



CONSERVATIVE BATTLELINE ONLINE

*The "Bold Colors" Conservative Voice
in Washington*

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Religion At Christmas 2010

by Donald Devine

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

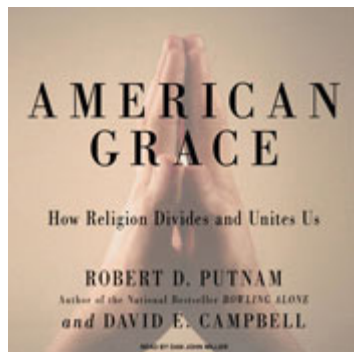
America continues to confuse the world. The U.S. is both economically developed and highly religious. Modernists can accept that India or Saudi Arabia or Nigeria are religious – they are expected to be “backward” – but the most modern, free, wealthy, creative, productive and scientific country in the world; no way?



Yet, it is a fact that more Americans will be activated to perform a function outside their homes on Christmas by going to church than any other public activity the whole year long, including July 4th, New Years, or even couch-potatoing the Super Bowl. Even the Europeans will put aside their skepticism that day and join two billion people in the world’s largest celebration of any event anywhere, anytime.

These observations are occasioned by the publication of the celebrated Harvard political sociologist Robert Putnam’s new book, with Professor David Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. Putnam is best known as the author of the classic book *Bowling Alone* and has been called the “most influential academic in the world today” for his work on social life and what is necessary to sustain civic order and community peace. The new book starts where the old left off, marveling at the importance of religion to the social life of the United States.

Eighty-three percent of Americans report belonging to a religion; 40 percent report attending religious services nearly every week or more; 59 percent pray at least weekly; a third report reading scripture with this same frequency. Many Americans also have firm religious beliefs. Eighty percent are absolutely sure that there is a God. Sixty percent are absolutely sure there is a heaven, although fewer (52 percent) have this level of certainty about a life after death.



Sixty-two percent say they “very often” feel God as “love” in their life. Although some are not religious, only 18 percent say they do not pray. When compared to the nations of the world, the U.S. “ranks far ahead of virtually all other industrialized countries in terms of all three Bs of religiosity [belonging, behaving, believing],” not far behind first place India.

Most Americans are Christian, with 30 percent evangelical Protestant, 24 percent Catholic, 13 percent mainline Protestant, 8 percent black Protestant denominations and a few percent others such as Orthodox Christians. Jews and Mormons have about three percent each and 17 percent say they do not identify with any faith (called “Nones”). Mormons, blacks and evangelicals are the most religious. Nones, Jews and other religions are the least religious, at least as measured by them. Women and the elderly are the most religious and men and the young are the least. The higher the income the more religious a person is and the lower the less religious. The West Coast and New England are the least religious and the South and Mississippi Valley are the most religious.

There recently have been major disruptions in church attendance as a result of three major social changes: the 1960s “shock” of “sex, drugs and rock and roll,” the late 1970s conservative reaction and increase in religiosity, and the 2000s secular counter-reaction against a perceived politicization of religion.

Evangelicalism most tracks the trend, rising substantially in the first reaction and falling in the recent decline, although remaining the largest social group. The second largest group, Catholicism, registered a one-fourth reduction following the 1960s Vatican Council reshuffling and today would be

in severe decline if it were not for the arrival of highly participant Latino immigrants who have mostly displaced the one-third of Anglo-Catholics who left and the one-third who ceased attending regularly. Mainline Protestants were most hard hit by the changes but still represent one in seven Americans. Black Protestants were the most resistant to change and remain the most religious of them all.

The most dramatic change has been the rise of the “Nones.” Since 1970, those not identifying or participating in any organized religion rose from six to seventeen percent. These, however, are not quite what one would expect. Of course, there are a small number who are atheists and agnostics but “a large proportion of those who demur from indicating a formal affiliation believe religion is important , pray regularly, and even attend a given congregation on occasion.”

The usefulness of the Putnam-Campbell study is enhanced greatly by two large and sophisticated surveys, one taken in 2006 and repeated in 2007 with many of the same interviewees. The panel nature of the study allowed comparing those who gave the “None” designation in both surveys. One-third of those who said they had no religious affiliation the first time said they did have one just one year later. Others who said they had a religion switched to “None.” There clearly are many “unchurched believers” who are on the “edge” of religion but have religious beliefs. This is especially true for the young who participate much less but who mostly still believe.



The most important social phenomenon about religiosity is what the authors call the good neighbor affect of religious participation. The more religious are happier and more satisfied with their lives. They are about twice as likely to volunteer to help the poor or elderly, to assist in school or youth activities, to help in neighborhood or civic programs, and in health-care or anti-disease causes – as well as to take leadership roles in such organizations. As a percent of income, the religious give much more money to religious programs and contribute about equally to non-religious causes as do the non-religious. Religious people are more trusting and supportive of their neighbors. While 48 percent of the non-religious say that people should “look after themselves and not overly worry about others,” only 26 percent of religious people take this position not to help the needy.

Secular intellectuals who have believed that religious attachment is a residue of primitive ignorance and would disappear as people became more educated have been comforted in the past by polls showing the more educated in the U.S. were more secular. One of the few major changes from earlier studies is that whereas religiosity used to be associated with low levels of education, now church attendance is slightly more apparent among the college educated, and strongly so for evangelical and black Protestants. It does not appear that more education will undermine religion as the best and brightest predicted. The study proves that is good news for civic peace, neighborliness, trust, volunteerism and charitable giving in America, good for this holy season and throughout the new year.

Donald Devine, the editor of ConservativeBattleline Online, was the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management from 1981 to 1985 under Ronald Reagan and is Senior Scholar at Bellevue University's Center for American Vision and Values.

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Editor**

Lessons From Japan

by Shawn Ritenour

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Since Fed chairman Ben Bernanke announced his plan for the Federal Reserve to inflate (I'm sorry, "quantitatively ease") commercial bank reserves by \$600 billion, he has come under surprising, but understandable, criticism. So much so that he has felt compelled to defend his policy as necessary for continuing recovery. While [defending his plan on CBS' "60 Minutes"](#), Bernanke revealed that he might expand his program and inflate even more.



Why the need for such monetary expansion?

Conventional wisdom has it that unless the Fed is vigilant to protect us, we are in danger of falling into a bottomless pit of deflationary depression. Many think that deflation explains the 20-year "lost decade" in Japan, and the fear is, as the old World War II slogan goes, "It can happen here!"

Ben Bernanke is on record stating that prices are not rising fast enough for effective monetary expansion. His solution is to pour more money into the economy. Bernanke is no longer merely a deflation-phobe. He is a not-high-enough-inflation-phobe.

Japan is often pointed to as the quintessential recent example of the disastrous effects of deflation. Paul Krugman has been saying since the 1990s that Japan is caught in a liquidity trap, and the only solution is to manufacture inflationary expectations by creating money in earnest until the Japanese are convinced that prices are going up. Then they will stop holding money and start spending again, which is seen as the fount of economic rejuvenation. It is asserted that Japan's once vibrant culture has been transformed into one of pessimistic risk aversion, due to a prolonged deflationary spiral following its boom of the 1980s.

But is this really the case? Sound economic theory and history instructs otherwise. Recessions are not the result of deflation but the necessary consequence of capital consumption via malinvestment resulting from artificially low interest rates. In both Japan in the 1980s and the United States in the 2000s, entrepreneurs were led astray by central bank credit expansion. This led them to undertake too much investment at capital-intensive stages of production and not enough investment at stages closer to consumption. Investors began a plethora of investment projects that were simply unsustainable. These projects must be liquidated if we do not want to make the situation even worse by continuing to consume even more capital. Recession is the beginning of the necessary restructuring of capital toward its most highly valued uses.

The misery that people continue to experience in Japan is the direct result of Japan's failure to allow wasteful, losing enterprises to be liquidated. The Japanese government has kept unprofitably invested capital in place with fiscal and monetary stimulus as well as central bank policy that continues to keep bad debt frozen on the books of zombie banks.

Additionally, the misery in Japan cannot be due to deflation, because there has not been any. In 1989, the annual consumer price index in Japan was at 91.3. In 2009, it was 100.3. There have been ups and down along the way, but prices are higher now than they were in 1989. The monetary base of Japan is now more than 244 times what it was in July 1991. M1 in Japan almost tripled from 1990 to 2002 and then increased every year after until 2009. The claim that there has been a generation of deflation in Japan is simply wrong.

History also shows that liquidation of unwise investments does not necessarily cause prolonged misery. During the U.S. recession of 1920-21, President Warren Harding cut government spending, cut taxes, and reduced the national debt. The Fed did the unthinkable: It made no effort to reflate to forestall deflation. What happened was not (contrary to some interpretations) a short deflationary ride to the Great Depression; instead, unemployment quickly decreased to 2.4 percent in 1923. The government allowed unsound investments to be liquidated while the necessary capital restructuring commenced.

It is time to put the Japanese “deflationary depression” canard to rest. The true lesson to be learned is that after an inflationary boom turns into the inevitable bust, trying to fix the mess by fiscal stimulus, monetary inflation, and bank bailouts is a fool’s game. We should instead reduce the scope of government in the economy by cutting spending, lowering taxes, reducing regulation, and stop propping up profligate banks. Only this prescription will allow the necessary capital restructuring to take place and thereby place our economy on proper footing, setting the stage for future prosperity.

Dr. Shawn Ritenour is a professor of economics at Grove City College, contributor to [The Center for Vision & Values](#), where this first appeared, and author of [“Foundations of Economics: A Christian View.”](#)

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Governing By Regulation

by Mark Tapscott

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Sitting presidents whose agendas are soundly rejected by voters in midterm congressional elections have two options: They can either accommodate the new political reality, as President Clinton did after 1994; or they can use bureaucratic edicts to advance their unpopular programs, as President Obama is clearly doing now.

Given the historic drubbing his party just suffered at the polls, Obama's defiant strategy may prevent a second term for the man who began his first buoyed by an outpouring of good will.

Predictably, Obama's regulatory imperialism focuses on labor and environmental issues, as Big Green activists and labor unions, especially those representing government workers, are the core of support for the Democratic president and his congressional allies.

