

Liberty Rising

What's happening?

LP Sonoma

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



LP Sonoma

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

Bill of Rights Day

Tuesday, 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!

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?

Take a time out

Take time to remember how so few have accomplished so much in pursuit of liberty (equal rights for all). The October issue of *LibertyRising* is dedicated to: Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), Raoul Wallenberg (1912-1947), and Rosa Parks (1913-2005).

As an early feminist Wollstonecraft challenged English law and tradition. Her *Vindication of the Rights of Women* was published in 1792. Admirably, she spoke truth to power with her challenge, "How many women thus waste life away the prey of discontent, who might have practiced as physicians, regulated a farm, managed a shop, and stood erect, supported by their own industry, instead of hanging their heads surcharged with the dew of sensibility."

Wallenberg may have saved as many as 100,000 Jews and others from death camps before vanishing into Papa Joe's (Stalin) gulag. It is ironic that having saved so many from the worst of National Socialism, Wallenberg perished in the paradise of yet another variant of socialism – Communist Russia.

Like this year's Joe Wilson, Rosa Parks impolitely said "no" to authoritarian government. She declined to politely vote on the issue. She did not write a letter to the editor. She did not exhaust her administrative remedies. She impolitely refused to abide by the laws and social conventions of the day and just said "no," she wasn't going to stand in the back of the bus, she was tired and was going to sit down, even if it was not permitted by law.

Wouldn't it be grand if in regards to health care our government would allow us to stand up, "supported by our own industry"? Isn't it time to stand up to socialism, even at great personal risk? Isn't it time to say "no"?

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

News break

Nobel Prize in Economics

2009 Nobel Prize winners Elinor Ostrom and Oliver E. Williamson proudly continue to build upon the works of Friedrich A. von Hayek. As described in the *Wall Street Journal* Ostrom and Williamson showed that, "Free markets are only a subset of free institutions. A better way to sum up their work is that what Ms. Ostrom and Mr. Williamson really show is that voluntary associations work." Yup, freedom works.

Hayek was the 1974 Nobel laureate along with Gunnar Myrdal.

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LP Sonoma

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Kate's commentary

Recently at Sonoma State University (SSU) the California Faculty Association (CFA) set up paper hands sticking out of the ground along with paper tombstones. Their agenda is to push for a new tax on oil and natural gas to fund college students. The tombstones were supposed to represent students "resting in peace" because SSU plans to reduce enrollment by 600 people. AB656 was crafted to try and push for this new tax as a solution to their problems. I wrote up a paper to show a far more sensible solution:

How to REALLY make college affordable: DO NOT SUPPORT AB656

Taxing oil and natural gas is nothing more than a band-aid on a broken leg. CFA claims this will be a "stable dedicated funding source." First of all, aren't we trying to REDUCE our dependency on oil and replace our energy with green alternatives? If we really want to do so, then this just won't be a stable source of revenue.

Also, increasing taxes on energy will be extremely harmful to poor people who depend on gas to get to work everyday. Do we really want to make that tradeoff when there is a much simpler and more cost-efficient solution?

The Real Solution

More people need college to get a job. Labor that could easily be done by someone with a GED several years ago now requires diplomas simply because so many people have them and companies can afford to be picky. Competition will always exist

no matter how hard you try to make everyone the same, so this game must end right here.

The most sensible solution is to simply ease up on regulation. Laws cost money and less money will be eaten up here. Right now we are required to go to school for 4 years JUST to get a Bachelors, and waste valuable time which could be spent focusing on just what you're going to be using in your career. Yes, biology is important, but it isn't needed for someone who's going into psychotherapy. If you talk to any therapist, I guarantee they will say that while they may be interested in biology, it's not something they use in their practice.

Which leads to how we can save even more money: replacing useless G.E. with just the specific courses you require and certificates for each program showing you can do your job. This would bring college to be a 2-3 year experience TOTAL. This would make college affordable to almost everyone, and not rack up huge debts for those getting by on student loans.

The four-year G.E. is no more than a game for the college to get money it doesn't deserve, and only provides make-work charity jobs. Our teachers could be teaching students who actually care about the subject and that would be beneficial to everyone involved. If we really want to help students get an education, let's stop the waste and start improving efficiency.

Kate Moore

What's the answer?

Q: When did America start to unravel?

A: The Lincoln administration would be picked by many, but we recovered from that, so let's jump ahead to Theodore Roosevelt. This nation has never recovered from Teddy's insistence that he could do anything that the law did not specifically forbid. And, by law he meant Congress, not the U.S. Constitution! Every president since has happily trod in T.R.'s "progressive" footsteps.

Q: Why is democracy failing?

