of libertarian novelist L. Neil Smith. They have been the bedrock for libertarian activism in Arizona and for the r3VOLution for the last 15 years and are the best explanation I can provide for the tactics of our past/future. Enjoy.*

- Never soft-peddle the truth. It's seldom self-evident and almost never sells itself, because there's less sales resistance to a glib and comforting lie.

- Understand from the minute the fight begins that you're going to take damage. Accept it. (You'll always suffer more from the idiots and cowards on your own side than from any enemy.) Keep your overall goal in mind above all. Those who swerve to avoid a few cuts and bruises defeat themselves.

- If you're not a little bit uncomfortable with your position, it isn't radical enough. How can you be too principled? Take the most extreme position you can. You're claiming territory you won't have to fight for later, mostly against your "allies."

- Go straight to the heart of the enemy's greatest strength. Break that and you break him. You can always mop up the flanks and stragglers later, and they may even surrender, saving you a lot of effort.

- Know, down to the last cell in your body, that the other guy started it. He's the one who put things in an ethical context where considerations like decency and mercy have

no referent. The less pity moves you now, the sooner you can go back to being a nice guy.

- If you lose, go down fighting. It costs nothing extra, and now and again ...

- Remain the judge of your own actions. Never surrender that position by default.

When the enemy screams "Foul!" the loudest, you know you're doing him the most damage. Those who help him scream are also the enemy.

- Second thoughts, failures of confidence, nervous last-minute course-changes are all detours and recipes for defeat. The time to think is before the battle - if possible, before the war - not in the heat of it.

- It is moral weakness, rather than villainy, that accounts for most of the evil in the universe – and feeble-hearted allies, far rather than your most powerful enemies, who are likeliest to do you an injury you cannot recover from.

- Know, otherhandwise, that the easiest, most humiliating path to defeat is thinking that to beat the enemy you must be like him. Avoid the temptation to set your values aside "for the duration." What's the point of fighting if you give up what you're fighting for? If remaining consistent with your values leads to defeat, you chose the wrong values to begin with.

- Never aim at anything but total achievement of your goal: the utter capitulation of the enemy. Every effort involves inertia and mechanical losses, so adopting any lesser objective means partial defeat. Total victory means

(continued on page 11)

## Libertarians on Meetup.com

**New York Libertarian Meetup**

<http://libertarian.meetup.com/324/>

**Read the Bills Act on Meetup.com**

<http://rtba.meetup.com/12/>

**New York Freedom Coalition Meetup**

<http://ronpaul.meetup.com/50/>



# Living in a Kleptocracy

by Powell Gammill

When I first ran for CONgress in 2004, I thought it was not too late to save our economy provided we shut down 97% of the federal government and auctioned off all federal lands, buildings and property to pay off the debt. Not that would likely happen in our great kleptocracy. Then the U.S. Comptroller General David Walker published his first report<sup>1</sup> showing the national debt was not the then reported \$9 trillion, but instead \$43.4 trillion. At the time I knew there was zero political will to even slow down spending, much less make cuts. Indeed, since 2004 spending has increased dramatically.

One does not have to be a genius to know that at some point the national credit card called the federal budget will cease having its debt limit raised. Oh, CONgress can keep raising the limit. But at some point foreign investors will effectively cut it off by ceasing to purchase our bonds no matter what rate is desperately offered. They will do this because the debt has become so high it will be mathematically apparent that it will never be paid off, and the investors' own economies already tightly linked to the dollar's perceived value will start to suffer, leaving them no spare wealth remaining to risk investing in us.

At this point the last card the kleptocrats have left will be played: Vast sums of U.S. Federal Reserve Notes will be quickly dumped or electronically generated into our national economy. While foreign nations are unlikely to accept further U.S. dollars at that point, it will still be accepted briefly within the United States. Our deteriorated economy will initially appear to be improving. But this will be the last bubble. Within two or three months hyperinflation will be apparent and shortages of goods will commence. Price controls will follow along with scapegoat businessmen show trials. And the Federal Reserve Note based U.S. economy will slowly, painfully come to an end.

There is nothing that can be done to prevent this from happening. Kleptocrats will continue to steal until there is nothing left. But while the nation cannot be saved, it is not too late to save yourself, your wealth and your family. You do this by removing yourself from significant savings in the collapsing U.S. dollar.

Convert your dollars into non-perishable goods while the dollar still has value. The Mormons recommend building up a two-year food supply for every member of the family. While space may limit the ability to store this much, at least four months supply should be obtained.