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for example, Administrator Lisa Jackson is moving forward with a massive new program to subject the entire U.S. economy to an anti-global warming regulatory straitjacket aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Obama warned Congress last year that EPA would do this if the legislature failed to enact an Obama-supported version of cap and trade. Cap and trade passed the House in 2009 but never got out of the Senate because of intense public opposition, especially in energy-rich states like West Virginia. Now Jackson is following through on Obama's threat.

At the Department of Labor, Secretary Hilda Solis wasted no time after taking office last year in gutting long-standing rules requiring unions to disclose important details about how they spend members' dues. Now, Patricia Smith, Obama's Labor Department solicitor general, is working with Solis to implement an unprecedented new enforcement directive designed to put businesses at the mercy of union bosses. The directive provides, according to the Wall Street Journal's John Fund, for aggressive use of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to compel business cooperation through "shaming" and to "engage in enterprisewide enforcement."

The rest of the bureaucratic blitzkrieg will be carried out by Smith's eager staff of 400 labor lawyers. Nathan Mehrens, Americans for Limited Government general counsel, says their agenda includes:

- A focus on "cases against employers in priority industries."
- Plans to "litigate cases that cut across regions."
- Working to "identify and pursue test cases" to "challenge legal principles that impede worker protections; successful challenges will advance workers' rights, as will successful enunciation of new interpretations."
- Engaging "in greater use of injunctive relief."

Meanwhile, as Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell wrote, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is pushing the lame-duck Congress to pass his Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, a laughably misnamed measure that will force public employee unions on all local and state police, fire and emergency medical technicians. Obama supports Reid's bill, but its passage is far from assured. Nobody will be surprised if, shortly after the Reid proposal fails on Capitol Hill, Obama unveils a new regulatory gambit to achieve the same end.

Mark Tapscott is editorial editor for the Washington Examiner, where this first appeared.



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Editor**

Offensive Christmas Spirit

by Brent Bozell

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

The curator elites at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery were happily abusing the trust of the American taxpayer, with radical gay activists pushing a gay agenda, replete with the religiously bigoted, sadomasochistic and homoerotic fare, all under the auspices of "art." Then something happened. The public complained. Now these radicals are shocked – shocked! – that the "censors" are out to destroy their "artistic freedom."

It's like a bad rendition of "Groundhog Day." How many times must we relive this foolishness?

The sponsors tell us that "Hide/Seek" is "the first major exhibition to examine the influence of gay and lesbian artists in creating modern American portraiture," and how these gay and lesbian artists have made "essential contributions to both the art of portraiture and to the creation of modern American culture."

But that isn't enough. Theirs is a political message as part of a political agenda. To quote from their program, they want to strike a blow for "the struggle for justice, so that people and groups can claim their full inheritance in America's promise of equality, inclusion, and social dignity."

"Social dignity?" I suspect those are not the first words most Americans would use to describe a video that was part of the exhibit that featured images of ants crawling over Jesus Christ on a crucifix. It is simply imperative that any "art" display by gays insult, in the deepest way possible, the sensibilities of Christians.

But apparently this gay and lesbian "art" needs to push more, more, evermore. So we have depictions of homoeroticism, including images of male genitalia on display; pinups of naked men, and paintings of two brothers, buck naked, making out. Still there must be more, so we have sadomasochistic themes, like imagery of mummified human remains and a portrait of a man devouring himself. Each has a "deep" meaning, see. Each is "art."

And you, American taxpayer, you are making it possible. Your \$761 million annually to the Smithsonian, and \$5.8 million annually to the National Portrait Gallery makes it possible for these gay activists to pitch their tents inside, put up their displays, call it "art," invite the world – even children on "Family and Friends Day" on November 21 – and then scream bloody murder when someone complains.

Yes, there were complaints, with the Republican leadership in the House condemning this abuse of taxpayer funds. (The Democrats continue to be silent, no surprise.) The curators conceded there were an avalanche of complaints. So many that they finally agreed to remove the offensive video with bugs on Jesus Christ.

Horrors! Censorship of the highest order! Stop the madness! Washington Post art critic Blake Gopnik protested that in America, no religious group "gets to declare what the rest of us should see and hear and think about. Aren't those kinds of declarations just what extremist imams get up to, in countries with less freedom?"

It's mind-boggling that the same people who so quickly screech at the first sign of a religion near a government building don't get the point that it should be equally wrong to have a sign of anti-religion in a government building.



Brent Bozell

And don't they see the richest irony of them all? There is that which they find offensive – a creche with the Baby Jesus on government property, and that which they celebrate and defend as “art” – a sacrilegious defamation of Jesus Christ, crucified. If it's wrong to promote the Christian religion with tax dollars, isn't it many times worse to trash the Christian religion with tax dollars?

Like the public broadcasters, the public gallery operators hunger to rise above the dreary, pedestrian tastes of those rubes in middle America who revere Jesus and aren't captivated by the “creative resistance” of the gay artistic vanguard. They demand “equality” and “inclusion” for the gay lobby, but there is no inclusion for the rest of us when it comes to what art they will declare advances the cause of “justice.” Curators ought to be wise enough to know there are limits of government-funded art.

So the curator announced finally that he was pulling the video of ants walking over the crucifix. But he offered no apology. In fact, he insisted that contrary to allegations, this “art” was not “meant to offend.” That's simply dishonest. Anyone with an IQ greater than that of a potato chip knows this was precisely what they intended. This to them is the Christmas spirit.

L. Brent Bozell III is president of the Media Research Institute.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Media Climate Lag

by Art Horn

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

The annual Climate Catastrophe Party has just finished meeting in Cancun, Mexico, making for a lovely all-expenses-paid winter vacation.

At this latest doom fest, some 20,000 delegates from around the world did their best to keep the scary story of man-made global warming/climate change alive. I've been around long enough to remember a time when global warming was a non-issue — in fact, it was the very real threat of another ice age making headlines in the 1970s. With that in mind, I did an investigation into the comings and goings of predicted environmental cataclysm in modern history. What I found is that this has all happened before — the reporting of climate catastrophe has been going on for over 120 years.



What's fascinating about the reporting is that it has encompassed the full range of temperature: searing heat and bitter cold, both reported as real and potentially deadly.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says the world is warming at an unprecedented rate. The irrefutable results of this global temperature heat wave will be starvation, drowning of coastal cities, mass extinctions, war, and the [death of billions](#). These warnings come to us from many reliable sources, including all forms of news media. We have been alerted to this climate catastrophe for two decades now.

But when one looks back at the history of climate reporting, you find a remarkably consistent and recurring theme. The global temperature has cycled from cold to warm to cold to warm again over the last 120 years. The media cycles of impending climatic doom mirror the climate cycles themselves, but with a roughly ten- to fifteen-year lag. It seems whenever the world warms, the volume of global warming stories increases to match the trend. Conversely, when the climate cools the major media outlets pull on their long johns and warn us of the next ice age. However, it takes many years for the media to catch up to what the climate is actually doing.

On February 24, 1895, the *New York Times* reported: "Geologists think the world may be frozen up again." The story wondered "whether recent and long continued observations do not point to the advent of a second glacial period."

In 1912, shortly after the sinking of the *Titanic* by an iceberg, the *New York Times* reported on a professor from a Cornell University: "Professor Schmidt warns us of an encroaching ice age." On the very same day, the *Los Angeles Times* reported: "Fifth ice age is on the way. ... Human race will have to fight for its existence against the cold."

Was what they were reporting true? The temperature records from the [Climate Research Unit](#) of the University of East Anglia say yes. The Earth was cooling from about 1875 to 1910, about 35 years of downward temperature. During this time there would have been more ice in the Arctic, and glaciers would have advanced. The stories were based upon what scientists of the day were observing. From there, the media drew their own conclusions as to what this meant for the future climate and its effects on humanity. Many times, they chose disaster.

The oceans contain more than one thousand times more heat than the atmosphere, and the vast majority of that heat is in tropical waters. When the oceans warm, so does the atmosphere. When

they cool, global temperature follows. The Pacific Ocean covers a third of the Earth's surface and exhibits a dominant impact on the global temperature. Around 1920, the tropical [Pacific Ocean began to warm](#). The impacts of such a warming are not always readily apparent — it takes years for glaciers and sea ice to react to the gradual ocean warming.

The huge social inertia generated by the ice age scare prior to 1910 continued to drive media fear stories of coming cold into the 1920s. On July 3, 1923, the *Christian Science Monitor* reported: "Captain MacMillan left Wiscasset, Maine, announcing that one of the purposes of his cruise was to determine whether there was the beginning of another ice age as the advance of glaciers in the last 70 years would seem to indicate." On September 18, 1924, the *New York Times* declared the threat was real, saying: "MacMillan reports signs of new ice age." Earlier that year, on April 6, the *LA Times* reported that Swedish scientist Rutger Sernander claimed there were "scientific grounds for believing" that "when all winds will bring snow, the Sun cannot prevail against the clouds and three winters will come in one, with no summer between."

Unknown to anyone during this time was the fact that the Pacific was beginning to warm, and would continue to do so until the mid-1940s.

Reacting to this ocean warmth, the temperature of the Earth began to rise as well. The ice age stories began to fade from the headlines. On March 11, 1929, the *LA Times* reported: "Most geologists think the world is growing warmer and that it will continue to get warmer." On March 27, 1933, the *New York Times* headline read: "The next ice age, if it is coming ... is still a long way off." Also that year, meteorologist J.B. Kincer of the United States Weather Bureau published in the September *Monthly Weather Review*: "Wide-spread and persistent tendency towards warmer weather." He noted that of the 21 winters prior to 1933 in Washington, D.C.: "Eighteen were warmer than normal and all of the past 13 were mild."

During the early 1920s, the Atlantic Ocean began its cyclic [30-year warming trend](#). This warmer water combined with the warmer Pacific pumped up world temperature to the point where everyone began to take notice. By November 6, 1939, the *Chicago Daily Tribune* published the story: "Experts puzzle over 20-year mercury rise." The story noted: "Chicago is in the front rank of thousands of cities throughout the world which have been affected by a mysterious trend towards warmer climate in the last two decades."

