



The Liberty Sentinel



DELIVERING REAL NEWS
AND COMMENTARY TO
NORTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA.



"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be."

~Thomas Jefferson

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Florida Democrats disenfranchised by Party

Votes for Democratic primary candidates will not be counted – Is this an opportunity for Republican gain?

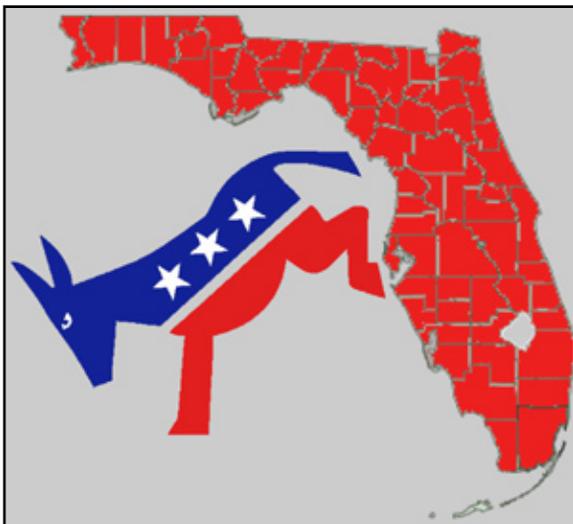
Gary R. Schor
Sentinel Staff Writer

Irony is a popular word, but few people understand its precise meaning. Irony doesn't mean "the unexpected," but rather the opposite of what you would expect.

You don't have to think back very far to remember the 2004 election, or even the 2000 election, when Democratic leaders droned on the mantra "every vote must count". So, who would expect that come 2008, Democratic Party officials would be telling voters in the critical swing state of Florida that their votes don't count? That is irony!

In response to the rescheduling of Florida's presidential primary from early March to January 29th, the Democratic National Committee, under the leadership of Howard Dean, stripped Florida of all of its primary delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention. Bill Nelson, Alcee Hastings, Corrine Brown, and a slew of other prominent Florida Democrats have filed suit against Howard Dean and The Democratic National Committee in an attempt to restore Florida's lost delegates.

The complaint hinges around two basic issues: The first alleges that, although the Democratic Party is a private institution, it operates within the governing election laws and



acts as a quasi-governmental body, and is therefore obligated to perform certain essential public functions in the candidate selection process.

Article II, Section 1 of The U.S. Constitution states "each State shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct," the electors to which the State is entitled. The second issue brings The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment into the picture; disenfranchising Florida voters allegedly violates the equal protection clause.

In fairness, Florida Republicans are also losing some of their clout in the coming primary. The Republican National Committee has penalized Florida with the loss of 50% of its Republican delegates, but the GOP has not followed the Democrats in banning candidates from campaigning in the state.

Historically, the courts have given great leeway to the parties on matters of internal affairs. While it is up to the courts to decide the validity of this complaint, it seems

geared more to the public arena, rather than the legal. It is full of posturing that has little to do with the legal claims, perhaps with the intent to put pressure on the national party to accept one of the compromises proposed by Hastings and Nelson.

Conspiracy theories abound as to why Howard Dean and the Democratic Party would pursue such an "undemocratic" course with Florida Democrats. But like most conspiracy theories, without further conclusive evidence, there is little point in suppositions. It is clear that absent intervention by the

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This one-ounce Liberty Dollar piece minted out of pure silver originally sold for about 20 Federal Reserve notes. Since the raid, these medallions featuring Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul have sold for over \$500 on eBay.

'Liberty Dollar' Raided by IRS, FBI

This 'alternative currency' has circulated in Gainesville and around the nation through a network of businesses, users and associates. Now, its fate is uncertain as people hoard them and await the results of a class action law-suit.

Pat Shannan

Before the doors could open for business Nov. 14, the home offices of NORFED, producers of the Liberty Dollar in Evansville, Ind. were raided by a dozen agents from the FBI and IRS.

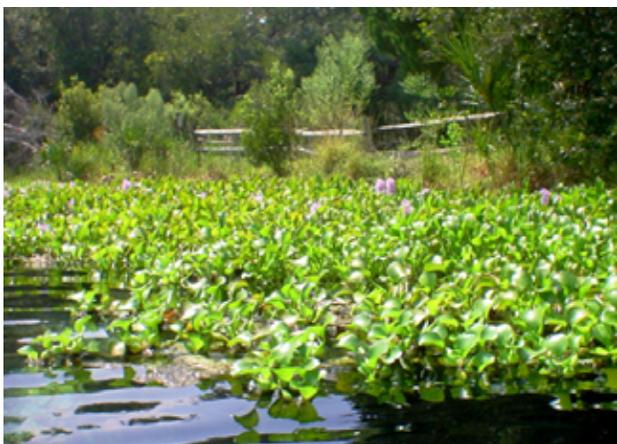
For six hours armed agents took all the gold, silver, platinum and almost two tons of "Ron Paul Dollars" that had just been delivered the previous week. According to founder and director Bernard von NotHaus, they also took all the files and computers and froze the company's bank accounts.

"We have no money, we have no products and we have no records to even know what was ordered or what you are owed," von NotHaus wrote to his account holders. "We have nothing but the will to push forward and overcome this massive assault on our liberty and our right to have real money as defined by the U.S. Constitution. We should not be defrauded by the fake government money."

In addition, all the gold and silver that backs up the paper certificates and digital currency held in the vault at Sunshine

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Poison policies won't save our springs



An analysis of Marion County's proposal to create a new regulatory bureaucracy and why the ordinance was sent back for review

Gary R. Schor
Sentinel Staff Writer

OCALA — James Madison once said, "If tyranny and oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy." Obviously Mr. Madison never imagined the draconian bureaucracy posing as environmentalism that was put forward this fall by elements within the Marion County Board of Commissioners.

The "Save Our Springs Ordinance" (a.k.a. Article 6.4, Springs Protection Overlay Zone) has a nice ring to it. It is certainly a well-crafted public relations slogan. Who could be against saving the springs?

Over 400 concerned citizens crowded into the commission hall for the November 20th public hearing. It was standing room only, with a considerable overflow left out in the hall.

They weren't there with malice towards the springs, but rather in defense of their own property rights. The line

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"Rather than leading a community of co-equal individuals towards environmental consciousness, Save Our Springs... treats the people of Marion County like subjects to be ruled."

