

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

October 7, 2009– 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa



LP Sonoma

November 4, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.

Bill of Rights Day

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 – Canceled due to the continuing economic crisis. You will be notified by the government when your rights have been restored. Until then, obey!

Everyday

Libertarian politicians won't help you line your pockets, but neither will they pick your pockets.

What's a Libertarian to do?

Take the Orland test

The Orland Project (Orland, CA) was a federal water reclamation project authorized in 1907. \$1.2 million was spent building dams and canals in order to irrigate 20,000 acres of farmland.

To mark the 100th anniversary in 2007, a blogger posted his comments under the headline, "The Orland Project, or Why I'm Not a Libertarian." The Orland test is simple. Answer the bloggers defense of this federal project.

If you can do so, then start writing letters to the editor. If you can't, then start digging into the philosophy of libertarianism, and take that econ 101 course.

Government will respect your rights only when it is afraid of your knowledge, your skills, and your determination.

Draft a letter

Draft that letter to the editor you have been putting off, and bring it to the next LP Sonoma meeting. Fellow Libertarians will offer friendly and helpful suggestions to turn your draft into socialists' worst nightmare – the light of reason.

Unless you speak up, why should THEY listen?

News break

Obama, wrong message & wrong audience

In his recent message to America's schoolchildren, President Obama erred in two critical ways. Like their parents, school kids spend their time on things their value. If they are not doing their

homework, paying attention in class, or quitting school, it is because our government schools are not offering them a reasonable value.

Lecturing children won't improve the perceived value they place on government provided "free" education. Obama should have delivered his message to school administrators and teachers. The message should have been "improve your product or get out of the way!"

Google "Sudbury Schools."

LibertyRising now at Borders & Copperfields

Thanks to Kate Moore & David Koolhoven, LibertyRising can now be found at Sawyer's News, Copperfields (Santa Rosa), and Borders.

Thank you Kate and David. Thank you for your energy and dedication.

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Victim outreach

9/2/09 Santa Rosa - Local businesses vocally support government efforts to squash Lowe's plans for a store on Santa Rosa Avenue. Exchange Bank, Skyhawk Village Market, Clover Stornetta, Friedman's Home Improvement, and La Tortilla Factory all joined in the attack on Lowe's.

While it is too late to help Lowe's, it is not too late to register your disgust with the anti-market stance of Lowe's opponents.

Send a pointed letter to the above businesses. Remind them it should be your choice where to shop, not theirs.

LP Sonoma

LP Sonoma officers

Chair Kate Moore
Vice-Chair David Koolhoven
Secretary Frank Ball
Treasurer James Oglesby

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

What's the answer?

From a blog on the Orland Project, it became apparent that many who know a little about Libertarianism don't know enough. The following Q&A will help.

Q: What's this "do no harm" thing?

A: I think "do no harm" has something to do with the Hippocratic Oath. Libertarian Party members take an oath not to initiate violence to achieve "political or social goals."

Q: How can the oath to "do no harm" be of any help in evaluating government policy?

A: Wrong question! Since Libertarians do not believe it is proper to initiate the use of force (except when willing to make restitution), it is therefore wrong for government to do so. It does not matter if the issue at hand is dangerous drugs, retirement security, medical care, or military manpower, initiating the use of force is wrong.

Q: Won't privately build dams be unsafe?

A: Of course, everything is unsafe. Space shuttles self-destruct, a Soviet nu-

clear power plant vaporized, and double-decked freeways pancaked during an earthquake. Everything is unsafe. The real question is who has the incentive to make things safe enough? To determine that answer just examine accidental death rates over time. Neither workplace accidents nor consumer safety correlate with government regulation. Safety improvements correlate with rising economic well-being. As people become more prosperous they become more safety conscious. The key to safety is to remove government impediments to economic prosperity.

What do you know?

Is federal spending an economic stimulus?

As our President has insisted, any federal spending stimulates the economy, stupid. Yes, and if spending stimulates, then not spending retards the economy. So, federal spending financed by federal taxes both stimulates and retards the economy.

What about federal borrowing in order to stimulate the economy? Well, borrowing from private investors simply reduces the economic stimulus of private investments. Federal borrowing and spending both stimulates and retards the economy.

What about just printing more money? Why not use inflation to stimulate the economy? Fine, more money chasing the same amount of goods and services just pushes up prices. Early in the process some people get more, while by the end of the inflation cycle everyone gets less.