They knew it was warming, but not why. On August 2, 1952, the *New York Times* reported that Eskimos were eating cod, a fish not previously in their diet. The following year the *Times* reported that studies confirmed summers and winters were getting warmer. Again, unknown to the *Times* and other media outlets, was the fact that the oceans were changing again.

The stories of a warming continued into the late 1950s as the media inertia plowed forward with the popular warming stories of the 1930s and 1940s. The Atlantic Ocean had been warming since the early 1920s. This warming was keeping the Arctic milder by pumping warmer water northward through the Gulf stream. On February 15, 1959, the *New York Times* reported: "Arctic findings in particular support theory of rising global temperatures." However, the temperature of the Earth was not warming at this point, it was falling.

The massive and dominant Pacific had been cooler since the mid-1940s and would continue to be so into the middle of the 1970s. The climate data show that starting in the middle 1940s the Earth began a multi-decadal cooling trend. Around 1960 the Atlantic began to cool again. Both oceans were in their cooler phase, working together to chill the planet.

It was not until later in the 1960s that the media noticed.

On November 15, 1969, *Science News* quoted meteorologist Dr. J. Murray Mitchell Jr.: "How long the current cooling trend continues is one of the most important problems of our civilizations. ... If the

cooling continues for another 200 to 300 years the Earth could be plunged into an ice age." On January 11, 1970, the [Washington Post](#) reported: "Colder Winters Held Dawn of New Ice Age. ... Better get a good grip on your long johns, cold weather haters, the worst may be yet to come." *Fortune* reported in February 1974: "It is the root cause of a lot of that unpleasant weather around the world and they warn that it carries the potential for human disasters of unprecedented magnitude." (Sound familiar?) On June 24, *Time* wrote: "Climatological Cassandras are becoming increasingly apprehensive, for the weather aberrations they are studying may be the harbinger of another ice age." *Newsweek* said on April 28, 1975: "The Earth's climate seems to be cooling down. ... [Meteorologists were] Almost unanimous in the view that the trend will reduce agricultural productivity for the rest of the century."

So it looked like we were on the [precipice of a new ice age](#) with cataclysmic consequences for the world. Then, unannounced to all, the Pacific Ocean began to warm again, and so did the Earth's temperature.

The warming Pacific Ocean began to nudge global temperature up in the late 1970s. This warming continued through the 1980s — soon, the ice age stories were gone. By 1993, from *U.S. News and World Report*: "Global Climate Change may alter temperature and rainfall patterns, many scientists fear, with uncertain consequences for agriculture." *Time* wrote on November 13, 2000, that 27 European climatologists have become worried that the warming trend "may be irreversible, at least over most of the coming century." *Newsweek*, in its August 8, 2005, edition: "Extremely dry weather of recent months has spawned swarms of locusts." Was global warming the cause? The story concluded: "Evidence is mounting to support just such fears."

On April 3, 2006, [Time magazine's cover story](#) — accompanied by a picture of a lonely polar bear on a small piece of ice — read: "Be Worried, be very worried. Climate change isn't some vague future problem — it's already damaging the planet at an alarming pace." It also stated on the cover in bold: "Earth at the tipping point. How it threatens your health. How China and India can help save the world, or destroy it."

What can we learn from 120 years of media reporting on climate change?

1. The mainstream media outlets are going to publish whatever sells. If someone publishes a story about the world getting colder and people buy it, you can be sure there will be many more stories touting the same headline.
2. There is a long lag between what nature is doing and what the media will report. The lag seems to be anywhere from 10 to 15 years after the climate changes. There is an inertia problem with the mainstream media even when the evidence is clear.
3. When all the stories are about warming or cooling, you can be sure they are all wrong.

When government agencies or United Nations Climate Change conferences warn you that the climate is changing you can be sure that is true — the climate is always changing. Determining the direction is the hard part. Based on the past reporting of these changes, be it from global cooling or warming, the trend will have reversed many years earlier than reported.

Incidentally there has been no global warming for a decade. Get a good grip on your long johns. Maybe a trip to Cancun is not such a bad idea after all, but I'll wait until the delegates have gone home.

Art Horn spent 25 years working in television as a meteorologist. He now is an independent meteorologist and speaker who lives in Connecticut.

Negrophilia

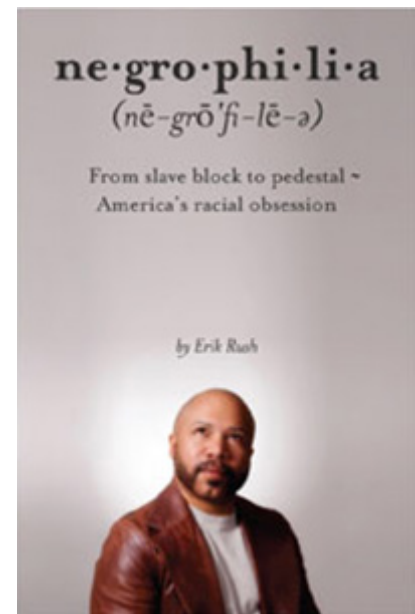
by Mike Gray

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Despite common sense, despite everyday experience, despite the findings of biological science, and despite Biblical revelation to the contrary, racism has been all too common in America, a nation that because of its nominally “Christian” character should, of all countries, know better.

In his book, Erik Rush identifies an important factor contributing to America’s divisions over race: Negrophilia. And what’s that?

For decades now, Americans have been sold a bill of goods regarding those of us of African (or mixed) descent, other ethnic minorities, and race relations in general. That bill, tragically, contains the worst kind of intellectual excrement. White guilt is still encouraged, despite unprecedented opportunities for blacks in America. Black multimillionaires assert in the press that we live in a racist nation in which blacks are still oppressed—and millions nod mutely in agreement. Arguments for reparations to black people for slavery—a logical travesty as well as a horribly inequitable proposition—are still proffered with regularity and seriously considered by many Americans.



As life has increasingly imitated art—here I refer to the portrayal of blacks and trends in the entertainment media—the perception of blacks on the part of non-black Americans has become increasingly tainted by the aforementioned media, propaganda of the establishment press, activists, and politicians. While this may have led to a coexistence of inquisitiveness, it has also imparted a pernicious, counterfeit understanding of blacks on the part of non-black people as well as an inordinate deference toward blacks, particularly among whites. Black people themselves continue to suffer from this phenomenon because it discourages social and intellectual accountability on their part.

Why do these conditions exist, how did they come about, and what—if anything—can be done to neutralize them? That is what this book will answer.

You’d think that the election of America’s first black president would have resolved conflicts that have simmered for centuries. While Rush emphasizes what’s wrong with the Chief Executive on the political level, he also points out:

Appearances to the contrary, however, this is not an anti-Obama treatise. Barack Obama’s election is only an extreme example of this phenomenon [of negrophilia]. Indeed, Obama’s very election is one of the strongest single arguments for there being something drastically wrong with Americans’ perceptions of race relations and the role ethnicity plays in our culture. It is one of the strongest single arguments for the existence of negrophilia.

A delirious concoction of political correctness, socialist agitprop in the media-entertainment complex, historical ignorance engendered and sustained through decades of indoctrination in state-run schools, political opportunism by whites, and personal enrichment of so-called “black activists” whose primary aim is to keep the pot boiling, negrophilia prevails in American culture at all levels, Rush argues. The pendulum that characterizes the direction of the culture has swung away from the racial stereotypes that harmed blacks in times past, and now harms blacks in a different way, Rush observes:

Prodded by guilt and reprogrammed by press propaganda, whites succumb to negrophilia when, believing that people of color are somehow more benevolent and less corruptible than themselves, they develop an undue affinity for them.

Blacks suffer worse when they embrace this base patronization. They're denied accountability for their own actions. They're shackled by their acceptance of the nobility—no matter how lacking—of all “black leaders.” They're ripe for the “rescue” of predatory, opportunistic members of the black community

The myth of the “noble savage” has been transposed onto blacks to such an extent that more harm than good comes of it, he argues. There never has been any ethnic group that can lay exclusive claim to virtue.

Of necessity Rush writes very critically in illuminating the deleterious effects of negrophilia—the “Reverends” Jackson and Sharpton, ACORN, a phlegmatic and increasingly irrelevant NAACP, the “Jena Six” flap, the Duke lacrosse travesty, Al and Tawana, Reverend Wright and Black Liberation Theology, and this by no means exhausts the topics he covers—but he also thinks there's a possible solution if those of good will want to try it:

What would be desirable . . . would be a *lateral* move in the area of civil rights and race relations, in which advancement occurred, but the perversion of politics and personal agendas were prevented from taking a toll. Such an accomplishment could also be a stride toward pulling down America's accursed secular-socialist framework.

—but getting people to behave themselves and act more altruistically? That's going to be a problem, I think

Mike Gray blogs at The American Culture, <http://stkarnick.com/culture>, where this first appeared. Negrophilia: From Slave Block to Pedestal — America's Racial Obsession by Erik Rush is published by WND Books and is [Available on Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Ryan-Rivlin Entitlement Reform
by John Goodman
Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Republican Congressman Paul Ryan and Democrat Alice Rivlin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), have proposed an alternative [entitlement spending reform plan](#) that is striking both for its boldness and its left-right-coming-together origins. There are a number of interesting parts, but I want to focus on the three most important:



John Goodman

- **Medicare would, for the first time, be transformed into rational insurance.** Beginning in 2013, all enrollees would be protected by a \$6,000 cap on out-of-pocket expenses; in return they would pay for more small expenses on their own.
- **After a decade, people newly eligible for Medicare would receive a voucher to purchase private insurance instead.** The value of the voucher would grow at the rate of growth of *GDP plus 1%* (note: for the past four decades, health care spending per capita nationwide has been growing at about *GDP growth plus 2%*).
- **Medicaid would be turned into annual block grants to the states.** The value of the block grants would also grow at GDP growth plus 1%.

Bottom line verdict: This is a good proposal that deserves serious attention. To guarantee its success, however, more needs to be done to (1) allow the private sector to control costs through economic incentives, competition and entrepreneurship and (2) allow young people to save for the growing share of expenses they will be expected to bear.