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FROM THE PUBLISHER:

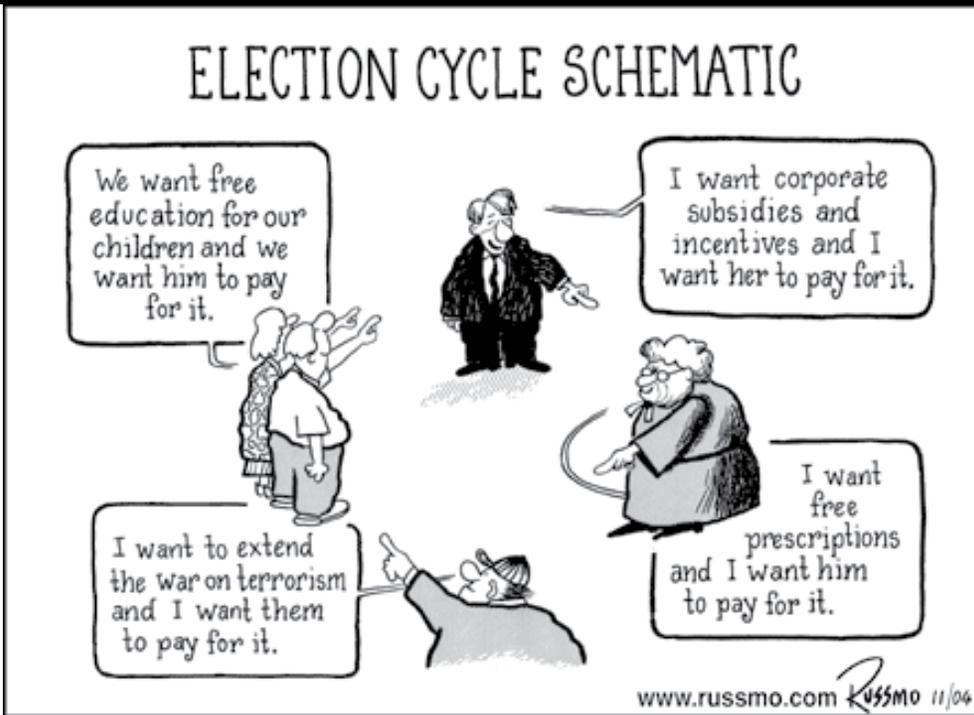
Dear Readers,

I have always been a voracious consumer of the written word. In the beginning, my appetite was for the great classics, such as "Goodnight Moon." Nowadays, I find myself engrossed in works like "The Theory of Money and Credit" by Ludwig von Mises.

Most people, however, don't have the time to catch up on the readings that maybe we, as Americans, should. Important to fully understanding the foundations of our great country are such works as "Common Sense," "The (Anti-) Federalist Papers," "Civil Disobedience," and "Rights of Man," to name a few.

That is why in our expanded next issue we will begin publishing excerpts from these and other patriotic, historical writings. In doing so, we hope to give our Founding Fathers a voice in the present day. In my opinion, their wisdom is more relevant, and more needed than ever.

Sincerely,
The Publisher



Update: The Sentinel reported in November that comedian Stephen Colbert was hoping to run as a Republican and Democrat in South

Carolina for the 2008 Presidential election. Due to federal campaign laws, he has since announced that he is no longer running.

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The Sentinel adheres to the highest principles of journalistic integrity and will always run corrections if something is reported inaccurately. We try to offer an assorted array of views so readers can hear about issues from several perspectives

and form their own conclusions.

The goal of education and the principles enshrined in our Constitution guide our organization to do the job the press is supposed to do: guard liberty, expose corruption, and keep the public informed.

From the local level to Tallahassee and from D.C. to the international arena, the Liberty Sentinel covers issues of importance to all citizens while steadfastly upholding the values of life, liberty and property.

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French President corresponds with local woman

"America did not tell the millions of men and women who came from every country in the world and who --with their hands, their intelligence and their heart--built the greatest nation in the world: 'Come, and everything will be given to you.' She said: 'Come, and the only limits to what you'll be able to achieve will be your own courage and your own talent.'"

A profound proclamation made in Congress earlier this month. Was it from Speaker Pelosi? No-o, she's been enthralled in holding back funds for our warriors. Perhaps Harry Reid rose to address the Nation? No, he's been preoccupied trying to impeach the Vice-President.

On Nov. 7, a foreigner, President Nicolas Sarkozy of the French Republic, spoke to our people to remind us what it has taken to build The Greatest Nation in the World.

This writer was privileged to have been in Paris when Mr. Sarkozy won the Presidential Election. A few days later I walked the three miles from my apartment to the Élysée Palace (Palais de l'Élysée) to deliver this humble letter:

Dear Mr. President,

How tremendous my pleasure to address you "Mr. President"... of my beloved France!

In 1965 my West Point husband inscribed "To Destiny" in my wedding ring, as Napoleon did Josephine's ring. As with hers, my marriage had "good and bad," but sure

both those wedding bands opened Ports in Paris! My husband brought me here in 1970 (to the Ritz, yea!). We passed hours at Invalides and it awakened in me a curiosity for understanding matters of State, Codes of Justice, Rights of The People, etc. It also made me realize how young my country is... how vulnerable it is to youthful folly of believing oneself invincible.



This life-long Gainesville resident, seen here in Paris, corresponded with Sarkozy.

I determined to do my part, and I still do. My country is in great turmoil. Tony Blair flew to us on September 11 as a big brother might rush to aid a sibling in a schoolyard fight. Tears streamed my face to see him arrive. Your predecessor, of course... vous connaissez l'histoire. President Sarkozy, Come to the U.S.!

I was privileged to be in Paris a few days in May, struggling to grasp words in the "Debate" with your rival. Then, 4,3,2,1... Your Victory! Returning to a meeting of The Republican Party of Florida with newspapers of your election, let me assure you there was much discussion, anticipation, and HOPE.

Your example of more realistic dealings with immigrants does not escape notice. Our Party, in fact HIS Party, is at odds with our President on the Illegal Aliens issue. This may be a decisive point in '08. (Would that we had a BASTILLE to storm!) HA. Present laws suffice. A crime is committed to enter any country without authority. These people

must be put out, no matter the difficulty. It is The Law. Borders must be Secured. The Rights of The People... whining of The Press ignored.

I am frustrated by the Political Correctness undermining protection of our people. Having just re-read LUDWIG'S NAPOLEON, especially on the subject of "quelling an up-rise in Cairo", I am hopeful our own Napoleon will step forward in 2008.

You must think me insane. In fact, I am a poor woman in town to sell a tiny apartment bought for my son in 1987. His DIPLOME de LANGUE FRANCAIS is among his treasure I pack today to take home. He died in Paris. This more than politics may account for any insanity. It was I who played little French records to a dancing baby... took a boys hand when he was in short pants to sail boats in the Tuilleries... rented villas to summer in St Maxime... and I who waited two weeks in Paris for the French to give me his body. At this moment there are two red, white, blue flags on his grave.

