

The Libertarian Party, founded in 1972, believes that government regulation or control is unnecessary and harmful.

Among other things, the party believes property taxes should be replaced with *user fees*, paper money should be replaced with gold or silver, that land use planning and zoning should be replaced with voluntary covenants and that the state and national forests should be transferred to private ownership.

Internationally, the party calls for an end to U.S. intervention in other countries' affairs, a withdrawal of all U.S. troops from overseas and free trade and immigration among all nations. □

the Southern Libertarian

Messenger

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July, 1991

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Vol. XX, No. 3



THE FOUR HORSEMEN... AND KIN. CALAMITY WAITING TO HAPPEN

by William Murchison

We've got to cut the Gordian knot of dependence on government as the One Great Provider.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's proposal to cut Social Security taxes throws us back on first principles — philosopher-talk for "What are we really, truly trying to do here?"

White House opposition to canceling the latest increase and chopping back another 2.2 percent next year centers on the federal deficit. Social Security revenues are counted against the deficit.

Fred McClure, the White House's congressional liaison man, puts the anti-tax cut case about as baldly as possible: "How are you going to pay for (Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction) if you make these changes?"

As the Murchison boys are fond of saying: "Hold it! Wait!" Is that why Social Security taxes went up again this month -- to gladden budget-balancers' hearts? Where did I get the idea Social Security was a kind of federal pension system? Either the \$55 billion Sen. Moynihan would save us this year and the next are needed to finance retirement benefits, or they aren't.

On inspection, this turns out to be

the wrong premise. To begin with, Social Security taxes aren't stashed away for the future; they're spent by the federal government. What the government is doing right now is piling up IOUs. As today's younger workers retire, the Social Security system will present these IOUs to Congress. It will say, look, look, here are all these nice people who paid into Social Security for 40 years. Let us help them. This is called, in other societies, passing the begging bowl — alms for the love of Allah.

Congress will pay by taxing tomorrow's workers at rates higher even than we pay today. This assumes the workers in question are not so restive and fed up with Social Security taxes as to say: Someone tell those old fossils to take a flying leap!

As a prospective old fossil, I do not find this amusing, but intellectually I can understand the sentiment. Social Security taxes right now, today, are a serious drag on the economy. The payroll tax hits lower-paid workers harder than it does the wealthy, whose contribution ceases when they earn \$51,300.

The tax, now 7.65 percent on employers as well as employees, discourages job creation. Former Treasury Department economists Aldona and Gary Robbins estimate a

loss of 510,000 jobs from the 1988 and 1990 payroll tax increases.

What does all this suggest? It suggests to me, and maybe to you, as well, that Social Security is an unholy mess, a calamity waiting to happen. It is not that taxes aren't high enough to provide for a paper surplus. It is a couple of disturbing things.

First, the surplus is on paper and not in some bank accumulating interest. My war-baby contemporaries and I — and, much more, the dammed-up flood of baby boomers — are dependent on the charity of strangers. What if the new generation, rather than meekly distributing the rupees, spits into our begging bowls. Oh, grizzled dogs, oh, sons of perdition, be gone! Vex us no more! I do not know what our recourse is in that event.

The Moynihan proposal, I suggested in the beginning, throws us back on first principles. What is Social Security for? In the beginning it was supplementary retirement benefit. Taxes were insignificant. Beginning in 1949, Congress attempted to buy votes by raising benefits and, correspondingly, the taxes to pay for those benefits.

In consequence, Social Security no longer works. We don't need tax increases; we need radical reform.

THE THINGS THEY SAY...

WHAT'S the point of marrying a man who can't afford to send your kids to the proper school?

Pomella Bordes, the editors' friend, *News of the World*

"Since 1970, we have cut the provisions for children under the AFDC program by one-third. If someone had come along in 1970 and said, I have an idea for saving money; let's cut the money we give welfare kids... by one-third, we'd have said you're a monster. But that's what we did, quietly, by not keeping up with inflation."

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

OTHER NEW NEWS

Heartland has discovered that "school spending does not determine student achievement in Illinois."

Campaign news that media would not cover was that choice of school was strongest among blacks; before racist integration, many sent kids from Yankee high-risk districts to live with a relative in segregated South, for schooling.

Fewer young folks vote, & one key is that so few can, or will, read a ballot, having been raised as non-literates in the public schoolz. Also, many think that registering for the draft registers them to vote!

Government policy should be not to soak us, but to cut taxes and offer strong incentives to save through tax-free individual retirement accounts. We've got to cut sooner or later the Gordian knot of dependence on government as the One Great Provider.

I can get by with saying this because I am not in politics. If the American Association of Retired People howls for my scalp, well, there's not much to begin with, and I like stirring up this overpoliticized outfit anyway. Politicians can't get by with this sort of thing.

Democrats today gloat over having made the White House uncomfortable with a proposal to cut taxes. Fiddle-faddle! Eight or so years ago, when President Reagan spoke tentatively of Social Security reform, Democrats portrayed him as the Wicked Witch of the West. They wanted to melt him down. He prudently backed off. We raised taxes. Here we are today, wondering if we didn't overdo it.

Ain't politics fun? All I can say is, it would be a lot more fun if the politicians weren't playing around with our cash, and our futures. —*The Arizona Republic*

The Tory cheque that bounced

● TWO major social problems worrying Tory Ministers — alcohol and debt — are

plagu

At least three suppliers of booze to Fulham Conservative Club, West London, are owed substantial sums of money. Melrose Wine got a cheque recently for £3,700, which was half what they were owed. The cheque bounced.

My colleague Angela Pitts contacted the club's secretary, Jim Lawrence.

He explained: "What happened, petal, is that they pressurised our bar manager to order more stuff than he should have.