How Does This Plan Compare with the Affordable Care Act (ACA)? Given that Ryan has been previously [attacked by Paul Krugman](#) and others on the left because of his ideas about voucherizing Medicare, a natural question arises. How does the Ryan/Rivlin slowdown in Medicare spending compare to the health reform bill Congress passed last spring — a bill supported by some of the very [people attacking Ryan](#)?

Answer: Ryan/Rivlin reduces government spending on Medicare by less than the ACA does! As [previously reported](#), the health reform act begins slowing the rate of growth of Medicare payments to doctors and hospitals almost immediately. By the end of this decade, Medicare rates will fall below Medicaid rates for everyone enrolled in Medicare! As the [Medicare actuaries office has affirmed](#) this will affect access to care for all seniors, not just new enrollees in future years.

Under Ryan/Rivlin, by contrast, everyone 55 years of age and older is grandfathered, so to speak. Lower spending only kicks in for people under the age of 55.

[Note: The [CBO score of Ryan/Rivlin](#) assumes that the proposal will be tacked onto the ACA, which is current law.]

How Does This Plan Compare to Other Entitlement Reform Proposals? Clearly, Washington is in the mood to talk about entitlement reform. We previously analyzed the [Bowles/Simpson deficit commission report](#) [see [PowerPoint](#) and [full report](#)], which was followed by a [Domenici/Rivlin report](#). All these plans try to limit federal spending to the growth rate of GDP plus 1% — the ACA, by reducing fees for providers; Domenici/Rivlin, by having enrollees pay larger premiums; and all three private sector proposals, by a premium support approach, under which the federal government makes available a fixed number of dollars (or vouchers), beneficiaries add to that amount from their own resources and health plans compete against each other. The ACA, by contrast, limits spending to the growth rate of GDP and has no premium support!

Will any of this actually work?

Are the Cuts in Medicare Spending Realistic? Everyone agrees we are on an unsustainable path. But if we don't get off the path, efforts to limit government spending will only unload costs onto the private sector. That is, costs won't be controlled; they will only be shifted.

The ACA makes incentives more perverse for patients (by making more care free of deductibles and copayments), leaves provider incentives (to maximize against reimbursement formulas) largely in place, creates hurdles for private sector efforts to control costs (e.g., by blocking attempts to reduce benefits or increase cost sharing) and puts all its cost-control faith in the federal government's ability to conduct pilot programs, do comparative effectiveness research and other unlikely initiatives.

Domenici/Rivlin shifts premium costs to the beneficiaries but gives no new tools to patients or providers to control spending.

Both Bowles/Simpson and Ryan/Rivlin reform Medicare by capping catastrophic expenses and increasing patient exposure for small medical bills. (There is an across-the-board deductible of \$600 in Ryan/Rivlin.) This by itself will dampen spending, as patients are forced to compare the cost of small dollar care with the value they place on other uses of money. It would probably also obviate the need for Medigap insurance, which, after all, only exists because gaping holes in Medicare expose beneficiaries to catastrophic costs.

Still, we could do much better.

Making the Proposal Better. We have previously proposed a way of [building on these ideas](#) and going further to liberate 310 million patients, 800,000 doctors and countless other provider personnel to solve the problems before us with three fundamental Medicare reforms:

- Using a special type of health savings account, beneficiaries would be able to manage at least one-fifth of their health care dollars, thus keeping each dollar of wasteful spending they avoid and bearing the full cost of each dollar of waste they generate.
- Physicians would be free to repackage and reprice their services — thus profiting from innovations that lower costs and raise the quality of care.
- Workers (along with their employers) would save and invest 4 percent of payroll — eventually reaching the point where each generation of retirees pays for the bulk of its own post-retirement medical care.

In the paradigm case (the one defining government's contribution, say, for Medicare Advantage insurers) beneficiaries would face a \$2,500 deductible and they would be able to deposit \$2,500 in an aftertax (Roth) health savings account.

These reforms would dramatically change incentives. Whether in their role as patient, provider or worker/saver, people would reap the benefits of socially beneficial behavior and incur the costs of socially undesirable behavior. Specifically, Medicare patients would have a direct financial interest in seeking out low-cost, high-quality care. Providers would have a direct financial interest in producing efficient, high-quality care. And worker/savers would have a financial interest in a long-term financing system that promotes efficient, high-quality care for generations to come.

With assistance from NCPA Senior Fellow Andrew J. Rettenmaier, we have been able to simulate the long-term impact of some of these reforms. The bottom line: Under reasonable assumptions, we can reach the mid-21st Century with seniors paying no more (as a share of the cost of the program) than the premiums they pay today and with a taxpayer burden (relative to national income) no greater than the burden today.

What about Low-Income Beneficiaries? Ryan/Rivlin have a nice idea here. For Medicare beneficiaries whose low income also qualifies them for Medicaid (the dual eligibles), forget Medicaid

and deposit \$6,600 for each of them in a health savings account. This gives them the financial resources to pay the \$6,000 in out-of-pocket expenses they are potentially exposed to plus \$600 to boot.

John Goodman is President and CEO/Kellye Wright Fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis.

**E-mail the
Editor**

EPA Endangerment

by Alan Caruba

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

It seems almost beyond reason that a single U.S. agency was willing to ignore the Constitution, distort a Supreme Court decision, and impose its will on the nation in the name of totally discredited science.

That, however, is what the Environmental Protection Agency was seeking to do while Americans were distracted by the Christmas celebrations.

The agency's objective was to regulate so-called greenhouse gases (GHG) on January 2, 2011. More specifically, it would regulate emissions from power plants and other large emitters, but in reality it would end the role of coal as the provider of 50% of the electricity Americans require. Fortunately public pressure has put the decision off until July. But it will be back then.



Alan Caruba

It is essential now to understand that the primary GHG is carbon dioxide (CO₂) and it was this gas, naturally produced by the Earth and vital to all vegetation and life on Earth, that was falsely identified as the "cause" of "global warming." Humans individually exhale some six pounds of CO₂ every day.

First, there was no "global warming"; only the normal and natural warming that had been in effect since around 1850 when a 500-year "little ice age" ended in the northern hemisphere.

Second, the Earth is now in a normal and natural cooling cycle, though with the added concern that it is also at the end of an 11,500 year interglacial cycle between the last major ice age and the next.

Third, the data put forth by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has been almost entirely discredited, based as it was on rigged research by corrupted university centers and governmental agencies. Some people need to go to jail, but it is unlikely because the fraud was so vast in its extent.

On November 22nd, The Wall Street Journal published a lengthy editorial, "The EPA Permittorium" noting that "The scale of the EPA's current assault is unprecedented, yet it has received almost no public scrutiny. Since Mr. Obama took office, the agency has proposed or finalized 29 major regulations and 172 major policy rules."

It can be said that, in terms of its original mission, cleaning the nation's air and water, that the EPA succeeded, but like any government agency, the EPA has also sought to constantly expand its powers and has, from its beginning, also seen as part of its mission the restriction of virtually all chemicals—invariably called toxic—with a particular emphasis on pesticides that protect human health and property.

Too much exposure to any chemical is inherently toxic. The proper use of any chemical is beneficial.

The reason there is a nationwide infestation of bed bugs after a half century or more in which this insect had been virtually eliminated is that the EPA has restricted the use of almost every pesticide that might exterminate bed bugs. Now multiply that against EPA restrictions on a host of chemicals vital to the manufacture of thousands of products.

The effort of the EPA to regulate CO₂ and other GHG gases has no basis in science and none in law. The Clean Air Act does not authorize it.

Moreover, by its own admission, restricting GHGs would only reduce global temperatures—if that were even possible—by 15 ten-thousandths of a degree Celsius in the next century.

The EPA has also proposed new rules calling for a reduction in the national ambient air-quality standard for ground-level ozone, a precursor of smog, from 75 parts per billion to between 60 and 70 parts per billion, a cut of up to 20%.

To most people that means nothing, but the reality is that hundreds of U.S. cities and counties don't meet the current standard and compliance would destroy what is left of an ailing U.S. economy. If you think unemployment is bad now, it would increase as so-called "emitters" of GHG either undertook costly measures to reduce their emissions or just closed their doors.

Along with those who tried to impose a Cap-and-Trade Act on the nation in order to limit so-called GHGs and profit from it by creating a bogus exchange for the sale of "carbon credits", the EPA is seeking to exercise a totalitarian control over every aspect of the provision and use of energy in America and it is all based on poor science, confused environmentalism and bureaucratic empire-building.

Congress can put an end to this nightmare by overturning the "Endangerment Rule" and with it the GHG regulations before EPA can act next summer. The use of fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—accounts for 85% of America's energy sources. A new Congress can and must defund as much of the EPA as possible. This would be a "twofer." It would protect our essential energy sources and save money that can go toward reducing the deficit.

Alan Caruba blogs daily at <http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com>. An author, business and science writer, he is the founder of The National Anxiety Center.

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Editor**

Food Regulation Roulette
by Timothy Carney
Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

After championing a bill to heighten federal regulations and empower the Food and Drug Administration, some of the food industry's giants found themselves trying to kill the measure.

The lobby for large food retailers and processors spent two years championing the big-government Food Safety Enhancement Act, while small farmers and processors said the bill's "one-size-fits-all" regulatory requirements would kill Mom & Pop, helping the big guys.

Consumer groups and the New York Times editorial board joined Big Food in opposing amendments to exempt smaller businesses, but this time Mom & Pop won — sort of. Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Kay Hagan, D-N.C., inserted an amendment giving small businesses a way out of the strict new rules.



Tim Carney

After the amendment passed, the big guys split. The Grocery Manufacturers Association stuck with the bill while the Produce Marketers' Association turned against it.

The small-food lobby was also divided. The Organic Consumers' Association, which had insisted on the Tester-Hagan language, got behind it, while the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund remains vehemently opposed.