I tell you this not to send you sadness but to send you assurance your support exceeds 53% of the people in France, Mr. President.

Here was the response (translated from French):

You had the kindness to address to the President of the French Republic, at

the time of his election, a message which touched him very much. He asked me to very warmly thank you for the confidence and the support that you testify to him thus, which further reinforces his firm will to work with determination to the destinies of France. With my respects...

We will never know if President Sarkozy was influenced by my plea to come to the U.S., but come he did. He spoke words of praise and pride in America in French that our own leaders in Washington appear too cowardly to stand up and utter in English.



This is the response sent on behalf of President Sarkozy. He is pictured above, next to the flags of France and the E.U.



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Do Marion County's springs need a new bureaucracy?

Continued from page 1

between "environmentalism" and "radical environmentalism" might blur with some issues, but to call the massive and intrusive 52 page Springs Protection Overlay Zone anything other than "radical" wouldn't be objective journalism.

The tension in the meeting hall was tangible as the crowd waited to see what action the commission would take. Commissioner Jim Payton was the first to speak, and he opened with an apology.

"I should have shown leadership and I didn't." This was to be the final public meeting before the vote on the ordinance, and Mr. Payton had a look of grim remorse when he stated, "the ordinance had only come this far because the commission had failed in its duty to look at the cost and the impact on the people of Marion County".

One of the cornerstones to the Save Our Springs Ordinance is the requirement that all homes and businesses within the county either pay to be connected to the central sewage system, or pay to install a PBTS (performance based treatment system) type septic tank, which can cost as much as \$24,000 per unit and requires twice yearly inspections and maintenance.

Studies suggest that septic tanks only account for 6 to 10 percent of the nitrates in our springs. Yet, the Save Our Springs Ordinance would require millions of dollars and untold man-hours be spent to combat what is essentially a small part of the problem.

It would also subject the people of Marion County to a burdensome inspection regime, with fines of up to \$500 per day for a minor inspection violation.

These factors could further depress the already troubled housing market, and will certainly make Marion County a much more expensive place to live and do business.

Commissioner Andy Kesselring, the unwavering advocate in favor of the ordinance, was visibly irritated and agitated. He could see that the mood of the crowd was not in his favor.

That didn't stop him from admonishing his fellow commissioners for claiming not to know everything the ordinance implied.

"It's easily understood", he said as the crowd erupted with boos and laughter, this of the cumbersome 52 page document, the first seven pages of which are definitions.

Come on people! Doesn't every body know that a "Bioretention Facility is an area which provides retention of storm water through the use of vegetated depressions of 4 to 9 inches in depth with engineered landscaping and soil matrix, designed to collect, store, and infiltrate storm water runoff"?



Commissioner Andy Kesselring was the only vote in favor of the ordinance.

On that point, Mr. Kesselring was correct; the commissioners should have known what the ordinance said before this self-admitted 11th hour.

They should have determined the cause of the elevated nitrogen levels in the springs before they looked for solutions.

They should have known that the ordinance mandated a heavy-handed inspection bureaucracy.

They should have known that fines for minor inspection violations could range as high as \$15,000 per month.

They should have wondered if the \$1,000 twice-yearly inspections would be too much for the people of Marion County to bear.

They should have wondered what adding thousands of dollars to the cost of buying and maintaining a home in Marion County would do to people already stretched thin by

a declining housing market, falling dollar, and anemic economic growth.

But who needs facts? It was simply enough for Commissioner

Kesselring to know that they had been working on the ordinance for years, as if somehow the mere quantity of time spent on developing the ordinance meant that it was good enough to become law.

And who needs rational thought when you can call on scare tactics like the environmental disasters that befell the Florida Everglades and Lake Apopka? So what if the conditions that lead to those environmental tragedies have no parallel to the challenges facing Marion County's springs?

Given that the Floridian Aquifer that

feeds Marion's springs stretches through Georgia, Alabama, and into South Carolina, it seems audacious to think that a countywide ordinance could have any effect.

When her turn came to speak, Commissioner Barbara Fitos touched on something important.

"Most people want to do the right thing" she said, as she then went on to justify the principles of an ordinance which seeks to punish everyone equally for the shortcomings of a few, even while voting against it.

The Save Our Springs Ordinance is full of rules, regulations, and punishments, but it does nothing to promote public education and voluntary compliance. Rather than leading a community of co-equal individuals towards environmental consciousness, Save Our Springs establishes a top down bureaucracy that treats the people of Marion County like subjects to be ruled. But the show of opposition by the community was enough to remind Commissioner Fitos that she works for the people of Marion County, not the other way around.

The final vote was four to one to send the ordinance back for further review and consideration, with Commissioner Andy Kesselring as the only dissenting vote.

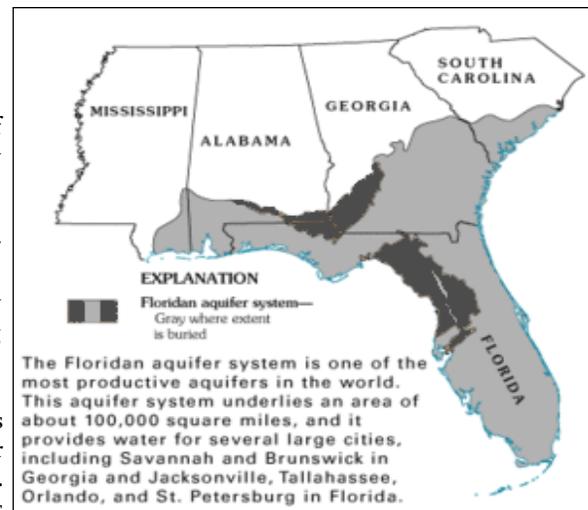
Whether or not the Springs Protection Ordinance does anything at all to protect our springs is a matter of question. What is not questionable is

that it seeks to impose a massive inspection bureaucracy on the people and businesses of Marion County.

It creates the legal groundwork for outlawing private wells and private sewage systems. It adds thousands of dollars to the cost of building and maintaining a home or business in Marion County. It substitutes unproven technologies for proven ones. It creates a centralized water and sewage monopoly. And all of this is justified under the noble intention of "protecting our springs."

Even with this temporary defeat, we have been told that "the goal is good; it's just the methodology that has gone awry."

But, we should always question the intentions of those who say they seek to "preserve our natural resources" for future generations by making life impossible for those of us in the present.