A: Democracy has many charms for societies organized around campfires, but modern societies require free markets. It has been estimated that around New York City there are ten billion products that need to be shipped, delivered, stocked, displayed, and sold. Only a free market guided by real prices can accomplish that.

Q: How can we do a better job with our "Democracy?"

A: After acquiring competency with the M1 Garand: Master debate, public speaking, probability & statistics, world history, American history, the classics, and economics. Is it any wonder so many prefer to be taken care of?

Q: Do we need a 1990 page health care bill?

A: Sure, if the goal is to destroy our health care system and permanently demonize market-based solutions to life's challenges. If not, three pages would suffice. Page one: terminate state regulation of interstate commerce in insurance. Page two: Apportion monetary awards per degree of fault as opposed to depth of pockets. Page three: Allow individuals to use their accumulated Social Security "savings" to be diverted to health care.

A very small reform bill would do wonders if it reformed what is wrong with the current system – the denial of individual choice. The individual, whether poor or wealthy, whether employee or businesswoman, needs to be free to solve the problems she faces, even if you (yes you!) disagree with their choices.

What do you know?

Fear the do-gooder?

A tyrant can be distracted, if not satiated, by earthly delights: senseless brutality, senseless debauchery, and senseless ceremony. In contrast the do-gooder (perhaps a former community organizer) is relentless and implacable. He will force upon you his vision for you regardless of the price (to you or the treasury).

This is why doing good must be the province of the free market and voluntary associations. Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King, Mother Theresa, and Bill Gates have each done more good for humanity than all the do-gooders (even if elect-

ed to the presidency four times) put together.

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

Comics

10/16 *The Press Democrat*

This time it's a nurse demanding single-payer health care. Her big argument is that such a system "would eliminate the profit-hungry insurance companies." Sadly, so many seem not to understand the role of profits in a market economy.

First, profits only exist because a business has found a way to deliver goods and services at a cost less than the consumer is willing to pay. Second, this profit is vital as it guides businesses to provide exactly those goods and services that are in demand by consumers. Third, the existence of profits encourages competition by other firms. Fourth, profits encourage investment in firms that do a good job satisfying consumers (note how it is government that is keeping GM and Chrysler alive to the detriment of Ford and the taxpayer).

One wonders if we can survive the endemic illiteracy fostered by our government schools.

10/14 *The Press Democrat*

Strict energy standards are on the way for large screen TVs deemed to be energy hogs. Strange, isn't it, that what people want, from summer water to electricity for TVs, the government doesn't want to supply.

You don't have to be an expert in reading tea leaves to know that soon the government won't want to supply all of the hip replacements, cancer drugs, and CAT scans that the retiring Boomer generation wants.

10/9 *The Press Democrat*

A hateful hate crime law was approved by the House of Representatives. Whites can hate Blacks, but not the reverse. Straights can hate Gays, but not the reverse. Even a pro-Obamacare activist biting the fingertip off of an anti-Obamacare demonstrator won't qualify as a hate crime.

Criminals will still commit crimes, but now the feds can go after those

who think wrong thoughts. Think wrong about health care or global warming and you've committed a hate crime!

"Civilization is the encouragement of differences. Force, violence, pressure or compulsion with a view to conformity is both uncivilized and undemocratic."

Gandhi

10/8 *The Press Democrat*

Yet another doctor, this time from Santa Rosa, mangles the health care debate. He argues that lack of a public option "reflects a deep sense of selfishness and a lack of caring for others." A truly caring person advocates effective, efficient, and voluntary solutions to problems. That, invariably, leads to free-market solutions that actually help people.

We got Medicare because senior citizens were spending too much of their incomes on health care. Yet, seniors spend a higher percentage of their income on health care than before Medicare.

The good doctor even goes so far as to say, "It is morally wrong [not to provide health care to all]." That is some moral code, where involuntary servitude is celebrated and those who resist face the wrath of a heavily armored SWAT team.

10/4 *The Press Democrat*

A writer from Rohnert Park makes the too common mistake of wanting insurance for pre-existing conditions. If your tire is flat are you seriously going to try and buy a tire repair policy? No, you will simply pay to get it fixed.

Pre-existing conditions is rather like a reverse lottery, you never know when you're going to lose. Consequently, either buy insurance early or accept the losses if they occur. Life isn't fair and you can't make it fair by preying upon your neighbors to pay for your misfortune and mistakes.

10/4 *The Press Democrat*

From Sonoma a writer castigates managed care from the 1990s where "denials were based on cost rather than better outcomes or appropriate choices." Sorry, for an insurance company lower cost is always the better outcome and appropriate choice. Since the writer wants to ignore costs, why bother with insurance? Just pay for actual costs as you purchase medical care. Right, they should ignore costs but not you!

