

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

August 12, 2009 – 5:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.



LP Sonoma

September 2, 2009 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.

LP Sonoma

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

Bill of Rights Day

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

What's a Libertarian to do?

Call, write, and visit

It's called the personal touch. Congress is in recess. Most of its members have headed home to meet with constituents and host fund raisers. This is the perfect time to make personal contact.

Leave behind the chip on your shoulder, misplace the rotten tomatoes you have saved up, pretend you actually respect America's criminal class, and make personal contact with your representatives. Make a polite phone call. Hand-write a polite note or letter. Visit them at their district office without your cannon in tow. Politely, calmly, and with great clarity, tell them of the line you have drawn in the sand.

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

Calif. budgets \$84 billion

Amazingly, not long after *LibertyRISING* detailed an \$87 billion budget for the state, legislators approved an \$84 billion budget for 2009-10.

Of course, *LibertyRISING* argued for \$87 billion in total state spending.

What passed was \$84 billion in general fund spending, and much of that is accounting gimmicks.

Send that article to your state representatives.

Cash for "clunkers"

Many had hoped the federal "cash for clunkers" program would pay to turn in all 535 members of Congress in exchange for newer models. It had been assumed the new models would feature state-of-the-art safety features, such as copies of the U.S. Constitution and degrees in economics.

Unfortunately, the program morphed into a weird vehicle gas mileage upgrade that destroys the vehicles turned in. This is the same type of "progressive" madness that helped the hungry during the Great Depression by killing masses of livestock and plowing under thousands of acres of maturing crops. Destroying hard won resources is never a good idea.

Many people buying new cars are making a windfall profit as they are

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getting paid to do what they had already planned on doing. Others are buying now instead of next year or the year after. Those missing buyers will adversely impact the recovery.

A bad but free government programs always trumps good private programs that you pay for.

LibertyRising now at Sawyer's News

Thanks to Kate Moore, *LibertyRising* can now be found at Sawyer's News. As a result, this newsletter will return to a monthly publishing schedule.

Submit your letters, articles, complaints, and comments by the 10th of each month.

LP Sonoma

Meeting report

At its July meeting the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County (LP Sonoma) budgeted \$300 for its efforts at the Wednesday Night Market. An "Operation Politically Homeless" kit was ordered from Advocates For Self-Government. To help with this project contact Kate or David via the LPSonoma.org website.

James Oglesby won the door prize – "Glenn Beck's Common Sense, The Case Against an Out-of-Control Government, inspired by Thomas Paine."

See "What's happening?" for the next scheduled meeting.

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?

Q: What is the best introduction to economics for adults?

A: *The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance*, by Russell Roberts.

Q: Is the Obama memorial finished?

A: Yes, the extravagant memorial to America's greatest president has been prefabricated and will soon replace the Washington Monument.

What do you know?

How does National Socialism work?

In 1939 Gunter Reimann wrote "The Vampire Economy." His study of National Socialism in Germany is a much needed antidote for today's Obama-led foray into the progressive wonderland of national economic planning. If we don't learn from the past we are certainly condemned to repeat the follies of the long dead. Sharpen your mind.

The president who can't find \$20 billion in wasteful federal spending has promised to find \$1,000 billion in wasteful health care spending.

How do you know when a socialist is serious?

When a socialist sets out to solve a problem through voluntary efforts, you know she is serious. When they try to force you to join or otherwise help them, you know they are running a con.

Take health care (please). Canada has a population of just over 30 million, and England's population is just over 50 million. They have socialized health care of the type many demand for America. Well, if the socialists were serious they would simply gather together 30 to 50 million people under the banner of a not-for-profit corporation (Free Health Care Now, Inc.). Each such member would be charged a subscription fee and each would be entitled to medical benefits provided by FHCN doctors and hospitals.

Why are they waiting?

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

Comics

7/18 *The Press Democrat*

Our governor has ordered a steep reduction in the state vehicle fleet after an audit revealed that "possibly thousands of state workers have been given government cars to drive home without justification." Of course, no one has been fired, demoted, or punished in any way. Clearly, the joke is on use. Too bad we can't turn in "clunker" government workers.

