

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

January 6, 2010– 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa



LP Sonoma

February 3, 2010 – Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

Bill of Rights Day

December 15, 2010 – A perfect day to pen a note to the President and Congress that you will not give up your Tenth Amendment rights!

Everyday

Libertarian politicians won't help you line your pockets, but neither will they pick your pockets. While the rich can stand to lose their pocket change, can the poor?

What's a Libertarian to do?

Honor liberty every day

Every day is another 24 hours during which some small effort can be made to further liberty. That's 1,440 minutes from which one or two or fourteen will hardly be missed.

In the Imperial Valley John Hunter maintains a series of 150 water stations for immigrants seeking a new life in America. A former U.S. attorney claims this is illegal. Probably true, but isn't freedom mostly illegal, even in America? John may be doing more than most, but that is not the point. The point is he is doing something.

Honor liberty. Wake up, silence the alarm clock, and decide how you will honor liberty. On the next day, repeat the process. On the day after, repeat it again. If you have a better idea let LibertyRISING know.

Liberty is a wall that separates us from the tyrants and do-gooders. Its function is similar to the dikes in The Netherlands. Every school boy and girl there knows to immediately plug small leaks. If not, soon the dike will fail and surging waters will wash away their property and lives. Likewise, the wall of liberty will fail if the small infringements are not checked. What are your children learning in government schools?

Honor Wollstonecraft, Wallenberg, and Parks. Clip this and send to your representatives in Congress. Just say NO.

News break

Copenhagen innumeracy

Of all the silliness to come out of the

Copenhagen climate conference, the demand for hundreds of billions of dollars in aid to nations threatened by climate change takes the cake. Do they teach math anywhere on Earth?

Take a nation of 50 million people and a per capita income of \$5,000. With modest economic strangulation (typical of statism) they might achieve a 1% growth rate and double their income in 72 years. At a capitalist growth rate of 6% they would double their income every 12 years, or six doublings in 72 years. That works out to a per capita income of \$320,000 via capitalism versus \$10,000 under the best third-world despotism. Fifty million residents with a capitalist gain of \$310,000 each translates into a gain of \$15,500,000,000,000. And, that's just in the 72nd year. Hundreds of trillions from capitalism beats hundreds of billions from despotism every time!

It is time to unchain the secret weapon of capitalism – compound financial growth.

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LP Sonoma

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Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

What's the answer?

Q: *What ever happened to classical liberalism?*

A: *It was co-opted by regressive progressives. As late as forty years ago liberals in Australia were kidnapping half-caste children (a mix of white and aborigine) and putting them in servant training schools. Their rationale was explained – "In spite of himself the native must be helped."*

Q: *Why is democracy failing?*

A: *Because people were taught to love democracy long before the laws of economics (human behavior) were understood. It is economically unwise to make much effort, if any, opposing some tiny infringement upon your liberty. Wisely, like the frog in the pot of water, ignoring slight changes conserves scarce time and money. But, eventually, your goose is cooked along with the frog.*

What do you know?

Standards have changed

Compared to a year ago political standards have changed greatly. Deficits used to be bad; now they are good, and bigger is better. Corruption used to be bad; now it is good, even if it costs \$30 billion to buy the vote of a U.S. Senator.

Global warming used to be bad; now stable temperatures are just as bad. Fraud-plagued government programs were bad; now, we need a new giant fraud-riddled government health care plan.

If you are tired of the inconsistencies, remember what is constant. They are coming for your liberties. All else is distraction. Too many ugly guns, too many uninsured, too

few homeowners, too many unemployed, whatever they say, it is just a distraction to give them an opening to further constrict your liberty.

Privatize, deregulate, and un-tax, that's the Libertarian prescription.

Comics

12/31 *The Press Democrat*

Senator Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) attempted to defend his \$30 billion bribe to vote for the Senate health care bill by stringing together a series of idiotic claims. He defends the Senate abomination stating "[the bill is] a commonsense approach." Amtrak and the USPS run deficits year after year. Medicare is so riddled with fraud and waste that Nelson expects to save \$500 billion over the next ten years. Medicare and Social Security combined have promised to pay out to future generations \$50,000,000,000,000 more than will be collected in taxes. So, according to Senator Ben Nelson, it is "commonsense" to start yet another government boondoggle.

Idiocy after idiocy spills from Nelson's lips, including his triumphant chant that "It's not run by the government." The Senate bill regulates insurance company pay and profits. It mandates coverages that consumers may not want. It forces insurers to cover pre-existing conditions. It spends 2,000 pages minutely controlling health care and health insurance, and still Nelson insists "It's not run by the government." It takes an idiot to tout fascism over socialism.

12/21 *The Press Democrat*

With the opening of a tax-free tobacco store in Cloverdale complaints are surfacing about its unfair advantage. Of course, freedom always confers an unfair advantage, which is why we have so much detrimental regulation.