The "Save Our Springs Ordinance" would require millions of dollars and untold man-hours be spent to combat what is essentially a small part of the problem.

Florida Democrats will have no say in primary

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courts or some kind of backroom deal, Florida Democrats will be shut out of the presidential primary decision making process. Casting a vote for Hillary, Edwards, Gravel, Kucinich or Obama will not change the outcome of the race. That is, of course, **only** if Democrats choose to remain Democrats.

Florida is a closed primary state, so voters can only vote within the primary of the political party they belong to. But, citizens are allowed to change party whenever they want for whatever reason. Florida voters have until December 29th to change their party affiliation for the coming primary. Not being able to choose a candidate in a primary election is a fairly compelling reason to change parties.

Some Ron Paul supporters in the Republican Party are seeing this as an opportunity to bring Florida Democrats in to the party.

Many Democrats are already frustrated with their party's impotence at bringing a decisive



Howard Dean is the chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

end to the war in Iraq like they promised in '06 while others are worried about the loss of civil liberties and their own party's vague commitment to their restoration. Still more are concerned with regressive taxation and the plummeting value of the dollar. For those Democrats, this primary season is a perfect time to ditch the donkey and become a Ron Paul Republican, his supporters say.

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Federal agents raid Liberty Dollar in attempt to kill alternative currency

Continued from page 1

Mint has been confiscated. Even the dies for minting the Gold and Silver Libertys were grabbed in an obvious effort to destroy this association and steal the assets from its thousands of members across the country. NORFED was started in 1998 with the basic idea of providing gold- and silver-backed currency for Americans and the long-term

dream of "replacing the fiat fed notes one dollar at a time."

In addition to producing one-ounce coins of both gold and silver, its members could trade paper notes redeemable in specie on demand.

Last year the attack upon NORFED was begun when federal officials and mint spokesmen accused the group of "defrauding

the public." Edmond C. Moy, director of the U.S. mint, had acknowledged in a letter to a U.S. senator that the paper certificates did not violate 18 USC Sec. 486 and were not illegal. But the FBI and IRS took all the paper currency, too.

Suspecting the possibility of such drastic action by the government, NORFED has always urged its members to possess the coin. Of the \$20 million in Liberty Dollars, only

about \$1 million is in paper or digital form, according to von NotHaus.

NORFED officials expressed regret to its members that recent orders may never be filled because of a lack of records and urged all to "band together in a class action suit" to get their assets returned.

Article courtesy of the American Free Press

The threat to the dollar and how it's affecting Florida

By: Christopher Bonura and Alex Newman
Sentinel Staff Writers

The value of the U.S. dollar fell below Canada's last month for the first time since 1976.

Some economists will try to put a silver lining on this ominous cloud, saying it will help even out America's woeful trade deficit. While that may be true, other economists say that these indicators could spell hard times ahead.

As the dollar loses value, your money will buy fewer meals, less gasoline, and eventually lead to a lower standard of living. Those on a fixed income are already feeling the pressure of inflation, including many owners of the more than 30,000 properties that were foreclosed on in Florida just this October.

According to RealtyTrac, the number of foreclosures in Florida was up 165 percent from last October.

"Florida consumers seem to understand the gravity of the fallout from the housing crisis and resulting credit crunch," said Chris McCarty, the director of the University of Florida's Survey Research Center at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

"The growing pessimism about U.S. economic conditions seems to be among all income levels," he said in the UF news release about a new study showing a decline in consumer confidence among Floridians during November.

McCarty also noted that sales this Christmas season are expected to be weak compared to last year's, and that the housing market decline probably won't bottom out until at least late 2008.

The blame for the deteriorating state of the economy is usually aimed at the Fed's policies, but some economists argue that efforts to reform the Fed are missing the big picture: the basis of the nation's monetary structure - fiat money.

Here is how part of the system works: The Fed creates money and gets it in circulation by loaning it out and demanding repayment with interest. Commercial banks and the federal government then borrow the newly created

money. The Fed only printed the principal, not the interest, so the people and the government are forced into debt. Eventually they borrow more money with interest to pay back the interest from before.

A 1984 report by Ronald Reagan's Grace Commission stated that: "100% of what is collected is absorbed solely by interest on the Federal Debt ... All individual income-tax

revenues are gone before one nickel is spent on the services tax-payers expect from government." Since 1984, the situation has only gotten worse.

"The Federal Reserve creates inflation when it issues US dollars backed by government debt," said Bernard Von NotHaus, the founder of the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act and Internal Revenue Code.

"Since 1913, when the Federal Reserve was created by Congress, your money has

lost 96% of its purchasing power due to inflation." Before federal agents raided his organization in

November, Von NotHaus

minted and sold gold and silver "Liberty Dollars" as an alternative to trading in Federal Reserve notes.

The idea spread like wild-fire and created what an article in the Washington Post called an "underground economy."

Even Gainesville had a network of people trading in Liberty Dollars with over 25 businesses accepting the private currency and many locals trading it amongst themselves, said a former Liberty Dollar associate based in Gainesville who asked not to be named in light of the recent actions taken by the federal government.



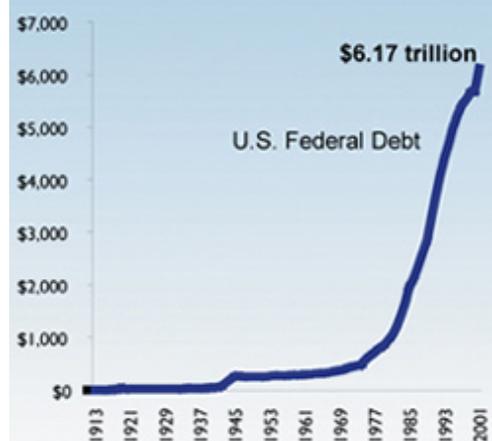
Alan Greenspan, an economist who knew the importance of sound money, was criticized for betraying his principles and serving as Fed chairman.

"If we ever want our savings to be secure, we have to get rid of the Federal Reserve and return to Constitutional money," he said. "The amazing success of the Liberty Dollar in such a short time is evidence that people are tired of inflation and want to use sound money backed by something other than a government gun."

Throughout most of America's history the dollar was based on gold and occasionally silver. The government could not make money out of thin air because it could not make gold out of thin air, so it could only spend what it had. Prodded by the bankers and always looking to spend more money, U.S. politicians, along with many European countries, came upon the idea of fiat money.