The legislation would arm the FDA with mandatory recalls, but also require farms and food processing businesses to comply with onerous record-keeping rules. Big Business liked the measure for the same reasons Big Business often favors strict federal regulation. Many of the big companies were already employing the practices the FDA would demand, while smaller food makers often use other methods to ensure safety — such as more carefully choosing suppliers. One-size-fits-all regulation, by adding to overhead, disproportionately hits small business, thus giving the big guys an advantage. Big Business also benefits from the government stamp of approval that comes with such regulation, which encourages congressmen, senators and credulous journalists to declare that our food is now safe.

We've seen analogous lobbying games in tobacco (where Philip Morris supported the recent regulation that its smaller competitors called the Marlboro Monopoly Act) and toys (where Mattel and Hasbro helped craft a toy-safety law that is already driving small toy makers out of business).

The Produce Marketers Association played the more-regulation-is-better angle, backing the bill until the Senate approved the Tester-Hagan amendment, which gave small farmers and processing companies the ability to earn exemptions. Suddenly, the tables had turned, placing the regulatory yoke more heavily on the big guys, thus giving smaller producers a competitive advantage.

What are the likely consequences if this bill becomes law? Greg Conko at the pro-free-market Competitive Enterprise Institute argues the measure won't make our food measurably safer. For instance, he argues that the accelerated inspection calendar for food facilities — from once per decade under current law to once every five years under the pending legislation — won't do much. Inspectors can spot unsafe conditions, or rats, or huge patches of mold, but the sort of things that usually cause food poisoning can still easily escape the federal inspection under this bill. "You can't see bacteria. You can't see viruses. Visual inspection is functionally useless," Conko told me.

Federal efforts at detecting bad stuff in food have failed. Half of all food-borne illnesses in the United States come from meat and poultry, which undergo daily inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — in fact, USDA inspectors work on site at most meat and poultry processors.

Safety expert Dr. Aubrey Daniels says that this isn't because Washington isn't strict enough. "Punishments and penalties are favorite government tactics to 'enforce compliance,'" Daniels wrote recently in the Washington Post. "The problem is that the penalties rarely affect the unsafe behavior." Daniels says safety needs to be part of the culture at food companies.

This brings us back to the question of competitive effects. Increased regulation crowds out smaller producers, causing industry consolidation — which makes us less safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded recently, "An increasingly centralized food supply means that a food contaminated in production can be rapidly shipped to many states causing a widespread outbreak."

Tester-Hagan helps here, preserving the freedom of small producers and processors to ensure safety in the way they know best. But some small-business advocates fear the long-term consequences of this expansion of federal power. Pete Kennedy of the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund told the Daily Caller: "Over time the powers given by the bill could possibly whittle away at the protection provided by Tester-Hagan, they'll have broad power, and unfortunately under their existing power, what we see right now they seem to have three particular targets, which are raw milk, raw cheese, and supplements."

Regulation is supposed to bring a measure of comfort, but in this case it will have the opposite effect. Consumers won't feel their food is any safer, and businesses will face greater uncertainty in the marketplace.

Timothy P. Carney, is senior political columnist at The Washington Examiner, where this first appeared. His stories and blog posts appear on ExaminerPolitics.com.

**E-mail the
Editor**

All Us Hate Groups

by Alana Goodman

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Be careful! If you have traditional ideas about marriage, family and sexuality, you may as well join the KKK or get yourself an S.S. uniform.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has [announced](#) that it will designate 13 pro-family organizations as “hate groups” next year, placing them alongside groups like the Ku Klux Klan, the Neo-Nazi movement and the New Black Panther Party.

The list of pro-family organizations includes several prominent conservative groups, including the Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America and the National Organization for Marriage. While the mainstream media has not given the story much coverage, liberal columnists have praised the SPLC’s decision.



At the Los Angeles Times, Tim Rutten [wrote](#) that groups like the Family Research Council “published statistical compendiums purporting to quantify the ‘evils’ of homosexuality.” Rutten compared these views to the advocacy of racial segregation during the Civil Rights movement.

“Such rhetoric is eerily reminiscent of that with which religiously affiliated opponents of African American equality once defended segregation,” Rutten wrote. “It wasn’t all that long ago that some of them argued against school integration because, they alleged, black adolescents were uniquely unable to control sexual impulses and, therefore, would assault white schoolgirls. Exhortations against ‘race mixing’ were commonplace pulpit messages short decades ago, though we now recognize them as hate speech. It’s past time to do the same with rhetoric that denigrates gays and lesbians.”

And at Salon.com, one writer [expressed surprise](#) that organizations would take offense at being labeled “hate groups.”

“Oh, this is just rich: The Family Research Council (FRC) is upset that it’s been categorized as a ‘hate group’ in The Southern Poverty Law Center’s report this week on rabidly anti-gay organizations,” wrote Tracy Clark-Flory. After listing some statements made by FRC members who oppose gay marriage, support “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” and have called for the criminalization of gay sex, Clark-Flory added, ““Hmm, sure looks like hate and acts like hate. As the saying goes, don’t blame the mirror if the reflection is ugly.”

The Southern Poverty Law Center has admirable roots as a law firm that battled hate groups like the Klan, but conservatives say the SPLC has become entrenched in left-wing politics and is using its history as a civil rights champion to target political groups it disagrees with.

Columnist J. Matt Barber [pointed out](#) in the Washington Times that “the FRC and AFA play host to presidential candidates, lawmakers and top conservative leaders from around the world at Washington’s annual Values Voters Summit – one of the largest conservative political gatherings of the year.”

“Of course, the tired goal of this silly meme is to associate in the public mind’s eye mainstream conservative social values with racism, white supremacy and neo-Nazism,” wrote Barber. “The ironic result, however, is that, as typically occurs with such ad hominem and hyperbolic attacks, the attacker ends up marginalizing himself and galvanizing his intended target (I’m rubber, you’re glue and all that).”

Tony Perkins, the president of the FRC, also suggested the SLPC's decision was politically motivated. "The Southern Poverty Law Center is a massively funded liberal organization that operates under a veneer of public justice when, in fact, they seem more interested in fundraising ploys than fighting wrongdoing," said Perkins.

While the SPLC says these "pro-family" groups "pump out demonizing propaganda aimed at homosexuals and other sexual minorities," the organizations deny that their message is hateful. They say that they are simply working to promote the traditional definition of marriage.

"This is about protecting marriage. This isn't about being anti-anyone," National Organization for Marriage President Brian Brown [told](#) the Washington Post. "The whole idea that somehow those folks who stand up for traditional marriage, like the Family Research Council, are hateful is wrong. [The law center is] trying to marginalize and intimidate folks for standing up for marriage and also trying to equate them somehow to the KKK."

Alana Goodman blogs at the Culture and Media Institute, where this first appeared, [here](#).

**E-mail the
Editor**

Fed Pay Increases

by Vincent Vernuccio

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

President Obama's proposal of a pay freeze for federal employees is a small step towards curbing government spending. However, a closer look shows there is less to it than meets the eye. In fact, many federal employees will still see their salaries increased.

While Obama's plan would stop the annual across-the-board cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all federal workers, it will not stop workers from getting raises altogether. The freeze will not affect pay raises for job classification upgrades. As an official at the Office of Management and Budget told Federal News Radio, "employees will still be eligible for step increases."

Step promotions — also known as "within-grade increases" — are mandated by statute. They are nearly automatic as long as an employee performs his job adequately. The law governing federal employee pay states, "a within-grade increase shall be effective on the first day of the first pay period following completion of the required waiting period and in compliance with the conditions of eligibility."

Here's how the system works. Over 70 percent of the federal workforce (except for the military, blue-collar and postal workers) is paid according to the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) General Schedule (GS) pay scale. GS includes 15 wage grades that reflect the category and skill necessary to perform a job, with 10 steps within each grade.

According to OPM, new employees can expect to receive a step increase every year, mid-level employees every two years, and senior employees every three years. Step increases can range from \$728.00 for a GS 3 to \$3,321.00 for a GS 15. Grade increases can range from \$2,214.00 for a GS 1 to GS 2 to \$14,931.00 for a GS 14 to GS 15. These numbers represent the 'base' amount for federal pay. The government gives a percentage increase for different areas of the country to reflect local variations in cost of living.

For example, despite the pay freeze, a government employee living in Washington, D.C., who is classified as a GS14 Step 1 and is promoted to a GS 15 Step 2, will receive a raise of \$22,672. The next year that same federal employee — without a promotion or grade increase — can see their pay go up by \$4,126 through a step increase.

Even more importantly, the freeze would probably have happened anyway. Increases in federal pay and government assistance are calculated based on rising prices and higher costs. In October, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced there would be no automatic COLA increase for the 58 million Americans receiving Social Security benefits.

SSA explained that the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported "no increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2008, the last year a COLA was determined, to the third quarter of 2010." In other words, an increase was not necessary because prices over the last few years have remained static. This would also apply to federal workers. Many federal employees would still receive step increases but not a COLA

F. Vincent Vernuccio blogs at The Daily Caller, where this first appeared.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Unnatural Sheep's Wool

by Dennis Avery

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Today, farmers are accused of “tampering with Nature.” But farmers have been doing such tampering for thousands of years. We had to, for survival. As one dramatic example, wild sheep didn't have wool. Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep still don't! Nature gave sheep a long, coarse hair coat instead. In the beginning, the wool was just a short insulating undercoat with fuzzy fibers too short to make thread. For the first 4,000 years we herded sheep, it was only for their meat.

But, as farming spread out into colder climates, humans had trouble keeping warm. The supply of bearskins, for example, would quickly have become inadequate as farming supported more people and the local bear population was reduced by hunting pressure.

Woolly sheep are a mutation of nature, which probably occurred naturally. It may have happened as sheep were taken into more northern climates where they weren't native, such as the highlands of Iran and Turkey. Once longer wool occurred, generations of farmers encouraged it by selectively breeding their sheep for longer and longer wool fibers.

Wool fabrics seems to have appeared about 3350 BC, in northern Syria, Iran, and in what's now Turkey just before cities were invented. We know this partly because that's when the languages started to have words for wool, says David Anthony in his excellent book, *The Horse, the Wheel and Language*.