6/18 *The Press Democrat*

In addition to billions more for high-speed rail, Amtrak has been given another \$1.5 billion for its failed operations. Rural airlines are getting \$175 million to serve unprofitable routes. After spending \$13.5 billion on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage facility, it will be closed without ever having gone operational. Glowing with glee.

6/19 *The Press Democrat*

SRJC is cutting 430 classes from its fall schedule. Government cuts costs by cutting services. So, for how long have we been paying taxes for unneeded classes? Government is the joke and it's on us. Some lesson.

Continued on page 3.

Directory

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

The deadline for the September issue is 9/10/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

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Subscriptions are free to members, free by email, and \$10/yr by government mail.

Libertarian Party of Sonoma County:
www.LPSonoma.org

Libertarian Party of California
www.LPC.org

“Indeed bad things can happen in nations where the citizenry is armed, but not as bad as those which seem to be threatening our disarmed citizenry in this country at this time.”

Col. Jeff Cooper

6/19 The Press Democrat

In a letter, a professor from S.S.U. argues that California needs “a leader with the courage and conviction to maintain the health, education and welfare of all of its citizens.” Can’t help but think how the Cambodians were “maintained” by Pol Pot, or how the Amish were “maintained” when they resisted enrolling in Social Security. It is hardly ever funny when you’re on the business end of the cattle prod.

6/8 The Press Democrat

A breathless New York Times story informs us that “Feds move to restrict oil speculators.” But, aren’t we running out of oil? Because consumers haven’t gotten the memo, they are still consuming too much oil. Speculators, recognizing that there will be less oil in the future than is needed, are bidding up the price of oil.

Of course, higher prices now mean lower prices in the future. Isn’t that good? Isn’t that why we buy items on sale, so we don’t have to pay full price later on? This story is really funny only because most government schools actually teach economics. Only reporters and politicians opt out.

7/13 The Press Democrat

A writer argues against the conversion of mobile home parks to “condos,” claiming that “park land owners must bear what is their responsibility. Senior serenity is long overdue.” With slavery illegal, “senior serenity” is the province of seniors, not the responsibility of mobile home park owners. The “greatest generation” is now a joke.

7/15 The Press Democrat

In an unusual editorial The Press Democrat weighed in on school choice awarding “a failing grade for lawmakers blocking open enrollment.” Care to guess where they stood a few years ago on school vouchers? This is schoolyard funny – since when were politicians concerned about education?

7/17 The Press Democrat

NASA admits to losing the “original moon landing videotapes.” Just imagine the care the feds will give your medical records, not to mention your liver. At least laughter is good medicine.

7/17 The Press Democrat

According to president Obama, “Your destiny is in your hands.” Unless you want to provide for your own retirement, in which case you are forced to participate in Social Security and Medicare. Funny, isn’t it, how the most solemn pronouncements by politicians are false.

7/17 The Press Democrat

A writer wants to “decouple the ability to profit from the affordable health care debate.” Since profits guide businesses to satisfy consumer needs, it is amazing that the writer would eliminate that critical feature.

The writer continues by attacking as utopian the concept that “we can shop our way to health.” Ignorant of the laws of supply and demand, and thus ignorant of human behavior, the writer wants to decouple costs from decisions, resulting in a permanent mismatch between supply and demand.

Sadly, this childish writer demands that “some things – the sky, fresh water and access to health care – must not be part of this rush to commoditize the planet.” How funny is it that the one way to guarantee ample supplies of those items, commoditization, is specifically rejected?

7/17 The Press Democrat

Congress is insisting on funding F-22 jets that neither the Defense Department nor the President want. Apparently bringing home the pork takes precedence over the current deficit, the mushrooming debt, and national defense needs. Rather sobering and unfunny in the context of the health care debate.

7/18 The Press Democrat

A writer is horrified about the “obscene profits” in the health care industry. Further claiming that said profits “have purchased our politicians,” the writer insists upon reform. Strangely unsaid, was any mention of prohibiting politicians from giving the health care industry special favors, privileges, perks, and exemptions. Instead, our corrupt politicians are to be given more power over both the industry and our personal lives. This is deathly humor beyond the pale.

7/09 The Press Democrat

“Climate deal fizzles at G-8.” In other words, nothing the United States does to ameliorate global warming will do any good. Every dollar spent to reduce climate change will only reduce our wealth, making it more difficult to adapt to climate change. Are politicians this dumb really going to be put in charge of our health care? Hot fun anyone?