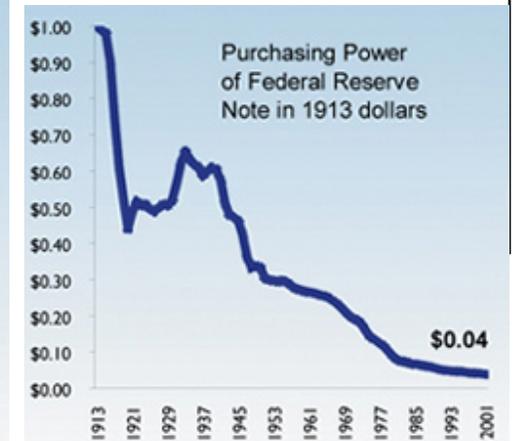
The idea of a strong central bank, one of the 10 planks of the Communist Manifesto, finally succeeded in 1913 with the Federal Reserve Act. That same year Americans were burdened with a second plank from Marx's work, a progressive tax on income.

While this system has allowed the governments of the Twentieth Century to run massive welfare and warfare states, it has not been so beneficial to the average worker. Savings decrease in value. Wages and salaries are among the last area of the economy to "adjust for inflation," leading to even more hardships for the poor and middle class.



The national debt has climbed to alarming levels since the Federal Reserve was created in 1913.

Source: U.S. Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt



The Federal Reserve Note (US dollar) has lost 96% of its purchasing power since 1913.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor

The laws of supply and demand show that a greater supply of something lowers its value. The market for money follows the same rules, so when the Fed floods the economy with dollars, all existing dollars lose value. To make matters worse, economists can now only speculate about how much money actually exists - the Fed recently stopped publishing M3 figures as a supposed "cost-cutting" measure.

FIAT MONEY IN HISTORY

America is not the first nation to experiment with the Damocles' Sword of fiat currency. Ancient Roman Emperors were always in the mood to conquer a foreign people, but found that this enterprise could be quite expensive.

Until they realized that the coinage could be debased, they would coat copper with silver and call it a silver coin. Eventually, they did not even have to coat the coins. They were the emperors, after all.

We know from an Edict on Prices from 300 AD that it took about 833 denarii (the standard Roman coin) to buy one gold coin. Inflation had already eaten away at the value of the currency, but it only got worse. By 350 AD it took 4,600,000 denarii to buy one gold coin, and by the end of the century 45,000,000.

The Romans came to their senses - they switched to gold coins and stopped debasing them. The damage to the ancient world's economy was already done, however.

Paper money, invented by the Chinese, made the job of government counterfeiters even easier. The Ming Dynasty of Medieval China flooded the economy with their valueless money. It led to the collapse of the dynasty and less than a hundred years later, the adoption of silver coins.

The most famous example of a fiat currency going awry is the German Mark of post-World War I Germany. Forced to pay a huge war indemnity, the Weimar Republic attempted to make up for its lack of money by printing it. Hyperinflation eventually destroyed the currency's value and ruined the German economy.

Between 1921 and 1923, the Mark plunged in value. At the height of the crisis, inflation

reached over 3 million percent and prices were doubling every two days. Stories abound of people using currency notes for kindling and of having to wheel barrels of money to the corner store, only to have their wheelbarrows stolen.

For a long time the Fed has managed to prevent a collapse of the economy if one overlooks that one little mistake: The Great Depression.

Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan wrote an essay decades ago pointing out the absurdities of fiat currency and the importance of using gold as money called "Gold and Economic Freedom." Though he has been accused of compromising his principles by serving as chairman of the Federal Reserve,



The Federal Reserve Bank in Washington D.C.

Credit: Dan Smith

Greenspan is generally seen as an economic mastermind who kept the U.S. economy afloat.

Current chair Ben Bernanke, on the other hand, does not inspire the same confidence.

Nominated by a man famous for nominating inexperienced sycophants to high office, it is not surprising that one fiscal strategy he posited was dropping money out of helicopters.

It is little wonder that under this new leadership, America's fiat currency has been performing even worse.

One of the biggest obstacles to fixing these problems is that the issue doesn't garner much attention anymore. Senator Mel Martinez told The Liberty Sentinel that he didn't want to address the issue when he was asked for his position. Many people seem to have forgotten that there is even an alternative to paper money!



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RESTORING THE CONSTITUTION

*"That to secure these Rights, Governments
are instituted among Men, deriving their just
Powers from the Consent of the Governed."*

— Declaration of Independence, 1776

The Constitution of the United States of America instituted the government that secures our God-given rights.

The John Birch Society endorses the U.S. Constitution as the foundation of our national government, and works toward educating and activating Americans to abide by the original intent of the Founding Fathers. We seek to awaken a sleeping and apathetic people concerning the designs of those who are working to destroy our constitutional Republic.

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Freedom has an address

"THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY is one of very few organizations dedicated to restoring the Constitution and the American way of life to United States citizens. Membership is open to people from all walks of life, who want to live in a society free of government interference in their daily lives. I urge every American to join us in the fight to save our nation — before it gets too late."

— Fred D. Marshall

PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

*"These united Colonies are, and of Right ought
to be Free and Independent States... We hold these
Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created
equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with
certain unalienable Rights, that among these are
Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."*

— Declaration of Independence, 1776

The Declaration of Independence established the independence of both the original 13 American colonies and these united States of America that they together formed a decade later.

The Declaration proclaimed that our personal rights come from God, not from government.

The John Birch Society endorses the timeless principles of the Declaration of Independence. The Society also labors to warn against and expose the forces that seek to abolish U.S. independence, build a world government, or otherwise undermine our personal liberties and national independence.

*"THANK GOODNESS for those, such as members of the
John Birch Society, who are unashamed to advocate love of
country, defense of our nation, and an abiding commitment
to our Constitution."*

— Former Congressman Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho

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Government accused of treating imprisoned border patrol agents worse than terrorists

By Jim Kouri

VP of National Association of Chiefs of Police

In a biting letter, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) blasted President George W. Bush and his administration for treating terrorists better than they treat the two convicted Border Patrol agents, Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean.

Rep. Rohrabacher called on the Bush administration to conduct a thorough review of the harsh treatment the two decorated border agents are receiving while in solitary confinement. The popular conservative wrote to President Bush that for 10 months Ramos and Compean have been in conditions more severe than experienced by alleged terrorists held by the US at the Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Rohrabacher told the news media in a statement that he has written a letter to Manhattan federal trial judge Michael Mukasey, Bush's nominee to replace Alberto Gonzales as US Attorney General, demanding that upon confirmation Mukasey conduct an unbiased review of the agents' prosecution. "Given the close personal relationship between the prosecuting US Attorney Johnny Sutton, former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and President Bush, past requests for inquiries into prosecutorial misconduct in this case have been ignored," Rohrabacher claimed in his statement. "Conflicting statements made by Mr. Sutton during Senate testimony in July and to the press have yet to be clarified," Rohrabacher continued, "and newly obtained information regarding the treatment of the officers in

solitary confinement for the last 10 months reveals conditions that are harsh and unnecessarily punitive in nature."