Starting a garden is another important skill. A varied supply of well-stored non-hybrid seeds is a good investment. You will not completely feed the family with a garden but you can supplement their diet. Even an apartment can grow vegetables.<sup>2</sup>

Gold and silver bullion are always a good dependable means of having real value on hand in a tradeable and transportable amount. Obviously the tools of the trades you are skilled at can help barter your skills in times of need.

Your time to prepare is frankly overdue, but the journey begins with your first step. For example, when you get laid off, having a four-month food supply handy sure would ease your concerns over where your immediate meals are coming from.

Currently, with well over \$100 trillion in debt<sup>3</sup> and no sign of lower spending, I would not want to have any significant savings in anything that paid in dollars. While dollars will still buy you plenty now, that situation will eventually decline. It is only a matter of time. Talk to your neighbors and encourage them to prepare. You do not want to be desperately looking to convert rapidly failing dollars into goods when the collapse comes -- plan ahead now for your purchases rather than be left scrambling to acquire what few expensive remains are left over at the end.

1 [www.gao.gov/cghome/cghomeformer.htm](http://www.gao.gov/cghome/cghomeformer.htm)

2 [www.squarefootgardening.com](http://www.squarefootgardening.com)

3 [thedollarmeltdown.com](http://thedollarmeltdown.com)

# Miracle of the Market

by Jacob G. Hornberger

In preparation for two recent back-to-back blizzards, residents in the Washington, D.C., area emptied the shelves of neighborhood grocery stores. Notwithstanding the pre-blizzard panic buying, what's interesting is that no one was freaking out about whether the stores would be adequately stocked after the blizzards.

Now think about this: there is absolutely no government planning that goes into what is stocked in grocery stores. No federal Department of Food. No local or state planning commission. No grocery boards. No bureaucrats or bureaucracies. No laws requiring grocery stores to be well stocked. No rules and regulations dictating how much of each food item, including bread, milk, and chicken, needs to appear on the shelves.

So how in the world do grocery stores get stocked without government planning or direction? How is it that so much food appears, almost by magic, within a day or two after most of the shelves have been emptied? Indeed, how do grocery stores manage to have more than enough food for people throughout the year, given that no government department or agency is doing the planning and issuing food directives?

Let's look at the situation another way. Suppose that in 1900 it was decided that food was just too important an item to be left to the free market. To ensure that there would always be enough food for people, state and local governments took over the grocery-store industry, just as they took over the education industry. To provide support for grocery stores, the U.S. government established the federal Department of Food to provide grants and set standards for the grocery stores, just as the U.S. Department of Education does for state and local public schools.

Now imagine that we're here in 2010, having lived under a system of government-run gro-

cery stores for more than 100 years. Wouldn't people be incessantly complaining about the shoddy quality of products and services, as they constantly do with the state-run schools?

Along come libertarians and say the same thing about the grocery business that they say about the education business. Get government out of the grocery business, at all levels — local, state, and federal. Abolish the federal Department of Food. Sell off all the grocery stores. Abolish all the taxes needed to run the grocery stores. Separate food and state, just as our ancestors separated church and state. Let the free market reign in the grocery-store industry.

How would today's statist respond? Wouldn't they say the same things they say when libertarians call for the same solution in education? "Where would the poor get their food? There

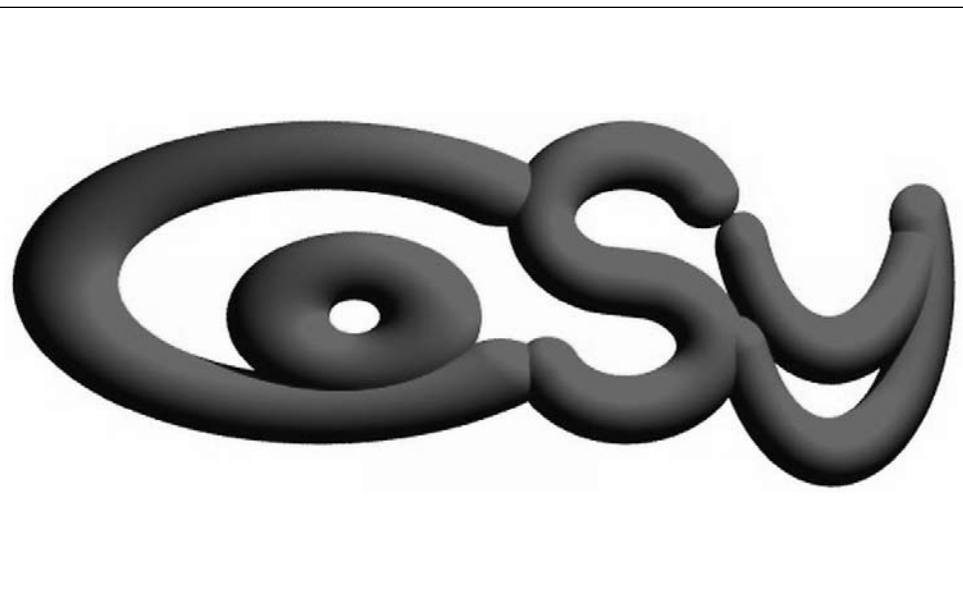
would only be grocery stores for the rich. How could we count on the free market to make sure that there was the right amount of food for each grocery store? What if some grocery stores went empty while oth-