The tooth fairy moves money from parent to child, leaving the household no richer. The stimulus fairies in Washington achieve the same result with the national economy.

What Americans really want from government?

A professional pollster has determined that what Americans really, really want from government is:

Accountability

Legislators gerrymander their district boundaries specifically to avoid this. They use their political power to protect their own. Accountability is always wanting. It would be much more effective to restrict the powers of government.

Respect for "the people."

How can you respect those you rule? How can you respect the able-bodied and sound of mind who must be watched over their entire lives and provided with cradle to grave welfare? How can you respect those who would trade their liberty for the mere promise of security?

Results (that work)

Sorry, government is the wrong tool for that. Results that work come from individuals making mutually beneficial decisions – the marketplace. Since government doesn't work very well, let's keep it simple and small.

Bold Action

While certainly often giving us bold action, the results of government action are almost always shockingly ineffective, wasteful, and inimical to our liberties. What we really need is bold individualism.

"Whoever tells you to exist for the state is, or wants to be, the state."

Ayn Rand

Oversight

This would ensure that government laws, regulations, and programs were effective, efficient, and fair. This is done in the marketplace through mutually beneficial agreements. The purpose of government is to bypass the marketplace and impose ineffective, inefficient, and unfair mandates.

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

Comics

9/2 *The Press Democrat*

Sonoma County officials have apparently fallen for the union con that local wages need to match wages in similar-sized cities. Where do we find these officials that don't know that the only required wage is the one that attracts an applicant willing & able to do the job?

9/2 *The Press Democrat*

A writer from Sonoma argues that those who object to socialized medicine also give up "public education, police and fire protection, postal delivery service and Medicare." We'd be happy to if the government would also stop charging us for those services. Private schools, security services, fire departments, mail delivery and health insurance all exist. Why is the public so clueless? I had better not say government schools.

9/3 *The Press Democrat*

Since health insurance is unaffordable to many, the California legislature has decided to increase taxes on insurance companies to help pay for 700,000 uninsured children. With much more help like that all children will be uninsured.

Directory

LibertyRISING is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor.

The deadline for the October issue is 10/10/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

James R. Oglesby
c/o LibertyRISING
5774 Lois Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707 838-4059

LPSonomaNews@aol.com

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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

9/18 *The Press Democrat*

Instead of allowing the utility companies to provide the energy Californians need, state regulators are planning on banning energy-guzzling TVs.

Apparently wanting lots of electricity is not permitted in California. This speaks volumes about how government will respond to the demand for lots of medical care.

9/21 *The Press Democrat*

At the annual "progressive" love-fest in Petaluma many wailed about violence and the need to find a better way of dealing with problems. How is it that progressives don't know that their philosophy is founded upon violence and requires that other be forced to do their bidding? It is Libertarianism that rejects the initiation of violence and seeks voluntary solutions.

9/15 *The Press Democrat*

An 84 year-old writer states, "I feel good about Medicare." What's not to like about being an early participant in a Ponzi scheme and getting more back than invested?

9/14 *The Press Democrat*

A writer insists that the way to judge Supreme Court justices is to see if they ask any questions. What's wrong with determining if their opinions are supported by the Constituion?

9/12 *The Press Democrat*

Kathleen Shaffer, Sebastopol City Council member, is disturbed that "every wealthy country other than the United States guarantees [health] care to its citizens." Are those health care programs solvent? Is the guarantee contractual? Are those citizens protected

by a written Bill of Rights? Just wondering.

9/13 *The Press Democrat*

President Obama has imposed a tariff on cheap Chinese tires. If health care and health insurance are so important, why must the poor first pay more for tires before they can buy such care and insurance?

9/08 *The Press Democrat*

A writer bleats, "Why are seniors who have so little to give asked to give so much?" Is it possible that seniors are being asked to give so much simply because they are taking so much?

Social Security and Medicare tax rates were set when there were proportionally many more people working than were collecting benefits. This allowed overly generous benefits to be promised to current retirees (as any Ponzi scheme does), while leaving the system dreadfully short of funds for future retirees.

9/03 *The Press Democrat*

A hostile write insists that tax-deductible health insurance means that the federal taxpayer is really footing the bill. Really? Since a taxpayer's income is rightfully all hers, no burden is being shifted on federal taxpayers. If they don't like the cost of the goods and services provided, perhaps they should reduce their taxes and shift their purchases to the free market.