"This is once again an example of how US citizens are treated in comparison to terrorists, illegal aliens and foreign nationals," said New York Police Officer Edna Aguayo. "Who can forget incidents such as the massacre at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas? Does anyone believe the Clinton Administration -- including his Attorney General Janet Reno -- would have avoided prosecution if the people murdered by federal cops were illegal aliens or suspected terrorists? Political leaders know they can abuse white, American citizens with impunity," said the 15-year veteran of the NYPD.



Ignacio Ramos and his wife Monica.

Ramos and Compean received prison sentences of more than 10 years each for their involvement in the shooting and wounding of Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, a Mexican illegal who was fleeing across the Mexican border and resisting arrest after having smuggled 750 pounds of marijuana into the US.

In a fact sheet comparison of Gitmo Camp 4, the medium-security terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, and the solitary confinement experienced by Ramos and Compean under the US Bureau of Prisons, Rohrabacher claims the former border agents spend 23 hours per day in their cells, with only one hour permitted outdoors per day.

Camp 4 Gitmo detainees, according to Rohrabacher's fact sheet, are allowed to live in a communal setting that permits up to

nine hours per day in outside exercise and recreational facilities that included covered picnic tables and ping-pong tables, as well as access to soccer fields and volleyball courts.

Rohrabacher's assertions are backed up by a US Bureau of Prisons program statement issued in 1987, which defines the solitary confinement standards for the detention of prisoners who are isolated for their own safety. Usually such treatment is afforded law enforcement officers who are convicted and imprisoned.

According to conservative strategist Michael Baker, the two former border agents are being brutalized. "For instance, last February, Ramos was severely beaten by fellow prison inmates at the Federal Correctional Complex in Yazoo City, Miss., where he was initially placed in general prison population," said Baker.

"The attack came immediately after the airing of a segment on Ramos and Compean by the America's Most Wanted television show," he said.

The White House, according to Baker, attempted to cover-up the attack on Ramos, but federal prison officials told the news media that the assault

"...Ramos was severely beaten by fellow prison inmates at the Federal Correctional Complex..."

occurred on February 6. Ramos and Compean began serving their sentences on January 17, 2007 and so far their appeals have been denied. According to Congressman Rohrabacher, an Armed Forces Press Services news article reveals that Gitmo detainees have privileges that include culturally sensitive food, periodic visits from a designated librarian, popular books translated into Arabic, electric fans in

the bays, ice water available around the clock and plastic tubs with lids for detainees to store personal items. The detainees also are issued white uniforms, considered a more culturally respected color than the orange suits typical of many prisoners in the US.

While Gitmo detainees get frequent ice cream parties and access to Subway or McDonald's meals, Rohrabacher's fact sheet says Ramos and Compean receive no special meals or extra food privileges. At one point, Ramos lost 30 or more pounds and his family was concerned he was not receiving needed prescription medications, according to Rohrabacher.

"During the last presidential election in 2004, most police organizations and unions endorsed President Bush. However, it didn't take long for Bush to disappoint law enforcement officers across the nation," said a former NYPD detective who now runs a private security firm in Manhattan. "While Bush fooled many into believing he's a conservative, he has shown his true colors. He's no different than people like Clinton, Kerry and others who treat American citizens worse than criminals and terrorists," he added.

Critics -- especially conservatives and law enforcement officers -- point out the fact that the Bush administration refused to intervene on behalf of Ramos' and Compean's bond request, in sharp contrast to the president's decision to commute the sentence of convicted White House aide Scooter Libby before he spent a day in federal prison.

With the Alberto Gonzales' replacement, several leaders including Rep. Rohrabacher hope to force the new Attorney General to investigate the case against the two Border Patrol agents. "If [the] new Attorney General is unwilling to look into this, he doesn't deserve to be Attorney General," Rohrabacher proclaimed.



Jose Compean, the other jailed border guard.



Floridians can vote to cut property taxes

By State Senator Steve Oelrich

John Adams said, "Property is surely a right of mankind as real as liberty." His words reflect the ideology that has guided the Florida Legislature through the process of bringing property tax relief to the people of our state.

The right to property is essential to the American dream, and when that right is threatened by unexpected, unbearable spikes in property taxes, relief must be provided. This week the Legislature passed a comprehensive constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, will provide that relief.

One of the key provisions in our relief package allows homeowners to transfer their Save Our Homes tax benefit to a new home. This

policy, called portability, will spark Florida's economy with only a minimal impact on local government. When one family downsizes into a smaller home that better meets their needs, thanks to portability, another family can afford to move into that home.



Steve Oelrich served as the Sheriff of Alachua County and now represents District 14 in the Florida Senate.

This policy eliminates the "lock-in effect," which has prevented homeowners - often seniors or empty-nesters - from moving into smaller homes as their needs or lifestyles changed.

Portability gives Floridians the freedom to choose where to live and what sort of home to buy based on the needs of their families, not on a failed tax policy.

The amendment also doubles the homestead exemption, providing an additional \$25,000 exemption for the

value of homestead property above \$50,000 (excluding school taxes). This will allow the tax benefit to keep pace with the increased price of housing; more than 94 percent of Florida homeowners will enjoy tax relief under the increased exemption. Once approved by the voters, this benefit will provide relief on your next tax bill.

The proposed constitutional amendment creates a new exemption from taxes on tangible personal property (TPP) of \$25,000 and eliminates the need for businesses to file a return if they have less than \$25,000 in tangible personal property. This change will exempt over 1 million Floridians from this tax, out of a total of 1.2 million who currently pay it. Many Floridians actually spent more money complying with related paperwork than they owed in TPP taxes. This proposed amendment will cut away that red tape.

Small business owners, second home owners, renters, and others will benefit from

the fourth component of the Legislature's tax relief plan, which places a 10 percent cap on assessments of non-homestead properties. Most non-homestead property owners have experienced "sticker shock" when looking at their tax bills in recent years. This cap provides predictability for all properties in Florida; no longer will property owners have to fear unexpected, large assessment spikes.

This legislation reflects the testimony and ideas of so many concerned voters across Florida. Now the choice is exactly where it should be - in your hands.

On January 29, 2008, you the voter will have the opportunity to approve this proposed amendment and provide much-needed property tax relief in our state. The American dream is alive and well in Florida, and this constitutional amendment will ensure that Floridians can continue making that dream a reality in their own lives.