ers were plentiful? How could we be sure that each grocery store received the correct quantities of each item? You libertarians are dreamers. Do you honestly believe that you could leave something as important as grocery stores to the free market?"

Yet today, no one gives a free market in food a second thought. Every day, people have a wide range of grocery stores from which to choose, each one vying for his business. Practically every day — blizzards being a possible exception — every one of those grocery stores is packed with food, all with a dizzying array of choices.

And it's all accomplished through the miracle of the market, with no government planning or direction. And no one gets freaked out about the fact that it all happens without government intervention. People just take it for granted.

Now, while we're on the subject of a free market in grocery stores and food, may we talk about the same thing in the context of public schools and education?



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# Is Greece the Future of America?

by Sheldon Richman

It may be possible to look into America's future. How? Watch what's going on in Greece. According to the Washington Post, "Greece needs to raise about €23 billion [more than \$31 billion] in April and May to pay debts coming due. Greek officials say that either is impossible, or would require punitive interest rates — making it harder to bring the budget under control — unless Europe helps out." So the Greek government awaits a bailout from Germany and France, but first it has to impress them that it is serious about fiscal austerity.

The Greek welfare state's annual deficit is about 13 percent of its GDP and its accumulated debt is 113 percent of GDP. Meanwhile, the U.S. government's overall debt is now on track to reach 90 percent of GDP by 2020, more than \$20 trillion. Just last week the Congressional Budget Office said that over the next decade, the annual budget deficit will be \$1.2 trillion *more* than the Obama administration has guessed. The ten-year figure is now projected to be \$9.76 trillion. The annual deficit is about 10 percent of GDP.

Government spending is rising — and the new entitlement called health-care "reform" hasn't passed yet. That'll be good for

a couple of trillion over the next decade.

The economic consequences of all that are likely to be dire. As the government tries to borrow more money, both to finance its programs and to pay the old debt that's coming due, it will have to promise a better return to nervous lenders, such as China. But raising the interest rate will push other borrowers' rates up, which in turn will put a damper on economic activity. Unemployment will grow and revenues will shrink, but entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, will keep growing. They already face tens of trillions of dollars in unfunded liabilities and are heading toward bankruptcy. Military spending will also increase, along with most other government spending.



What will the politicians do when they find interest payments swallowing the budget, leaving them less and less money to shower on political supporters? They might resort to higher taxes, which would further dampen economic activity. They might get the Federal Reserve to monetize the debt through inflation; but that would wreak economic havoc. Politicians aren't likely to cut spending because it would jeopardize their careers. At that point, the government might default on its debts, a step that has much to recommend it.

Thus, the welfare state is a fiscal failure.

The welfare state has long been presented as the viable "third way," a happy medium between laissez faire — full separation of state and economy — and state socialism — government control of the economy. Advocates of individual liberty have emphasized that the welfare state violates freedom because government takes wealth from those who produce it and transfers it to favored groups. Defenders have responded that the welfare state embodies compassion: people with means give to those less fortunate. But forced transfers through government are not true compassion. A virtue like compassion requires free choice, but government gives you no choice. So the compassion of the welfare state is counterfeit. It's more about distributing goodies at others' expense to win votes for politicians.

Historically compassion had little to do with government programs for the poor and social insurance for the working and middle classes. Beginning as far back as Queen Elizabeth I poor laws were intended to control people who were potential sources of social strife; and social insurance beginning in Bismarck's German welfare state was calculated to make working people dependent on the government. In both cases the free society was subdued for the sake of those in power.