12/29 *The Press Democrat*

The high resolution and very revealing airport scanners are on their way. The feds will spend billions to achieve what could easily be done by requiring passengers to go through screening naked. Stay tuned, or take the bus.

"You can use all the fancy words you want, but in the end government has no money. Everything government has it gets from you. That is the most fundamental lesson of political economy, without which no clear thinking takes place."

Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

12/29 *The Press Democrat*

"Hundreds of Petaluma city employees may accept a furlough program to save co-workers' jobs." See, there is a direct connection between pay rates and the number of people employed. By lowering their pay jobs are saved. Conversely, raising pay costs jobs. That is just the opposite of what the Petaluma City Council claimed in the recent controversy over living wages.

How is it that everyone but Petaluma City Council members understands this truth which is carefully explained in most every economics textbook? When are Petaluma City Council members going to start wearing paper bags over their heads when in public? Perhaps they need encouragement. Clip this article and send it along with a paper bag to the city council.

12/28 *The Press Democrat*

A proposed Lowe's store is meeting opposition in Clearlake. Lake County Supervisor Rob Brown insists that "national chains often undercut local stores by paying low, part-time wages without benefits." Right, small, local mom-and-pop stores are a prime source of high-paying jobs!

Everyone benefits from competition. Shoppers are rewarded with savings. Workers get higher wages because a new store has to bid those workers away from their current employers. At any one point in time some people will be benefiting and some will be hurt, but over time economic growth helps all.

12/28 *The Press Democrat*

“Illegally dumped garbage is piling up on federal lands, often creating toxic hazards and costly cleanups.” Right, these are the people who are going to safeguard our health care.

12/27 *The Press Democrat*

The Parade magazine insert carried convincing evidence on the looming failure of MasterObamaCare. “Scientists have developed a miniature video camera that is set in the center of an eyeglass and transmits signals to tiny electrodes implanted in the back of the eye.” Now, compare that cost (just imagine) with the cost of not doing anything (traditional medical treatment). Multiply that by the thousands upon thousands of such technological enhancements to the human body and free medical care will bankrupt this nation.

Directory

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www.LPSonoma.org

Libertarian Party of California
www.LPC.org

“In a moral society, your fear of freedom cannot require my forfeiture of liberty.”

Vantage Vigilance Valor

12/27 *The Press Democrat*

In its anonymous editorial this paper insists, “And it won’t bust the budget.” Somehow Publisher Bruce W. Kyse, Executive Editor Catherine Barnett, Managing Editor Robert L. Sowfford, an Editorial Director Paul C. Gullixson never got the CBO (Congressional Budget Office) memo explaining how they manage to be non-partisan. The CBO uses a very mechanistic method of predicting future costs and tax collections. A ten percent tax increase on someone currently paying ten percent of their income in taxes will automatically result in that person paying 11% ($10 \times 1.1 = 11$). Totally ignored is the possibility that the taxpayer will reduce his efforts so that he still pays 10%, or the possibility she will replace some taxable income with non-taxable income, or even that she will reduce her taxable income by living off of accumulated capital.

Since CBO numbers don’t consider the possibility that people will act differently than Congress intends, their “numbers” are meaningless. Obamacare will bust the budget.

12/25 *The Press Democrat*

We are reminded, “Sonoma County libraries closed until Jan. 4.” Of course they are. Aren’t we all looking forward to similar closures at the federal level on health care? Whether it’s the ever burgeoning deficit and debt, SEIU going on strike, or a shortage of un-scented fair-trade hospital supplies, you can bank on future health care closures.

12/25 *The Press Democrat*

We are cheerily told (scolded?) “Why a two-year institution is a smart start for many students, families.” SRJC sells an education for about \$27/unit – too bad it costs \$270/unit to produce! Is it really beneficial to the many families paying the taxes that support such a lavish subsidy?

Do the math: $\$270/\text{unit} \times 15 \text{ units/semester} \times 4 \text{ semesters} = \$16,200$ for a two-year degree. Since a quality four-year degree can cost as little as \$7,000, SRJC is hardly delivering any real value. Doubters are encouraged to contact LibertyRISING for details.

12/24 *The Press Democrat*

The headline reads, “Governor banking on federal bailout.” What else is new? Isn’t everyone standing in line for a federal bailout? From automobiles and insurance to health care and mass transit, the hands are out. Why stand on your own feet when the feds will give you a wheelchair (after breaking your legs)?

12/18 *The Press Democrat*

Forty years of nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site has left behind a massive and enduring legacy of toxic pollution. Contaminated aquifers amount to a huge resource loss, courtesy of the federal government. And why not, when you don’t have to pay for a resource why bother considering alternative uses or future consequences.

This “tragedy of the commons” plays itself out wherever government owns a resource and to a lesser extent whenever resources are sold below market value. It doesn’t matter if the resource is land, oil, or health care, tragedies will ensue. Cheap land gave use toxic pollution, cheap gas gave us rationing and waiting lines, and cheap health care will give us an extra ration of disease and death. Thanks Uncle Sam.