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WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ

See where you stand on the new political spectrum!

How do you stand on **PERSONAL** issues? 20 10 0

- ▶ Government should not censor speech, press, media, or Internet. A M D
- ▶ Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. A M D
- ▶ There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. A M D
- ▶ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. A M D
- ▶ There should be no National ID card. A M D

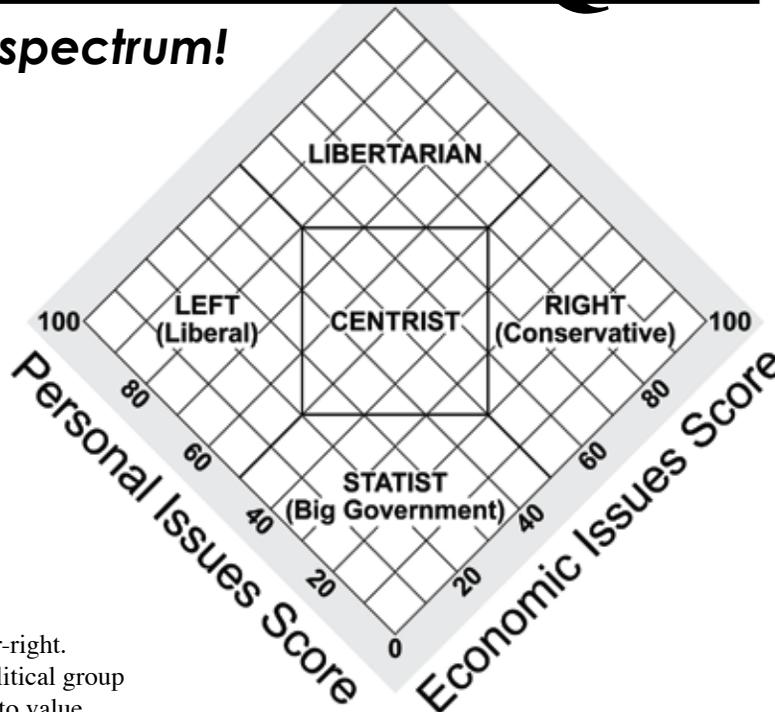
SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: _____

How do you stand on **ECONOMIC** issues? 20 10 0

- ▶ End "corporate welfare." No government handouts to business. A M D
- ▶ End government barriers to international free trade. A M D
- ▶ Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security. A M D
- ▶ Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- ▶ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. A M D

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: _____

Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The chart shows the political group that agrees with you the most. Liberals tend to value personal freedom. Conservatives tend to value economic freedom. Libertarians value both.



ARE YOU A LIBERTARIAN?

Libertarians believe in, and pursue, personal freedom while maintaining personal responsibility. Libertarians strongly oppose any government interfering in their personal, family and business decisions. Essentially, we believe all Americans should be free to live their lives and pursue their interests as they see fit as long as they do no harm to another.

SUGGESTED READING: *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat, *Free to Choose* by Milton Friedman, *Libertarianism: A Primer* by David Boaz, *Libertarianism in One Lesson* by David Bergland.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES: The Cato Institute - cato.org, Reason Magazine - reason.com, DownsizeDC.org, FreeStateProject.org, The Libertarian Party - lp.org, Republican Liberty Caucus - rlc.org, Libertarian Party of Florida, lpf.org

The international war on vitamins

How obscure treaties are jeopardizing your health freedom

Gary R. Schor
Sentinel Staff Writer

A man walks into a drugstore and looks along the shelf for the vitamins he usually buys, but all of them are gone. He smiles to the pharmacist and asks, "I'm looking for the

vitamin C - do you know where they've put it?"

"Do you have a prescription?" the pharmacist replies. "Err, no", says the man "It's cold and flu season, and I can't afford to get sick this year."

"Sorry sir, but you will need to talk to your doctor. That product is only available by prescription."

This isn't just a story. This conversation could be taking place all over the United States in a few years if something isn't done to stop the implementation of CODEX.

"Codex Alimentarius" means "food rules" in Latin, and it's slated to go into effect in 2009. The organization was established in 1962 when the UN created the Codex Alimentarius

Commission as a "trade commission." It was instituted to regulate (substitute control) virtually every aspect of how food and nutritional supplements are produced and distributed.

CODEX is euphemistically sold to the public under the guise of consumer protection. But, the CODEX brand of protection is more like the kind of "protection" offered by the mafia.

Look at the way CODEX treats vitamins. Long known for their ability to promote health and combat disease, C O D E X reclassifies vitamins, labeling them not as nutrients, but as toxins. CODEX then prohibits these toxins from being included in food or supplements in any doses above what many experts decry as "minuscule."

CODEX lays the groundwork for an Orwellian future where getting caught with a bottle of vitamins would be like being caught with a gram of heroin. But it doesn't just stop with outlawing vitamins. CODEX also attacks your first amendment rights to freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Pharmaceutical companies are free to promote potentially dangerous drugs with serious side effects that have only been around for a few years, but information on traditional

remedies and the natural health properties of foods, some tested over millennia, is prohibited.

A 1999 study on cherries showed significant evidence that eating as few as 20 cherries per day could have as powerful an anti-inflammatory effect as some of the more powerful non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pharmaceuticals.

Behaving as if CODEX had already been implemented, the FDA immediately prohibited cherry growers from sharing the truthful health benefits of their product with the public.

High profile class action lawsuits have linked VIOXX and other members of this class of drugs to increased risk of heart attacks, while the more common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, decreased appetite, rash, dizziness, headache, and drowsiness. The greatest danger from cherries is usually the pit.

The Declaration of Independence, while not a legal document, speaks out in favor of "Life, Liberty, and The Pursuit of Happiness." In order to have life, let alone liberty and happiness, you must first have health.

CODEX and the growing threat of regulatory restrictions that accompany it seek to limit our access to information and supplements that maintain our health. This stands in stark contrast to the basic rights our nation was founded on.



The UN's Codex Alimentarius seeks to limit access to vitamins

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EDUCATION

University ends 'ideological reeducation' program

By Erik MacLean
Sentinel Staff Writer

The University of Delaware has shut down a program that defined all whites as racists after it was blasted by critics as ideological reeducation.

According to the university's own materials, the program was intended to be used as a "treatment" so students would "adopt highly specific university-approved views on issues ranging from politics to race, sexuality, sociology, moral philosophy, and environmentalism."

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) led the charge to stop the program by drawing attention to some very controversial aspects of it.