Now it is clearer than ever that the welfare state is not only morally flawed, it is also fiscally unsustainable. Politicians will always have an incentive to spend, while hiding the costs or pushing them onto future generations through debt. But reality doesn't go away. It comes back to bite in unexpected ways.

We're seeing it in Greece today. Tomorrow it will be other European welfare states. Then, if nothing changes, it will be America's turn.

# How to Get More People to Vote for Libertarian Party Candidates

by Alton Yee

A good, but overlooked way to encourage more people to vote for LP candidates is to post comments or replies at forums, blogs and discussion groups. You can use a "boilerplate" to do this. Here is a boilerplate I use:

As usual, many repliers have complained about Democratic AND Republican politicians who support out of control big government. And they are right to complain. Some have even threatened to and have urged others to "vote the bums out." But they and other citizens have tried that, haven't they? Yet, somehow they keep getting politicians who vote for bigger government, more spending, more taxes and more power for themselves. How did this happen?

Albert Einstein, U.S., German-born, physicist (1879 – 1955), was attributed to have said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Let's see how this applies here. Citizens want small government, so they vote for politicians from either the Republican or Democratic party. Then somehow those politicians support more and bigger government. Not good. So citizens again try to "vote the bums out." And again they vote for politicians from either the Republican or Democratic party. And then guess what? So comes next November . . . you get the picture.

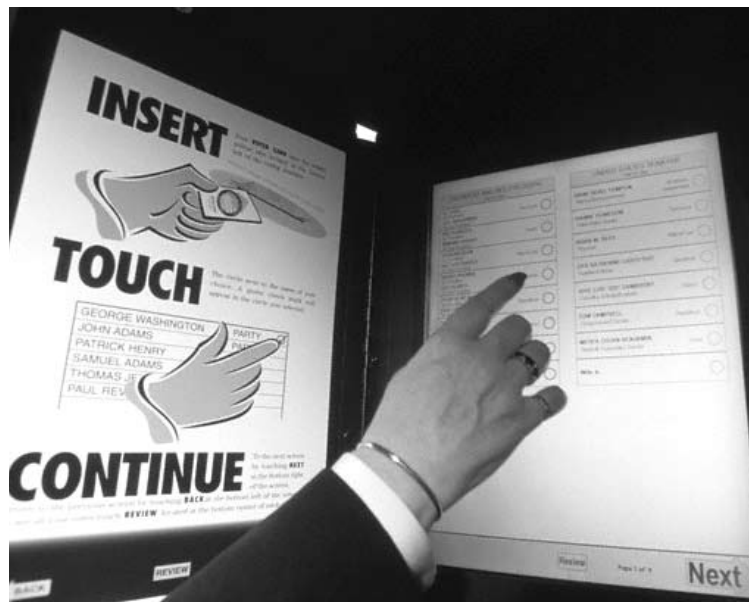
These citizens would have done Albert Einstein proud. If anyone, however, seriously wants small government, more freedom and a return of the American Republic, then he or she, *instead of insanelly voting for Republicans*

*or Democrats "over and over again and expecting different results,"* must vote for a Third Party. That Third Party must be the LIBERTARIAN PARTY!

The Libertarian Party (LP), "the Party of Principle," is dedicated to small, constitutionally limited government and a restoration of rights taken from We the People. The LP is the ONLY party that wants to restore the proper role of the government as servants of We the People, rather than the current situation of We the People as servants to the government. Every LP candidate supports smaller government, much less spending, much less taxes, AND a return to Constitutionally limited government. If anyone seriously wants less government, the restoration of the American republic, and REAL CHANGE, then he/she must vote for Libertarian Party candidates! It is as simple as that. (To learn more about the LP, go to: <http://www.lp.org/> and when you're there, don't forget to take the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," or you can take it here: <http://www.theadvocates.org/quizp/index.html>)

By the way, in case you're wondering,

Libertarians support maximum liberty in both personal and economic matters. They advocate a much smaller government; one that is limited to protecting individuals from coercion and violence. Libertarians tend to embrace individual responsibility, oppose govern-



ment bureaucracy and taxes, promote private charity, tolerate diverse lifestyles, support the free market, and defend civil liberties. Does this sound good to you? Will you vote for LP candidates? If yes, then let's ROCK!