9/27 *The Press Democrat*

A writer wants to fund parks by taxing mountain bikes. Why not just have park users, including mountain bikers pay an entrance fee sufficient to fund the park. It is amazing how often the solution to a problem is to pick someone else's pocket!

Media silence

Wage rates affect employment

9/2/09 Santa Rosa – For nearly the 100th time this year the local media has feature a story linking wage rates to employment levels. In every case employees of businesses and government agencies have bargained for lower wages in an effort to reduce layoffs.

With such a clear and powerful link between wages and employment, how is it that prevailing wage advocates can get away with pretending that no such link exists? How can government officials in Sonoma, Petaluma, and Sebastopol get away with such pretense? Media silence, perhaps?

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

Nazis under the bed

This past summer House Majority Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke fearfully about Nazi symbols at Tea-Party rallies. Strangely inarticulate, Speaker Pelosi was unable to explain if the symbols were in support of Nazi policies and National Socialism, or if the symbols were used to agitate against Nazi policies and National Socialism. The mainstream media was unable to explain either; silence is golden.

Some in talk radio seized upon this smear by Speaker Pelosi to point out that Obamacare and other actions taken by President Obama were similar to economic programs pursued by the National Socialists in Germany.

Typically, the mainstream media got it wrong again. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau, in a recent *Doonesbury* cartoon, used six panels to unintentionally highlight the media dysfunction: Panel 1 – Hitler. Panel 2 – Nazi book burning. Panel 3 – world war. Panel 4 – Nazi death camp. Panel 5 - a cemetery for the soldiers who died fighting fascism. Panel 6 – Pretending that those protesting Obama with Nazi symbols are attempting to link the President to Hitler, book burning, world war, and

death camps.

The several talk radio show I have heard that linked President Obama's to Nazis have all made it clear that they were making the link to the economic policies of National Socialism. It is no wonder that there is so much distrust of the mainstream media.

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

My \$0.02

Dear Editor,

House Resolution 1207, the bill which would audit the Federal Reserve Bank, has been supported by the California State Libertarian Central Committee. I, however, think it will become a first step in the federal congress gaining control of the United States money supply. Which, while it may sound beneficial in idea, we have seen what the congress has done without having direct control over money printing. If more control of our money is granted to congress, we will see it increasingly politicized, and the average United Statesman, as well as all those over the world who've come to rely on US dollars, will pay for even more unnecessary and uncontrollable chaos.

David Koolhoven

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

Basic Economics (Part IV)

Welcome to Part IV of a four-part introduction to economics. Lesson one dealt with **opportunity cost**. Lesson two dealt **with rational decision making**. Lesson three **covered why incentives matter**, which is to say, that incentives bend human behavior regardless of the intentions of those who legislate the incentives.

Now, let's turn our attention towards **marginal analysis**. Economic

decisions are made on the margin, when the next unit of production must be produced or consumed. Every consumer and producer is different, so they make these decisions at different points.

Rising gasoline prices cause consumers to reduce trips, carpool, move closer to work, telecommute, drive more carefully to conserve fuel, buy regular cars that get better gas mileage, and even to buy hybrids and plug-in electrics. But, they do so at different prices, which maximizes the efficiency of their efforts.

The college student struggling with tuition and books will likely forgo the new hybrid and buy a used fuel-thrifty car. She gives up the weekly fuel savings while gaining a wad of cash in her pocket to cover books and tuition.

Government destroys this automatic efficiency by setting universal standards and deadlines. Fuel efficiency standards, water rationing, minimum wages, and pollution controls are all examples of ways government destroys the efficient working of the market place as arbitrary (and politically motivated) commands replace marginal analysis.

A future installment, your graduate course, will cover public choice theory in general and the Coase Theorem in particular.

James R. Oglesby received his B.A. degree in Economics from Sonoma State University in 1984.

Freedom tracks

Mike Kupperberg and James Miller have donated postage stamps to cover the next few issues of *LibertyRising*.

Again, thanks to Kate Moore and David Koolhoven *LibertyRising* can now be found at Sawyer's News, Copperfields, and Borders.

The 8/31/09 edition of The Press Democrat carried a nice libertarian letter defending free-market capitalism from a particularly scurrilous attack.

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