"The university has decided that it is not enough to expose its students to the values it considers important; instead, it must coerce its students into accepting those values as their own. At a public university like Delaware, this is both unconscionable and unconstitutional," said FIRE President Greg Lukianoff.

Before demanding that the program be dismantled he added that "the fact that the university views its students as patients in need of treatment for some sort of moral

sickness betrays a total lack of respect not only for students' basic rights, but for students themselves."

Students were allegedly required to meet with their Residence Assistants (RAs) for mandatory training sessions and interviews about their sexual identity and other personal matters.

The documents used to train the RAs define a racist as "one who is both privileged and socialized on the basis of race by a white supremacist (racist) system. The term applies to all white people (i.e., people of European descent) living in the United States, regardless of class, gender, religion, culture or sexuality. By this definition, people of color cannot be racists, because as peoples within the U.S. system, they do not have the power to back up their prejudices, hostilities, or acts of discrimination."

After news of the program spread into the mainstream, it was shut down.

"I have directed that the program be stopped immediately. No further activities under the current framework will be conducted," the University's president, Patrick Harker said. He also called for a "full and broad-based review" of the program's practices and purposes.

"Under the First Amendment, state institutions have no right to impose mandatory ideological training on their students," Lukianoff stated, praising Harker's decision to end the program. "We will be keeping an eye on the University of Delaware to make sure future programs respect the individual right of conscience of its students."



Pulse of the Taxpayer
Weekdays
10AM-11AM

Congressional and leftist lies

By Walter E. Williams

An important component of the leftist class warfare agenda is to condemn President Bush's tax cuts for the rich. This claim is careless, ignorant, or dishonest on at least two counts. First there's the constitutional issue. Article I, Section 8 reads, "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes . . ." That means the president has no taxing authority.

Presidents can propose or veto taxes and Congress can override vetoes. The bottom line is that all taxing authority rests with the U.S. Congress. The next time you hear someone condemn or praise Bush's tax cuts, ask them whether the Constitution has been amended to give the president taxing authority.

But what about those tax cuts for the rich? Are the rich now sharing a smaller burden of the federal income tax because their fair share of the burden has been shifted to the poor? The most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) statistics can give us some guidance. In 2005, the top 1 percent of income earners, those with an annual adjusted gross income of \$365,000 and higher, paid 39 percent of all federal income taxes; in 1999, they paid 36 percent.

In 2005, the top 5 percent of income earners, those having an adjusted gross income of \$145,000 and higher, paid 60 percent of all federal taxes; in 1999, it was 55 percent. The top 10 percent, earning income over \$103,000, paid 70 percent. The top 25 percent, with income of over \$62,000, paid 86 percent, and the top 50 percent, earning \$31,000 and higher, paid 97 percent of all federal taxes.

What about any argument suggesting that the burden of taxes have been shifted to the poor? The bottom 50 percent, earning \$30,000 or less, paid 3 percent of total federal income taxes. In 1999, they paid 4 percent. Congressmen know all of this, but they attempt to hoodwink the average American who doesn't.

The fact that there are so many American earners who have little or no financial stake in our country poses a serious political problem. The Tax Foundation estimates that 41 percent of whites, 56 percent of blacks, 59 percent of American Indian and Aleut Eskimo and 40 percent Asian and Pacific Islanders had no 2004 federal income tax liability. The study concluded, "When all of the dependents of these income-producing households are counted, there are roughly 122 million Americans -- 44 percent of the U.S. population -- who are outside of the federal income tax system." These people represent a natural constituency for big-spending politicians. In other words, if you have little or no financial stake in America, what do you care about the cost of massive federal spending programs?

Similarly, what do you care about tax cuts if you're paying little or no taxes? In fact, you might be openly hostile toward tax cuts out of fear that they might lead to reductions in handout programs from which you benefit. Survey polls have confirmed this. According to The Harris Poll taken in June 2003, 51 percent of Democrats thought the tax cuts enacted by Congress were a bad thing while 16 percent of Republicans thought so. Among Democrats, 67 percent thought the tax cuts were unfair while 32 percent of Republicans thought so. When asked whether the \$350 billion tax cut package will help your family finances, 59 percent of those surveyed said no and 35 percent said yes.

Whether you're for or against President Bush matters little, but what do you think of politicians and their media dupes winning you over with lies about the rich not paying their fair share? And, by the way, \$145,000 or even \$345,000 a year hardly qualifies one as rich. It's not even yacht money.

FROM OUR READERS:

"INVALID PAPERS"

Last night when returning from a concert, a police officer decided to pull me over. First he claimed my tag was expired while asking for my registration. It was not expired, registrations expire the day before the end of the month (which it wasn't yet). He then stated that my license was suspended as of August 2007, when I GOT my license. This problem was cleared up in August, otherwise the DMV would have never issued me one OR suspended it without my knowledge.

I have a letter from Tallahassee stating my license is valid. I was told by the state that there was a flag on my record stating whoever impersonated me in '03 was not me, and that I shall not be punished for it.

This did not show up on his "computer" so he presented me with 2 citations, 1 for speeding, 1 for driving

on an unknowingly suspended license. I gladly signed the citation for speeding but when I got to the citation about my license, I took the time to read what I was signing. He stated "If I have to ask you the third time to sign this, you're going to jail."

I continued to read and told the officer that I could not sign it, so I was then hauled away to jail.

My career path is potentially ruined. I was a victim of invalid paperwork, which could happen to each and every one of you. None of you are safe.

I can be charged with 2 misdemeanors that could cost me 60 days in jail. Make sure you're a Republican and vote for Ron Paul. He is the only one willing to eliminate these bureaucracies which diminish those with a bright future to a future of servitude.

— Robert Caldwell, Sarasota

"NAFTA AND THE NAU"

I was watching Larry King on CNN the other day and Mexico's ex-President was talking about "integration" and some "long-range" goal of making a "regional currency" for North America called the Amero. Since I hadn't heard much about this except on Lou Dobbs' show about the North American Union I googled it and I think everyone should do the same because there is a whole lot of stuff nobody is telling us here.

Somebody is up to no good who I think is messing with our dollar. Go to the Council on Foreign Relations' website and read a document called Building a North American Community, and then check out the Security and Prosperity Partnership stuff that Bush and Mexico and Canada signed.

Don't believe them when they say NAFTA is just about trade because the European Union started in the exact same manner. Section 511 of NAFTA requires us to harmonize our laws and regulations with Canada and Mexico in a bunch of different areas.

It's past time that more people in the media start talking about this because I don't think Americans want any part of this. Thanks for reading and I hope everybody looks some of this stuff up.

— Kimberly Schwartz, Ocala

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