To use my boilerplate more effectively, I would "wheel" my way into a thread, customize some words and then drop the boilerplate into my comment or reply. For example, in my comment to a *Washington Times* article, "White House unveils \$3.8 trillion budget" (February 1, 2010), I said:

The solution is to first call the OVERSPENDING for what it is and not allow politicians and bureaucrats AND the Mainstream Media to cloak this irresponsible overspending as highfalutin "budget deficits" or "revenue shortfalls." Next, you must realize that it is Democratic AND Republican politicians who through their overspending support out of control big government. I imagine you want much less spending and a much smaller government, yes? One solution is to "vote the bums out." But haven't you and other citizens tried that? Yet somehow . . . [The rest of the boilerplate followed.]

Of course, your boilerplate may be different, but your message should center on one theme: "Vote for LP Candidates." (If you want to use my boilerplate, and you don't want to type, drop me an e-mail— [ay838@hotmail.com](mailto:ay838@hotmail.com) — and I'll send it to you.) But the "secret" to success is to keep posting your message to vote for LP candidates. Like any successful ad campaign, the key is repetition. So customize your boilerplates to fit the topic and keep posting. Your message might one day "click" with ONE citizen. If that ONE citizen vote for an LP candidate, then you've succeeded. To "click" with another citizen: Just keep posting!

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# Libertarian Photographer Sues Department of Homeland Security

by Jim Lesczynski

Manhattan Libertarian activist Antonio Musumeci, better known to the teeming masses by his nom de intertubes Bile, filed a lawsuit on April 22 challenging a government regulation that unconstitutionally restricts photography on federal property, including public plazas and sidewalks.

Bile is represented in the action by the New York Civil Liberties Union. The complaint names the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Protective Service, Inspector Clifford Barnes of the Federal Protective Service and an unnamed federal officer as defendants.

Bile was arrested on November 9, 2009, after recording with a hand-held video camera a protestor in a public plaza outside the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Federal Courthouse in Manhattan.

Bile, who serves as membership director and webmaster for the Manhattan Libertarian Party, was recording an interview in front of the courthouse steps with Julian Heicklen, a libertarian activist who was advocating for jury nullification. They were

confronted by Inspector Barnes, who arrested Heicklen.

Bile stepped backward and recorded the arrest. Barnes told Bile he had violated a federal regulation governing photography and arrested him. Barnes and a second federal agent grabbed Bile by the arms and forced him to the pavement as they confiscated the video card from his camera. After being arrested, Bile was detained for about 20 minutes and issued a ticket for violating the photography regulation. That charge was later dismissed.

A week later, Bile was harassed and threatened with arrest after trying again to record Heicklen at the federal courthouse. Again this past Monday he was harassed by federal officers at the courthouse.

"I do not believe government agents have the legal or moral authority to stop people from filming on public property. In this case, the outcome is particularly frustrating because I was creating political content and engaging in a form of political activism," Bile said. "The courthouse plaza is public property paid for by taxpayers, and the public should not be prohibited from using video cameras there."

tion process – making arbitrary, ridiculous demands that often contradicted their previous demands -- that I came to think of them, not so fondly, as the Department of Business Prevention. When my contractor and I weren't butting heads with the local bureaucrats, I was struggling with the state banking department to issue my check-cashing license. I was told it could take up to six months to obtain that license in New Jersey, compared to a year in New York. Somehow I got the license in "only" four months.

Last December, more than two years after I started down the path to entrepreneurship, I finally opened for business. Was it worth it? For now, I have to say yes, because I truly enjoy running my own business, and my customers seem thrilled that I'm there. Of course, I'm not showing a profit yet, and I don't expect to break even on a cash-flow basis for several more months. Even if the business ultimately thrives, I won't recover my start-up costs until the day I sell it, if even then.

A lot will depend on my ability to endure this money-losing start-up period without running out of cash. Most new businesses allegedly fail because they are undercapitalized. I thought I was sufficiently capitalized when I started out, but I didn't anticipate two years of fighting bureaucrats to put such a large dent in my bank account. I would be in a much better position to weather this period if I hadn't paid for several months of rent on empty storefronts in two different towns while waiting for the government to approve or deny my permit and license applications. After going through this experience, I have no doubt that many more small businesses would succeed if the government would simply get out of their way.

## MTA – Be Wise and Privatize (continued from page 1)

dependent body, hopefully to include wealthy individuals to prevent incentives for pay-offs as well as the everyday person) quite closely to avoid any kind of corruption. The bidders state how much they would pay to receive all revenues from the MTA for the concessionary period within the agreed-upon service standards. If these standards aren't met, fines are levied,

## Free Society - Safer Subways (continued from page 1)

still be people who want to indiscriminately hurt individuals in a free society. But freedom still holds advantages over statism in preventing terrorist attacks.