Media silence

Connect the dots

The media loves to lampoon after-the-fact those who failed to connect the dots before-the-fact. Sadly, it is really the media that can’t connect the dots.

An Associated Press story from December 23rd explained how state politicians skirted campaign-finance laws. Unable to connect the dots, the media is unable to reach the most obvious conclusion: Most anyone burdened with regulations will make a great effort to circumvent them.

Apparently neither the media nor politicians understand that if politicians can find ways around regulations specifically written to control their rotten behaviors, then so can most anyone else. Thus endeth the lesson.

December 28, 2009

Editor
The Bakersfield Californian
opinion@bakersfield.com

Dear Editor,

Wes Jackson's recent opinion piece on the public health challenge of global warming is in desperate need of several corrections. It is false for him to suggest that 99 percent of the scientists publishing "in referred journals on climate" are in agreement on the subject, which may be why he provides no authoritative reference. The political left has a long record of just making up the numbers needed to "prove" their case. They did so with homelessness and species loss, and now they are doing it with phony numbers on global warming consensus.

The lack of consensus is also a prominent part of the United Nation's IPCC report. Several future scenarios are given, each with equivalent probabilities. The odds for a large temperature increase over the next 100 years are the same as the odds for a moderate increase, which is the same as for virtually no increase. Where is the consensus? Worse, the U.N. trumpeted 90% confidence, a level that is virtually never used by scientists. In complicated affairs scientists use 95% to 99.9% confidence levels while politicians and propagandists use lesser standards.

Finally, the identified public health dangers from global warming need to be compared to the current public health dangers from global poverty. The latter dwarfs the former. Why spend \$1,000 to save someone in the future when we can spend \$100 and save dozens today? Worse, why should relatively poor people spend that \$1,000 when future residents will be thirty times wealthier (assuming a 4% growth rate, trivial for a capitalist economy)?

In the interest of full disclosure, I would rather be free in a warming world than a mere serf or subject in a world where my every decision is usurped by bureaucrats cloaked in the protective robes of "doing good."

Sincerely,
James R. Oglesby

This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. Very long articles will be considered for publication on a \$20/page fee basis (you pay to cover the additional printing and postage costs).

Your Econ Guru

Man's greatest invention

One of the more disturbing aspects of the Star Trek series and movies is the lack of money. As perhaps man's greatest invention it is difficult to conceive of an advanced civilization that did not use such a necessary and efficient device as money.

Find an extra object lying about the house (new is good but not necessary) and make a list of things you need. Now, head out to work or to a gathering of friends and try and trade what you've got for what you want. Imagine doing your weekly grocery shopping that way. Imagine buying parts for car? What do you have that DirecTV needs?

The impossibility of some trades and the difficulty of every trade should give you a clear picture of why economic progress was so slow prior to the invention of money.

Computers and the internet certainly help, but barter still sucks, even when transacted at the speed of electrons. Just for fun advertise a book on Craigslist with payment to be some other specific book. Not so easy.

Yet, we've barely scratched the surface of what money does for us. Most wonderfully money results in easily compared prices. Then, like magic or perhaps an invisible hand, such price comparisons coordinate the production of goods and services between households, with businesses, across state lines, and even around the world.

Resources (land, labor, capital) are guided to their best use, not by politi-

cians and tyrants, but by comparative prices.

With a fabulously expensive starship at your disposal, what quadrant, what solar system, what planet would you explore? Why, where the expected return on your investment would be the greatest. While Captain Kirk is flitting about consuming resources and making his backers ever poorer, the economical space captain is enriching his backers and making further exploration ever more possible with ever more capable ships and crews.

Considering the marvelous power of money, it is no wonder that tyrants attempt to control money to suit their own venal pursuits, political and otherwise. In difficult times a silver dime (U.S., pre-1965) is worth a wheelbarrow of currency. Real money, the tool of civilization and progress, is one invention you do not want to be without. Stockpile small denomination gold and silver coins.

While shrouded in the mystery of time, the legend of silver bullets and werewolves (government agents) makes sense. With silver bullets you have both the real money and the ammunition needed to defend your liberty.

Freedom tracks

Isn't it time to have a movie festival? Your editor celebrated the new year by viewing Captain's Courageous and Rabbit-Proof Fence, two libertarian gems. Other movies that come to mind are: Harry's War, Brazil, and The Fountainhead. Some web sites list: Shenandoah, Amistad, The Castle, The Winslow Boy, So Big, The Palermo Connection, Pacific Heights, My Beautiful Laundrette, Braveheart, Fahrenheit 451, The Outlaw Josey Wales, Ghost Busters, Minority Report, and Antz. Any thoughts?

Are you laying freedom tracks? If yes, let us know. If no ...