We also know this from the pattern of sheep bones found in archeological digs. When sheep were raised only for meat, they tended to be butchered at a young age, and the number of sheep and goats in the herds tended to be about equal. The sheep were eaten, and the goats were kept mostly for milk. In one region of southern Russia about 4000 BC, sheep were the dominant domesticated animal, and outnumbered goats by 5 to 1. That was the classic wool-sheep harvesting ratio, but this early pattern appeared in only a few settlements.

Then, however, the numbers of sheep began to radically outstrip the number of goats. The wool mutation had arrived and spread. And many more of the slaughtered sheep were older animals, apparently retired wool-producers. In the upper Euphrates Valley of Anatolia, herds were dominated by cattle and goats before 3350—and then sheep suddenly outnumbered both of the other species. More than half of these sheep lived to maturity and must have had wool-producing careers.

Woolen thread was spun on hand spindles, kept spinning by a trick of the wrist. Then the woolen threads could be woven into fabrics that were much warmer than linen or cotton. They also took dyes better, and gave us brighter-colored clothing. Woolen textiles were widespread by 2800 BC. The fabrics, however, were so expensive that even later generations of parents deeded wool clothing to offspring in their wills.

The wool could also be made into felt, one of the early “miracle fabrics.” Felt became the material of choice for making the winter yurts that housed most of the steppe nomads as they herded their animals across 4,000 miles of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia. Felt was lightweight, durable—and very warm.

The felt was made by pressing wool fibers into a loose mat. Then the mat was rolled up, pressed tightly, wetted, and then rolled and pressed again, over and over until the curly wool fibers interlocked. It was far warmer than an American Indian teepee.



Dennis Avery

The next time you hear the “tampering with nature” charge, remember the old nursery rhyme, “Black sheep, black sheep, have you any wool?” What if the sheep answered, “Sorry, never heard of it”?

Dennis T. Avery, a senior fellow for the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., is an environmental economist. He was formerly a senior analyst for the Department of State. He is co-author, with S. Fred Singer, of Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Years. Readers may write to him at PO Box 202 Churchville, VA 24421 or email to cgfi@hughes.net.

Resource: David W. Anthony, The Horse, the Wheel and Language: How Bronze Age Riders from the Eurasian Steppes Shaped the Modern World. Princeton University Press, 2007

**E-mail the
Editor**

Political Highjinks
by Christopher Malagisi
Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Whoever said politics was boring surely had not paid attention to this past election cycle. From witches to chickens to peanuts, this election might go down as more than just a “shellacking” of the Democrats. From the outrageous to the bizarre, Republicans and Democrats reminded the public why campaign season can be so much fun.

This list was tough to narrow down since there was a plethora of material to choose from. Each moment either defined a campaign or was a significant episode that greatly influenced a particular election. For those who have seen these already – relive the memories. For those who are unfamiliar with these incidents – enjoy American democracy on full display.

#10 – Loretta Sanchez (D) vs. Van Tran (R) – US Congressional Race (CA)

In a bizarre statement on Univision – the Spanish language television network – incumbent Rep. Sanchez stated “the Vietnamese” were trying to take her congressional seat from her. Her opponent, Van Tran, was a Vietnamese-born émigré to the US whose family had been evacuated by the US Army before the fall of Saigon in 1975. This is the first known incident where someone invoked the ‘vast-Vietnamese conspiracy’ to influence an election. Loretta Sanchez won. ([Video](#))



#9 – Sue Lowden (R) – US Senate Republican Primary (NV)

At a local candidate forum discussing healthcare, Sue Lowden gave a bizarre historical comparison of bartering chickens for healthcare services back in the “olden days.” The National Democratic Senatorial Committee immediately jumped at the opportunity and created a “Chickens for Checkup” form letter on their website where people could offer items in return for certain types of medical treatments. A humorous video soon hit the internet poking fun at the incident. Sue Lowden lost. ([Video](#))

#8 – Charlie Crist (R) vs. Marco Rubio (R) – US Senate Republican Primary (FL)

Down in the polls by double digits, sitting Governor Charlie Crist went on the attack against his conservative, Tea Party-backed opponent Marco Rubio. After months of Rubio attacking Crist’s fiscal record epitomized by his physical embrace of President Obama’s stimulus bill in early 2009, Crist claimed that Rubio was actually the faux fiscal conservative. In an interview with Greta Van Susteren on Fox News, Crist, in an act of desperation, flippantly suggested that Rubio had used a state Republican Party credit card to get a \$130 “back wax” at a salon. The attack backfired and Crist would soon drop out of the Republican primary to run as an independent. Marco Rubio won. ([Video](#))

#7 – David Axelrod (D), Sr. Advisor to President Obama – *Face the Nation* Interview

In a CBS interview with David Axelrod, Bob Schieffer referred to the Obama administration’s claims that the US Chamber of Commerce had injected illegal foreign contributions to Republican campaigns as “peanuts.” He then asked Axelrod what proof he had to support their claims. Without providing any concrete evidence, Axelrod responded instead by asking “do you have any evidence that they are not, Bob?” The Republicans used this interview to make it appear the Democrats were getting desperate and were trying to create a narrative that would justify their expected losses in November. ([Video](#))

#6 – Alan Grayson (D) vs. Daniel Webster (R) – US Congressional Race (FL)

In one of the more low-ball moments of the election cycle, Rep. Grayson – the bombastic progressive – aired an ad shamefully equating his Republican opponent, Daniel Webster, with the Taliban. In an attempt to save his struggling campaign, Grayson took a statement from Webster out of context stating that women should “submit” to their husbands. The ad received such a backlash from the public and media that it was dubbed the “Taliban Dan” ad. This is the first known incident where a sitting US congressman attempted to liken his opponent to the Taliban. Daniel Webster won. ([Video](#))

#5 – Jerry Brown (D) vs. Meg Whitman (R) – Gubernatorial Race (CA)

In a conversation accidentally taped in a voicemail message, Jerry Brown and his aide are discussing public safety pension reform in California. During the conversation, in Brown’s presence, his aide is overheard referring to Meg Whitman as a “whore” for her willingness to compromise with law enforcement unions. At the time, Brown said nothing condoning the comment and bumbled an apology during a debate soon after. It should be noted the day after the voicemail message was released, the so-called nonpartisan National Organization for Women (NOW) astonishingly gave Brown their endorsement. Jerry Brown won. ([Audio](#))

#4 – President Barack Obama (D) – *The Daily Show* Interview

In an effort to reach out to young voters to assist Democrat Party candidates, President Obama appeared on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. In what was assumed to be a cakewalk interview, the president left with a feeling of ‘pie-in-face.’ While referring to the president as “dude” and intimated his legislative agenda as timid, Jon Stewart made the unamused president qualify his 2008 campaign slogan of ‘Yes We Can’ with “Yes we can, but... (long pause, then interrupted by laughter) ...it’s not gonna happen overnight.” The interview showcased a weakened president foreshadowing a big defeat come Election Day. ([Video](#))

#3 – Jimmy McMillan & Kristin Davis – Gubernatorial Debate (NY)

In one of the most bizarre elections of the year, Carl Paladino (R) asked his unwilling-to-debate opponent Andrew Cuomo (D) to “debate like a man” and to debate all the gubernatorial candidates in a paid three-minute TV spot. Cuomo agreed but both men would ironically be overshadowed by two other candidates.

Jimmy McMillan, an African-American wearing black gloves throughout the debate, repeatedly and poetically stated his reason for running was the “rent is too damn high.” Believe it or not, that’s the name of his political party as well. The other candidate who stole the show was Kristin Davis – the NYC madam who allegedly sold prostitutes to former NY governor turned CNN host, Elliott Spitzer. During the debate she implied that her experience owning an escort agency, providing “on time and reliable services,” was reason enough to elect her. I’m not kidding. McMillan and Davis both lost. ([Video 1](#)) ([Video 2](#))

#2 – Rand Paul (R) vs. Jack Conway (D) – US Senate Race (KY)

In one of the more strange moments on the campaign trail, Jack Conway – currently the state’s Attorney General – aired an ad accusing Rand Paul of tying up, blindfolding, and kidnapping a girl almost thirty years ago while making her take bong hits and pray unto a so-called deity named “Aqua Buddha.” Conway stated he had used an interview from the anonymous victim from a *GQ* magazine article. Paul vociferously denied the incident at a debate, refused to shake Conway’s hand after, and reminded him that as Attorney General making false accusations was illegal. The alleged

victim would later state she was not physically forced to do anything and that the incident was just a college prank and had been blown out of proportion. Rand Paul won. ([Video](#))

#1 – Christine O'Donnell (R) vs. Chris Coons (D) – US Senate Race (DE)

The most outrageous moment of the election season is awarded to Christine O'Donnell from Delaware. After national endorsements from Sarah Palin and various Tea Party groups, O'Donnell shocked the political establishment by knocking out the favored, moderate Republican candidate. Soon after, Bill Maher – former host of ABC's television show *Politically Incorrect*, released a video of a bizarre exchange between Maher and O'Donnell where she admitted to "dabbling in witchcraft (but) I never joined a covenant." She continued by describing that her first date had been with a witch and involved a "midnight picnic" on a satanic altar with "a little blood on it."

After Maher released the video, O'Donnell tried to make the best of a bad situation in a TV ad stating she was not a witch – she was *you*. While the interview might have been taken out of context this is the first known incident in US political history that a candidate had to actually deny being a witch. Christine O'Donnell lost. ([Video 1](#)) ([Video 2](#))

Christopher N. Malagisi is President of the Young Conservatives Coalition, is a political science Adjunct Professor at American University teaching conservative movement history. And blogs at Newsbusters, where this first appeared.

**E-mail the
Editor**

DeLay Pardon
by David Keene
Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Democrats have been cheering former Republican House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's conviction on a nine-year-old money laundering charge. The pain suffered by a partisan enemy allows them to remind people that Republican as well as Democratic lawmakers sometimes run afoul of the law.

The blogs are full of it as one of the reasons Democrats celebrated Thanksgiving this year and DeLay's former Texas opponents are beating their chests. "The Hammer has finally been nailed," wrote one self-important blogger, celebrating the downfall of a political opponent he blames for Democratic losses due to DeLay's impact on Texas redistricting following the 2000 census. Democrats now claim the man is being justly punished for an attempt to rig elections in his home state.