Subway passengers and subway security should theoretically have a common interest: neither should want the subway to get bombed. But because of how government functions, police and the public are often at odds. The state does not function primarily to protect individuals – its priority is to protect power from disruption (police are not legally obligated to protect individuals, for example).

When a police officer in New York City looks inside a bag carried by a subway patron, he isn't just looking for a bomb. The owner of the bag would be led away in chains to a cage if he was found to be exercising his right to possess drugs or a firearm. And because police officers answer to their superiors (who answer to other government officials), and not directly to the public, one cannot expect police in general to be honest or fair. The function of the state creates a hostile, authoritarian relationship when a friendly, mutual relationship would be more productive.

By enforcing laws restricting the carrying of weapons, the state makes it more difficult for individuals to protect themselves from terrorists or other criminals. Firearms in the hands of responsible individuals could have prevented the September 11 attacks from being carried

again agreed-upon in the bid process. The end result is that the MTA receives a bunch of cash, which it can then use to pay down, or perhaps pay off, the debt and employee IOUs, and the private operator can use their own employee-management structure as well as their own capital investment decision-making, free of the vagaries of the public purse. The bottomless pit gets buried, and the MTA starts acting like a wealth-creator instead of a sick patient.

out, and could have at least reduced the number of irreplaceable lives destroyed in the Mumbai, Virginia Tech, and Long Island Railroad shootings. But the state in many places tries to hold a monopoly on violence by restricting the carrying of weapons. They might claim that only professionals trained by the government are capable of handling weapons in certain situations, but the commonplace brutality and incompetence of state agents ought to make one suspect otherwise.

The priority of states (by far the largest customers of the security-industrial complex) is to protect power and prevent disruption of its operations. Protecting individuals is more of a means to this end.

However, organizations in a free society would exist on a consensual basis and could only continue existing if people saw fit to support them over alternatives. For this reason, they would be more accountable to the demands of individuals. They would be more incentivized to meet demands for security that disrupts and intrudes upon individuals as little as possible. If some of the money states



spend on empire building instead went into explosives detection technology or similar items, then less intrusive and disruptive security arrangements would likely be more feasible.

The state increases the likelihood of terrorist attacks, works against accountability and cooperation by its authoritarian incentive structure, and often actively works to prevent individuals from defending themselves. A stateless society should be a safer society.

## Department of Business Prevention (continued from page 3)

From there, I expanded my search to the work class suburbs of Essex, Bergen and Passaic counties. Every time I thought I had found a great location for my future store, I learned that the address was not zoned for check cashing. In Woodbridge, I nearly signed a lease on a vacant store that was two doors down from a bail bondsman, but was told by the mayor himself not to waste my time, because they were determined to gentrify the block with restaurants and boutiques. After a year of this, I signed a lease out of desperation in Union Township and hired a local attorney to handle my variance application, after being assured by the zoning officer that "we grant variances all the time." Six months later, my application was unanimously rejected by the zoning board and I was out \$10,000 in rent and legal fees.

At that point, I seriously considered throwing in the towel and returning to my life as a cubicle-dweller. However, I persevered and eventually signed another lease, this time in Belleville, a blue-collar suburb best known as the hometown of Connie Francis and the setting for several Sopranos scenes. The zoning officer there also tried to tell me that check cashing was a prohibited use at the address I was renting, but my landlord insisted otherwise, and it took more lawyers to convince the bureaucrats to back off.

Obtaining permission for my proposed use was only the beginning of my battles with the zoning department, however, as the same bureaucrats also served as the construction department. They gave me such a hard time every step of the way in the permitting and inspec-

## Get rid of Schumer and Gillibrand (continued from page 3)

within our lifetimes? (I might "expire" within 10 to 20 years.)

Meanwhile, as for removing Senators Schumer and Gillibrand "without really trying," here's how to do this: As Attorney Generals in several other states are mounting legal challenges to "Obamacare," our own Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo, is probably doing the same. Let him stop this important endeavor for a few moments and implore

the Governor and every State Senator and Assembly Person to refuse to recognize either Senator Schumer's or Gillibrand's re-election bids (or even another Senatorial election in New York State), and instead choose two persons who they want to represent New York State in the U.S. Senate. If Mr. Cuomo could legally mandate this be done, so much the better.