10/3 *The Press Democrat*

A Santa Rosan complains about the \$96,000 hospital bill for the removal of her husband's facial melanoma. Apparently, insurance only covered 10%. Question: Why did she think her insurance would cover the entire bill? Question: Did she get an estimate from the hospital and verify how much her insurance would pay? Question: She is now out \$86,400 and still has her husband, would she prefer the reverse?

Directory

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

The deadline for the November issue is 11/15/09. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

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

Vantage Vigilance Valor

9/29 *The Press Democrat*

In an op-ed piece Debra Birkinshaw glowingly touts the “magic number” 350, as in reducing atmospheric CO2 to 350 parts per million (1% = 10,000 parts per million).

Let’s put this in context. Increasing CO2 levels from 1900-1940 did not cause the then occurring global warming. Increasing CO2 levels from 1940-1980 did not cause the then occurring global cooling. Increasing CO2 levels from 1998-2009 did not cause the now occurring global temperature stability. But, Increasing CO2 from 1980-1998 absolutely, positively, did cause the then occurring global warming. How convenient.

9/29 *The Press Democrat*

With rare intelligence, a writer from Santa Rosa points out that many people avoid state park use fees by parking outside and walking in. In other words it takes but the intelligence of a Dalmation to outwit government regulators.

9/24 *The Press Democrat*

From Bodega a writer insists that, “We are witnessing the end result of unregulated capitalism.” Right, 80,000 pages of federal regulations, dozens of alphabet agencies, a mountain of state regulations, and none of it restricts or impedes insurance companies!

9/20 *The Press Democrat*

A doctor from Penngrove weighs in with the false claims that insurance companies “insert themselves between patients and physicians, and serve no useful function other than to charge a toll that makes bucketloads of money for their CEOs and stockholders.”

What a waste of an education. Insurance companies are asked to “insert themselves,” trade a small monthly premium for unpredictable and potentially huge medical costs, and are rewarded with an extremely small profit.

9/25 *The Press Democrat*

Apparently climate change is “outpacing 2007 estimates.” Even though the globe hasn’t warmed in a decade, cli-

mate change continues (when did it stop?).

This latest U.N. blurb claims that global warming over the last fifty years is “unequivocal.” Let’s see: 1960-79, global cooling; 1980-1998, global warming; 1999-2009, no warming. The record is so very unequivocal.

Tragically, “30 glaciers in nine separate mountain ranges” have doubled the rate at which they are melting. Question, are these randomly selected glaciers?

The clincher is the scientific reviewers claim that to prevent significant global warming, “everybody [every nation] has to do everything they can.” Since neither everybody nor every nation will do all they can, global efforts will fail. 2.5 Billion Chinese and Indians are not going to stay mired in poverty so first world elites can enjoy their beachfront properties. Thus, tremendous resources will be wasted when they could have been better used to accommodate warming.

Media silence

Health care reform clues

How can the media ignore the mountain of clues that speak to the failure of the health care reform effort? It should be possible to see how government acts in other areas (autos, energy, and water) and thus predict how government will act in the area of health care.

Remember the government’s restructuring of General Motors. The key players swapped debt for common stock, preferred stock, cash, and notes. If we deduct the latter three from the original debt we can determine how much common stock was purchased with each party’s debt.

1. The U.S. government traded 55% of the debt for 62% of the common stock.

2. The unions traded 1% of the debt for 17% of the common stock.

3. The Canadian government traded 10% of the debt for 12% of the common stock.

4. The bondholders traded 33% of the debt for 10% of the common stock.

Note the pattern: Governments did well, unions made out like bandits, and the little guys got taken to the cleaners!

While that’s the federal approach, how about the State of California? Energy is vital to our welfare and Californians want lots of it. Rather than allow the construction of energy generating plants and the needed transmission lines, California is demanding we use less energy. Certain large-screen TVs are being banned in order to keep the little guy from using all the energy he wants.

Okay, both the state and feds trample the little gal, what about local government. Water is vital to our happiness and is in great demand during the hot summer months. Instead of providing us with all the water we want to use (evidenced by our willingness to pay for same) local government demanded we conserve. Once again the little guy is trampled, including those who had already conserved and were expected to conserve even more.

The pattern is obvious (except to reporters and editorial writers); government ignores the demand for essential services and gives the little guy less than he is willing to pay for. Meanwhile, government officials and unions are laughing all the way to the bank. That is the future of health care reform!

A compliant media + politicians = a cesspool.

My \$0.02

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

On vacation!

Freedom tracks

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