David Keene

Republicans, for their part, are wondering why Democrats are so quick to claim the need for justice in the DeLay case, while working overtime to make certain Charley Rangel and his like don't ever have to face a jury of their peers. It's an interesting question, but not really relevant –unless one believes that if one party controls the justice system, it should be used to punish members of the other party for, well, being members of the other party.

In a sense that's what has happened in Texas. It's been a long time since then District Attorney Ronnie Earle first decided to "get" DeLay, but it's worth following the trail back to its beginning.

The case involved DeLay's attempt to help his Texas Republican friends do something about the way Congressional districts had been drawn by the Democrats, who by virtue of their control of the state legislature, had always controlled the process. By the 2000 census, Texas was no longer a safe Democratic state, but you wouldn't know that by looking at the make-up of the Texas Congressional delegation.

After the 1991 redistricting, Michael Barone wrote that Texas had produced one of the most creative gerrymanders in the country with "incredibly convoluted lines" designed to keep the state's congressional delegation Democratic. After the 2000 census there was a partisan split in the legislature and a three-judge panel simply readopted the 1991 plan with minor variations.

Thus, in the 2002 election every single incumbent was re-elected in Texas and the Democrats maintained their 17-15 margin within the delegation although Republicans took 56% of the House vote and swept every one of 27 statewide contests.

The Republicans were furious and determined to unravel the gerrymander. With DeLay's help, Republicans focused attention and money on a handful of state legislative races to give the GOP control of both legislative houses and the ability to revisit the districting plan.

Adopted over the howls of the Democrats, their plan resulted in GOP victories in 21 districts in 2004, leaving the Democrats with but 11 Democratic Congressional seats. Considering the fact that the popular House vote that year went 60% Republican, the new plan was far less of a gerrymander than the one it replaced.

In putting all this together, DeLay and his friends were seeking and achieving GOP gains. That's what happens in states in which partisan redistricting takes place. It may be fair or unfair; in the Texas case, what they achieved was fairer than what they sought to change.

To suggest that there wouldn't be payback would be naïve. Texas Democrats vowed revenge and in the case of Prosecutor Ronnie Earle went on the attack. Earle had to present his case to half a dozen grand juries before he could get an indictment and his successor's case involved extending the reach of money laundering statutes in a way that was at least as creative as the 1991 gerrymander.

In the end Democrats got their revenge and are now arguing that DeLay ought to be sent away for as long as possible, giving more than a little credence to DeLay's charge that he is the victim of an attempt to criminalize legitimate political activity. Should DeLay's conviction stand, many other legitimate political activities will now be in reach of politicized criminal prosecutors encouraged to creatively extend the reach of various criminal statutes to places they've never been before. That prospect should make Republicans and Democrats alike a tad nervous.

DeLay was a tough competitor and is doubtless prepared to accept the consequences of defeat, but the Democrats should be denied their pound of flesh on legal and ethical grounds. If he is sentenced to spend time in the slammer, Governor Rick Perry should pardon him.

David Keene is chairman of the American Conservative Union.

**E-mail the
Editor**

Stealth Welfare
by Doug Edelman

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

Since yet another extension of Federal Unemployment Benefits has been made a part of the Obama-GOP tax deal, perhaps it is time to examine the system itself and gain a bit of perspective.

No one disagrees that Unemployment Insurance is a necessary safety net – providing a means to continue functioning when a job ends and to allow for a search for new employment. Unemployment Insurance is set up as a STATE run program, providing a minimal income for a set period of time. The maximum payout varies by state, but here in the heartland this maximum benefit is around \$300 a week. The maximum term of benefits is 26 weeks, or 6 months.



Doug Edelman

This is true insurance. Premiums are paid by employers thru a tax, and benefits are paid out when circumstances warrant a claim – up to the maximum benefit.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits are not intended to be an income replacement for a job! They are a supplement to allow the unemployed worker some minimal income to allow him to eat while he seeks another job. After 6 months, the benefits are maxed out and expire.

This is a reasonable system. No one will starve while seeking work. And since the benefit amount is based on earned income over the previous x number of months... someone eligible for the maximum benefit will have earned significantly more than that benefit amount while working. There is INCENTIVE to seek to return to work to maintain the standard of living! (During my last short stint collecting unemployment benefits... the sum total of monthly benefits barely paid my monthly mortgage! I was incentivized to seek another job, as my other expenses ate well into my savings!)

Things get muddled when the FEDERAL government steps in.

During times of high national unemployment, the Feds institute “extended benefits”. This is NOT Unemployment Insurance. No premiums are paid or collected for these benefits. The program is ADMINISTERED by the states but the benefits are simply expenditures of the Federal Budget.

The currently expiring benefits have run through SEVERAL extensions. For one’s benefits to be expiring now, they’d have had to be collecting unemployment thru nearly the entire Obama Presidency!

Remember, McDonalds is hiring, and pays more than \$250 a week! If someone has been out of work for 2 years, they COULD get a job flipping burgers for about the same money that unemployment provides. But WHY WOULD someone who is content to live at that level of income work 40 hrs a week for the kind of money the Feds are giving away for them to sit on their cans?

To be sure, there are people who are NOT content to live on unemployment. Myself, for example! During that last stint of unemployment I mentioned, I was unable to find full time work in my field of expertise, but I DID find and ACCEPT a part-time position! Since I am an IT professional, my part time job nets me, after taxes, significantly more than unemployment benefits pay, though HALF the income I had been earning! I am one of the UNDER-EMPLOYED not recorded on the nations employment statistics... but I am a productive worker, paying taxes and meeting my obligations and expenses – though barely – as I continue to seek a suitable career enhancing position!

The Feds have done enough for the “long-term unemployed”. As they drain federal coffers, they have DIS-incentivized millions of potential CONTRIBUTORS to the nation’s economy. Workers will not take jobs they consider “below them” when they can continue to collect taxpayer funded

subsidy. They will not work 40 hrs at a job that will only minimally improve their lot over what the Feds give them for nothing. The Feds CREATE the long-term unemployment problem!

Necessity is a great motivator. When the benefits expire, these people WILL go out and accept available employment to meet their needs and those of their families. It is time for the mamby-pamby spoiled brat children that make up a goodly portion of the American Population to find out what it is to take a menial subsistence job that is "below them" and be responsible for themselves. The Depression created innovation. The Depression created character. And the children of the Depression became the "Greatest Generation".

The "Great Society" spawned the "ME Generation"... and these people have become spoiled, lazy, entitled and unproductive.

The Safety Net exists at the State Level. In extreme times, a single extension of an additional 26 weeks might be justifiable. But to extend these benefits ad infinitum is simply the creation of another Welfare program, without calling it so. It is another case of the productive funding and subsidizing the unproductive.

The time has come for Congress to say ENOUGH.

There should be no extension of Federal Unemployment Benefits. Congress must begin to show SOME accountability with the tax dollars they appropriate from the productive people of this nation. And it is time for the American People to start being accountable for their own actions, and responsible for their own outcomes.

Doug Edelman is a conservative political analyst and commentator, and has been a contributing editor for The Conservative Voice. His work is also seen on Western Front American, Small Government Times, Western Journalism, News By Us, The American Daily, The Post Chronicle, New Media Journal, Capitol Hill Coffee House and more. Mr. Edelman is also an IT Consultant/Contractor and owner of a Computer Services Business. He has taught PC Maintenance & Repair and Networking at his local Community College, and maintains a blog at <http://starboard.blogtownhall.com>.

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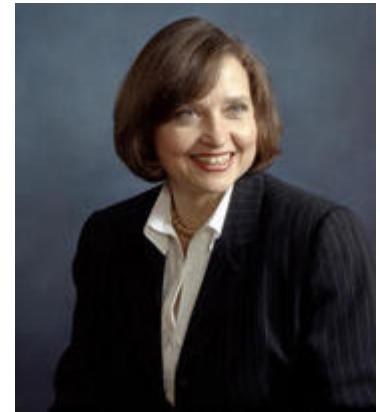
Green Job Sham

by Donna Keene

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

President Barack Obama promised green jobs. But as we've seen in California, most green policies don't create jobs. California's aggressive environmental policies in fact have helped drive many employers out of state, creating an incredible 15% unemployment rate and moribund real estate values, to say nothing of billion dollar budget deficits.

As the Obama Administration unfolds, we are seeing what the president means when he asserted that his environmental policies will "create" jobs: green taxes create more government jobs. For example, at the beginning of the recession, foreign producers of solar panels were hit with a \$70 million dollar tariff. We'll need numerous bureaucrats to enforce this new restriction and like the Federal Reserve's recent actions to devalue the dollar, the weakness and anger of our trading partners simply increases. More green regulations also create government jobs. Counties were offered stimulus money with a catch; "environmental audits" could be conducted on residents. Private houses would be required to pass the audit or retrofit, or lose the right to sell or rent. And again, many government workers are needed to do the monitoring and auditing of such a program.



Donna Keene

Ironically, these types of regulations can impede the natural progress of innovation: typically, breakthroughs are picked up by other scientists, then manufacturers, then consumers, then the government. European kings took more than 400 years to recognize the advantage of alpha numerics over Roman numerals. Energy-saving home construction and insulation innovations in common use in 1970 northern Europe are still not legal in the United States, but not due to information flow this time, simply from bureaucratic inertia.

At other times, our government actually discourages innovation and efficiency. American courts required ReaLemon to raise their prices because their innovative manufacture of popular lemon juice was sold to the consumer too cheaply. In the early 1990s, South Koreans astutely wanted to put high definition television plants in the most likely major market, the United States. The Federal Trade Commission decided that the first televisions sold wouldn't cover research costs and therefore were violating trade laws and being illegal "dumped" at too low a price. The FTC literally drove jobs off the continent, delaying market access to reasonably priced high definition television for nearly two decades.