Wouldn't you love to see the look on "Chuckie's" face when Andrew Cuomo tells him to "take a walk"?

## Freedom Activism 101 (continued from page 7)

you don't have to fight the same fight again tomorrow.

- The most dangerous and successful conspiracies take place in public, in plain sight, under the clear, bright light of day – usually with TV cameras focused on them.

- Ever notice how those who believe in animal rights generally don't believe in human rights?

- The function of government is to provide you with service; the function of the media is to supply the Vaseline.

- “Wake up America,” you demand? America doesn't need to “wake up” – by which of course, you mean pay attention to whatever you think is important. If America weren't

already awake, paying attention to what each individual thinks is important, your milk wouldn't have gotten delivered this morning, and you wouldn't have any electricity this afternoon.

- You cannot force me to agree with you. You can force me to act as though I agree with you – but then you'll have to watch your back. All the time.

- You may never convince the other guy, but it's often worthwhile to keep arguing for the effect it has on bystanders, especially his allies.

*Declare Your Independence with Ernest Hancock* can be heard on [www.RepublicBroadcasting.org](http://www.RepublicBroadcasting.org) – [www.LibertyNewsRadio.com](http://www.LibertyNewsRadio.com) – [www.LibertyRadioNetwork.com](http://www.LibertyRadioNetwork.com) M-F 12 pm – 2 pm PST & 5 pm – 7 pm EST. Ernest Hancock is also the publisher of [www.FreedomsPhoenix.com](http://www.FreedomsPhoenix.com).

## Essential Government Services (continued from page 1)

This disconnect is ideological, financial, and often physical. Many government services have failed to prove themselves relevant or effective to taxpayers -- hence the great support for cutting government employee total compensation and the services themselves. This is not just a PR problem. Naturally consumers who rely primarily or solely on individual or a basket of services and those who derive their income from providing those services prefer continued increasing financial support. However, those who are not on the payroll, do not receive services or who are unhappy with the level of service and the financial implications feel otherwise. Their numbers are rising. The taxpayer seeking financial relief, for now and for the future, has no other recourse than to demand to keep as many of her tax dollars as possible. She is obligated to ensure that those monies she must fork over are used efficiently, effectively, and within a sensible budget. She wants her government to abide by the rules of the “real world” economy and get real about fiscal responsibility or risk losing more of her money to rising taxation.

This is not to suggest that the government realign its mission towards making a profit (talk about a swift chapter 11), but only that it consider adopting cost cutting measures that put the cost of its services in line with the perceived and actual benefits of those services.

If the government cannot cut costs, the only alternative is to improve the service to justify the both the current expenditures and forthcoming rising costs. If it cannot do either, then taxpayers must cut off the financial spigot. This would most definitely depress or diminish employee total compensation, making it incumbent upon them to find way to justify their salaries. Hint: last year's contract is not that justification.

Conventional ideology steers us away from evaluating government services in the same way that private sector services are evaluated, but that should not stop us from doing so, within reason, as long as there is an exchange of cash for goods and services. Government employees and their agencies should stop focusing on entitlement and focus on evaluation. How would things change if agencies were forced to regularly make the case for taxpayer funding? How would the loss of a guaranteed raise or even a position change employee behavior? We know how this works in the private sector—quite well. If agencies are able to reform themselves and their budgets to prove that they are a necessary sustainable expense, then we will have better services. If agencies are unable to prove their worth, money will be saved and alternative providers will seek out newly available private funding and employees. Regardless of the outcome, the taxpayer will be the winner.

## Coffee, Tea or Freedom? (continued from page 7)

things. You decide.

Killian (the one who didn't ask for Libertarians to raise their hands) went on to say people feel ill-served by the two-party system. She quoted a Pew study of the top 20 words people

thought of when asked to describe Congress. Not one was positive. She talked about redistricting saying congressional districts are “designed to be safe.”

She said, “The people are the supervisors of Congress”. I'm pretty sure Carolyn Maloney doesn't consider me her supervisor. I'm pretty sure she doesn't care at all about what I

think. She refused to attend the Bailout Facts Town Hall we Libertarians ran and which was co-sponsored by the Greens and several civic organizations (she did send a representative who read a canned statement). Her Republican and Libertarian opponents came, along with a representative of the Green Party. At her own town halls (now there's an example of political theater) she refused to take unfiltered questions from the audience. Questions were submitted on cards and she only answered the softballs. Killian said you can ask to meet with member of congress. Did Maloney agree to meet with us regarding our thousands of End the Fed petitions – an initiative co-sponsored by a large majority of Congress members? That would be NO.