Media silence

The future of health care

In spite of the media’s inability to cover this story, the future of health care, though disguised, is well documented in the pages of our newspapers.

Locally, the Sonoma County Water Agency is limiting its water delivery to 53 million gallons per day, even though typical summer heat waves may produce a demand of 60 million gallons.

Substitute "Health" for "Water" and the future of health care is easy to see. While the public may want 60,000,000 flue shots, simply deliver 53,000,000.

Even Amtrak holds health care lessons. Where oh where does Amtrak run high-speed trains? Only in one place, the corridor between New York and Washington, D.C. The concentration of politicians, bureaucrats, and lobbyists is well served by taxpayers who subsidize their tickets. Meanwhile, Amtrak passengers in the rest of the nation make do with warm sodas in small plastic cups grudgingly garnished with an ice cube or two. That says all you need to know about politically dispensed health care.

Then, there is the popular 211 hot line information service. While staffed mostly by volunteers, it still takes \$220,000 to serve up to 45 calls per day (about 5 minutes per call). That works out to over \$18/call, or \$240/hour for a busy volunteer. Just imagine what actual doctors, surgeons, and nurses will cost.

The government model of waste, fraud, and corruption is the wrong model. How long do we have to wait for the media to intelligently report on our health care crisis?

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

My \$0.02

July 10, 2009

Cloverdale Reveille
PO Box 157
Cloverdale, CA 95425

Dear Editor,

I have a rather different take on the "hideous" cuts looming ahead for government schools. Those cuts are far better than the fate that awaits taxpayers. Start counting: California faces a \$24 billion deficit and has accumulated \$48 billion in unfunded pension liabilities. The federal government is closing in on a \$2 trillion deficit and a \$13 trillion debt, not to mention \$75-100 trillion in unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare.

I wonder how we can be so wealthy and have such long life ex-

pectancies while "special educations costs are continuing to rise"? Perhaps this is a great example of how both sides are gaming the system at taxpayer expense. Parents want more attention for their kids and seek to have them put in special education classes, regardless of the cost to taxpayers. Meanwhile educators get more money from the state compared to what they receive for other children, and naturally want more kids labeled "special ed."

Now, the impolite response to the question regarding whether government schools will "survive as an institution" is – I hope not. A better answer is that our schools will thrive when vouchers worth half the per pupil cost of our government schools are given to parents. Teachers and unions helped kill that idea a few years ago and we are now reaping the "benefits."

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

Basic Economics (Part III)

Welcome to Part III of a four-part introduction to economics. Lesson one dealt with **opportunity cost**. Lesson two dealt with **rational decision making**. This simply means that decisions have reasons and are thus rational. There is nothing to be gained by disputing decisions people make for themselves.

The third lesson in economics is that **incentives matter**. Put a juicy tidbit in a glass jar with a screw top lid, and an octopus will quickly unscrew the jar, even if it has never seen such a thing before. Food is a strong incentive. So is money, at least to humans who recognize it can be traded for tidbits.

Provide a cash incentive for some type of behavior, and you will get more of that behavior. Subsidize farming

and you will get more farmers. It matters not whether the subsidy takes the form of "rural electrification," interstate highways, or minimum prices for farm products, you will get more farmers.

All such subsidies lower the cost of farming relative to other occupations and investments. Some farmers delay retirement. Other farmers rethink selling out to developers. Some farmers expand their operations, including raising (rearing) more farmers. Investors move more money into farming (land and equipment).

Incentives matter. Whether in cash or via regulations, whether positive or negative, incentives cause people to adjust their behaviors. Slums are often plagued by rats. Pay residents a bounty for rat carcasses, and some residents will raise rats in order to ensure steady bounty payments.

The final installment will cover the importance of marginal analysis.

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

*Modern rules of citizenship:
Meekly accept your assigned
Social Security number;
Placidly register for the
draft; Docilely give up your
privacy to the I.R.S.; Mutely
allow your private property
to be regulated; and gleefully
accept health care scraps
from your masters."*

The President, Congress, and Supreme Court

Freedom tracks

Scott Moyer made yet another donation to help fund LibertyRISING.

Kate Moore has made arrangements for LibertyRISING to be distributed at Sawyer's News.

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