Likewise in almost every green field of innovation in the residential sector, from tankless septic systems to water purification, government's inability to hire and maintain a cadre of up-to-date scientists and to regulate appropriately is harming the environment and lowering individuals' quality of life. Part of the program is the legislative process itself: when Congress creates a law the Executive Branch launches a complex system of study and comment period for each regulation, then regional managers must be trained to actually understand and enforce the regulations. At every step, those making money from the old law and regulations argue against retooling, adding that this new method will result in job losses for those employed in producing out-dated technologies. Innovation, in this case solid residential environmental products, don't have a chance.

Landlords and homeowners have been hit with higher taxes, in part, to pay for TARP. They also face a new ethic—or lack thereof. Tenants who heard our president send the message that homeowners would be forgiven for not paying their mortgage increasingly feel free not to pay rent. "After all, we don't even own a home!" is the new attitude. Home values have already plummeted. A house requiring expensive retrofits to keep up with the government's idea of "green" could actually have a negative value if it cannot be bought or sold.

One wonders if these green jobs are what the voter thought Obama's campaign promises meant.

Donna Wiesner Keene is a senior fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and served in the Reagan, Bush and Bush Administrations.

GOP Integrity Pledge
by Tom and Lisa Tangen
Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

My wife and I have come up with this idea and we wanted your opinion.

In donating to the Republican Party, we feel that people should be able to trust where their money is going. But in the recent past we have had candidates who say they are Republicans, and have received Republican support, then turn on our GOP party. This is unacceptable. We need a legally binding pledge to try and prevent Republican candidates and elected officials from taking money, support and name-identification from the party and then turning their backs on it.



Our hope is that the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and the National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee will not give any support to a candidate till they sign the pledge. And we hope that donors will not contribute to these committees until they know that their money will only go to candidates who have signed the pledge.

The pledge comes about for the following reasons.

This year alone we have seen Lisa Murkowski losing in the primary in Alaska, then running as a write-in, overturning the decision of the Republican primary electorate after years of enjoying the support and prestige the party has given her, without which she never would have achieved any success. Congressman Mike Castle of Delaware, after a lifetime of Republican support, refused to endorse the candidate who beat him in the primary, leading to a Senate victory for the Democrats. Republican Governor Charlie Crist went so far after being behind in the Republican primary in Florida, to run as an independent, directly hurting the Republicans chance for a Senate seat. Crist had been endorsed and received money from the GOP for years and repaid it with an incredible case of political opportunism. Fortunately, his act of disloyalty did not work.

Senator Arlen Specter actually changed parties from Republican to Democrat when he realized he could not beat his more conservative opponent in the GOP primary. Earlier this decade, Senator Jim Jeffords switched parties from Republican to independent costing the GOP control of the U.S. Senate. Dierdre Scozzafava, running last year in New York, for Congressional District House seat #23, received \$800,000 from the NRCCC. She was so far behind that she dropped out of the race and endorsed the Democrat who won.

So here is the Republican Integrity Pledge:

I will endorse the winner of the primary contest for which I am running OR I will refrain from endorsing (or donating funds or services) to any opposing candidate(s) in the general election.

I personally will NOT run for that position in the general election under any other affiliation or guise (write-in, independent, etc).

If I win the primary and general election, I will NOT change party affiliation during my elected term.

If I violate any of the above, I will return all financial contributions plus interest to all Republican organizations and donors.

What do you think of this?

Thank you, Tom and Lisa Tangen

Reader Comments

Issue 170 – December 22, 2010

**CONSERVATIVE
BATTLELINE
ONLINE**

Editor: Regarding "Conservative Crisis Opportunity," unlike Joey in the story told by Mr. Reagan, I am not nearly as optimistic although I do agree with the manure analogy as I believe there is quite a bit of that coming out of Washington these days. I am not optimistic because I believe that the Democrats have seized upon power and will inflict their misguided will on the American people regardless of reason, common sense and against the wishes of the American people. Fully culpable in the creation of this monster of a Democrat control is the Republican Party. Both parties have spent profusely, earmarked our country to death and punted on serious discussions and solutions that are essential in entitlement reforms. Perhaps, at this late juncture, Republicans have learned a lesson from their past bad behavior, but it is apparent to me that the Democrats have learned nothing and will attempt to hold onto their power, whatever the cost to them politically and personally, whatever the cost to country. Whether it is economic policy, foreign policy or issues of national security, the Democrats have it completely wrong and are unwilling to compromise and in President Obama, they have a perfect foil and defender of their misguided beliefs. Together they have conspired to encumber our country with unsustainable debt and then demand fiscal responsibility from the people to pay for it at the expense of jobs. I am a dentist who has been in practice for nearly 30 years and I started out a Democrat and liberal. Today I am an independent conservative, just not optimistic that reality will every seep into the mindset that is Washington that we are just a legislative creation away from utopia. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sincerely, Richard J. Reinitz, Houston, TX

Editor: Regarding "Conservative Crisis Opportunity," President Obama nationalized banks and the car industry as a socialist would. Socialism and Communism as my late father said were as Godless as a pure Capitalist. That is precisely what he said to his good friend Barry Goldwater. My late father RADM Upper Half was an expert on Communism and the non-Communist Left for his good friend Major General Barry M. Goldwater, Sr. Unfortunately Goldwater was badly hurt in 1964 but Ronald Reagan and my family cared about America as Robert Taft and Goldwater did. My family loved Reagan and was so sorry to see him go. When I heard that he died, I sent condolence cards to his family. My family had been conservative for life. Government has to be limited constitutional republican form for America to function properly. Liberals never cared about our country and the Democrats are the Party of Abortion, War and Treason. They gave us the freedom robbing United Nations because FDR and Stalin wanted it. Socialism and Communism have to be kicked out of our country as well as the UN. Because of FDR our most dishonest President gave us a Soviet America in spite of George Washington and Dad's Valley Forge Freedom award. BGen Peter F. Steele USMC Ret.

Editor: Regarding Brent Bozell's "Banning Happy Meals," someone must wake these idiots up. MacDonald's has been offering Chicken Nuggets, or Hamburgers, French Fries or apple slices, and milk instead of soft drinks for over two years. Where do these idiots live? What do they use for brains, oh, flower petals, I guess. FT

Editor: Brent Bozell's "Banning Happy Meals," is another example of how foolish those in power truly are. They cannot solve an economic crisis, nor defense, nor immigration but they can certainly get control of fat kids. (But not fat politicians, physically as well as monetarily). At the rate the government is re-enforcing laziness by paying people to forever remain inactive, we will eventually

have no one producing food, people with no money to pay for what food may be available, and consuming what ever may be available, usually the most fattening, and turning to crime to obtain it. What a brilliant gaggle of politicians we have, and we even elected them. Charles Roden

Editor: I could not have, and neither could anyone else have, said it better than Jeff Crouere in his article, "One Term Obama?" It is intelligent and he took it right to the core, by comparing President Obama with ex President Carter, by bringing out his mistakes, and his obnoxious attitude for a so called president? Yes I must agree with him 200% with everything he said and personally I think this guy might not even last one term. YP

Editor: After reading Paul Driessen's "End Ethanol Subsidies," I am so angry. If I can get this kind of info by email on my computer, why isn't someone in Washington lobbying on behalf of the American people. Two months ago I was buying non-ethanol gas for my 1999 vehicle. My gas mileage was excellent. Now I am forced to buy gas with 10 percent ethanol in it. I am somewhat concerned that my vehicle will be damaged by the ethanol. Right now I cannot afford a new vehicle at present. Maybe not ever, since I am close to retirement age. We must contact our congressman and senators and let them know that we know this can be fixed and must be fixed. Nancy Cooper

Editor: Concerning Robert Poole's "Airport Body Searching," as in the realm of computers and other electronic devices, any new development is met with a counter development even before the original device is operational. And, as government usually operates, it goes to the least result with the least possible potential for solving the problems. It only takes the mind of a real undisputable idiot to think passengers on an aircraft are the greatest danger. Government also, in its greatest idiotic wisdom, operates in the most ineffective and problematic method while proclaiming to be so great at solving the problems. Let us consider some of the recent ones: Treating terrorists is such a manner as to non-feelings hurting. Let us not, under any circumstances make them feel bad and hire, at taxpayers expense, the most dedicated lawyers to assure feeling are not hurt. 1) Directing attention to those who are obviously not the problem, but victimize them anyhow in order to experience the importance of government action. e.g. the three year old little girl. Now I realize mankind has throughout the ages cruelly utilized little children as a means to appease their gods, but let us not love the tormenter while torturing the victim. 2) Ignorantly ignoring much more potential for terrorism than a body cavity pack, such as a misdirected, confiscated missile. And we know if hackers can get into the most complicated and guarded computer complexes and systems, they can certainly hack into a drone, or missile system and direct it into so may super places for devastation. 3) Demanding a crime, or event, take place prior to taking any intervening action, and even is such action, i.e. Oregon's shopping center event, there is so much attention and effort expended to defile the protectors while protecting the perpetrator(s). 4) Confiscating the defenses of the peaceful public (those least likely to resist) while dogmatically protecting the criminal, who only an idiot will not realize, could not care less about the law, nor the victim, and will have weapons regardless of what the law might require. Our major difficulty in dealing with criminals is having "protectors of citizens, not criminals" who cannot only not even recognize the problem, much less recognize viable solutions. We see this in every aspect of our society from illegal immigration to the most vile of criminal activity. Charles Roden

Editor: Regarding Robert Poole's "Airport Body Searching," I ABSOLUTELY AGREE with every single Body-Scan; Pat-Down; and/or, whatever it takes to keep terrorist Muslims from using 'box-cutters'

as a way to 'bring down' any airplane, once again. Has anyone ever given any thought to: Why this has to be done this way? Well, I will explain it to you! Since Muslims would 'pitch a fit' for being touched in any way at airports; and, the very fact that 'profiling' is absolutely reprehensible and repugnant in this country; this is the ONLY way it can be done, in order to get a 'mandatory' shakedown on Muslims at any airport in this country! And, we all know...if these procedures were not performed in this manner; and, some airplane was brought down every single surviving family member of any American that died on any airplane, would file a lawsuit before the funeral! Anyway, Merry Christmas to all....Can I still say that in the United States of America at Christmas-time? President Harry Truman, where are you? HELP! Gail Dahlstrom, Richmond, VA

**E-mail the
Editor**