Shall I go on? Okay, I'll keep it short:

- Presidents who lie through their teeth (which ones? take your pick)
- Legislators who subject people to laws they don't read
- Congress who manipulate laws to hide costs and overstate revenues
- Earmarks
- Congress who shirks their responsibility to declare war (or not)
- Congress who take contributions from the entities they regulate
- Cabinet departments that almost never pass a financial audit
- Congress that sneaks unpopular measures into popular bills
- A Federal Reserve that refuses to account

for billions

- Congress that pushes hundreds of billions of debt on to future generations

There is a reason why the President's and Congress's approval ratings are so low. The Coffee Party trio stressed that government is broken. Park said we should forget our differences since this is a political emergency. And George Washington said “Government is force.”

Be civil and cooperate?

You just told me we all have to get along even if we are being gagged and robbed, our children drugged and brainwashed, our businesses taken over while we are being called selfish and a racist if we don't hand over my wallet and control over our own lives.

These things are not overstatements. Every on them is provable. I have no doubt the coffee partiers point to this as exactly the kind of incivility they are working against. But if they really want to understand the opposition they may want to listen to what the opposition has to say. Maybe they are trying but they sure are missing it.

Were Bostonians civil with the Redcoats at the Custom House in March of 1770? Were they civil with the East India Tea Company in Boston harbor? Were they civil at Concord and Lexington?

I see no reason to be civil with liars, cheats, thieves and leg breakers. You can decide who they are. I will be quite civil as soon as they remove their hand from my pocket.

## WHERE DO YOU STAND POLITICALLY? To find out, take the world-famous...

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—Scoring: For each statement, circle A if you Agree, M for Maybe (or don't know), or D if you Disagree.—

### How do you stand on PERSONAL ISSUES?

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| ◆ Government should not censor speech, press, media or Internet.   | A | M | D |
| ◆ Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft.  | A | M | D |
| ◆ There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. | A | M | D |
| ◆ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs.       | A | M | D |
| ◆ There should be no National ID card.                             | A | M | D |

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: \_\_\_\_\_

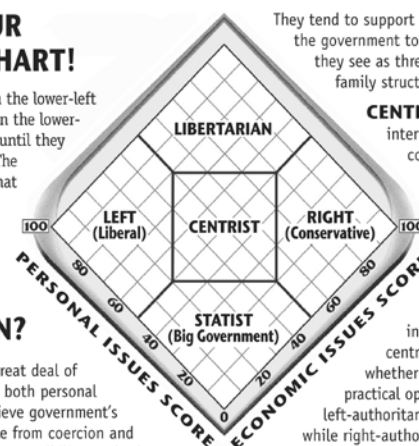
### How do you stand on ECONOMIC ISSUES?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| ◆ End “corporate welfare.” No government handouts to business.        | A | M | D |
| ◆ End government barriers to international free trade.                | A | M | D |
| ◆ Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security. | A | M | D |
| ◆ Replace government welfare with private charity.                    | A | M | D |
| ◆ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more.                   | A | M | D |

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: \_\_\_\_\_

### ► NOW FIND YOUR PLACE ON THE CHART!

Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The Chart shows the political group that agrees with you most.



They tend to support the free market, but frequently want the government to defend the community from what they see as threats to morality or to the traditional family structure.

**CENTRISTS** favor selective government intervention and emphasize what they commonly describe as “practical solutions” to current problems. They tend to keep an open mind on political issues. Many centrists feel that government serves as a check on excessive liberty.

**STATISTS** want government to have a great deal of control over individuals and society. They support centralized planning, and often doubt whether liberty and freedom of choice are practical options. At the very bottom of the chart, left-authoritarians are usually called socialists, while right-authoritarians are generally called fascists.

### ► WHAT DOES YOUR SCORE ON THE CHART MEAN?

**LIBERTARIANS** support a great deal of liberty and freedom of choice in both personal and economic matters. They believe government's only purpose is to protect people from coercion and violence. They value individual responsibility, and tolerate economic and social diversity.

**LEFT-LIBERALS** generally embrace freedom of choice in personal matters, but support central decision-making in economics. They want the government to help the disadvantaged in the name of fairness. Leftists tolerate social diversity, but work for what they might describe as “economic equality.”

**RIGHT-CONSERVATIVES** favor freedom of choice on economic issues, but want official standards in personal matters.

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