"Cheques do bounce. You know — you've been through life. Even the best people's cheques bounce. I mean, this is the way of life.

"I mean it's only money, that's all it is. All right, my love? Ta-ta, petal."



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A newspaper is not for just reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it.

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Bill of Rights

Constitution of the United States

VOID
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UNLEADED CON

GREEN CONSUMERS can take no pride in using 'clean, green' unleaded petrol. Leaded petrol damages kids brains but the replacement anti-knock agent in unleaded is benzene, a carcinogen with no safe minimum dose that can even be absorbed through the skin! With benzene concentrations so high in town centres that they'd be shut down if they were chemical plants, thousands more deaths from lung cancer are expected annually.

(Source: Poison Pen)

In Mragowo, Poland, a local is decided among 595 voters by a 1-0 vote, when one candidate votes, for his opponent. (WR)

WHEN he saw his friend Elaine being attacked in the street, and covered with blood, Paul Barnie rushed to help her.

It wasn't until he was bundled into a van that he realised the assailants were police officers.

Elaine Fletcher was assaulted when she came out of a fish and chip shop late at night.

She was rushed to hospital and had seven stitches in the face.

She had a black eye

and a weal round her neck where her chain had been torn off. She was covered in bruises.

This happened in July 1986, in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.

Four months later, in Oldham Crown Court, Paul Barnie was sent to prison for nine months by Judge Fawcus for

assaulting the police.

Elaine's mother Norah has campaigned ever since for justice for Elaine and for Paul.

In March last year the Police Complaints Authority rejected her case.

The Fletchers battled on. Elaine sued the Greater Manchester

police. Her legal aid was withdrawn when the police claimed that the attack was an accident.

She appealed, and won the legal aid back again.

Last week, nearly three years after the attack, the case finally came to Oldham County Court.

Protest

Presiding was Judge Fawcus, who had tried and sentenced Paul Barnie two and half years previously.

Elaine's lawyer protested and the Judge stood down. He was replaced by Judge Brown.

The case lasted two-and-a-half days. Judge Brown made it clear that he preferred Elaine's story to that of the police.

He awarded damages against the police: £2,000 for her injuries; £500 for the "embarrassment and humiliation" of being left in the street with her clothes pulled over her head; and £200 for the damage to her clothing.



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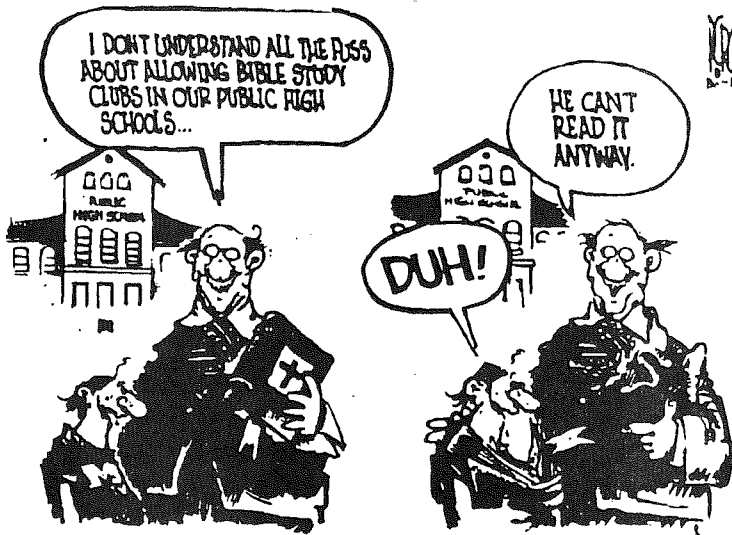
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
P.O. Box 6322
Washington, D.C. 20077

Have you noticed? Recent events are scary. Society seems dangerously crazy, like a runaway truck no one can stop. Watching the news makes you painfully feel that everything is all wrong — the exact opposite of what should be. Deep inside you feel all alone.

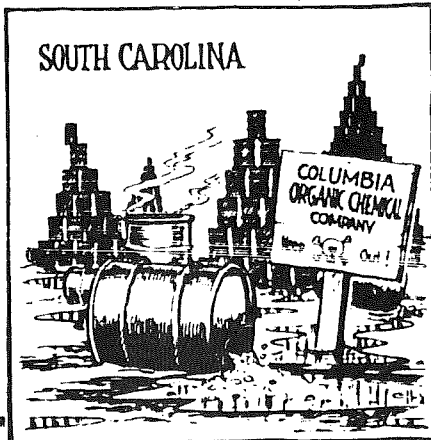
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TWO PLACES WHERE A GOVERNMENT ALLOWS CHEMICAL WARFARE TO BE WAGED ON ITS OWN CITIZENS: Local sales tax rollback Historical Times, In won't cut school levies P.O. Box 987



Letters to the editor

'Earsay' gets an earful

NEW FIRST-CLASS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP:

A book, title "Grey Is The Color of Hope", has come from Russia lately, and has set me thinking as to the color of hope.

Grey is not the most popular of colors, with some rare exceptions. Among the Han of China, the black-headed people, grey is respected, as a sign of old age. There is a grey hound, noted for its speed, and other grey animals. In jewelry, grey is the color of a grey pearl. Only once did a British regiment pick the color, grey, the Scots Grey Cavalry, whose charge broke the battle of Waterloo. And once a religious leader, Francis of Assisi, took the color because he preferred undyed, to found the Grey Friars. And once there was a grey horse, Traveller, whose pictures still hold the record for the most photos. It served in the only Grey Army, that of the Confederacy.

Grey is the color of hope.

Grey is the color of an AIDS victim - "Butch", who has the feline variety, who is old and neutered from losing one fight too many, but has come to love people, when once he was a stray, terrified of them.

So it is with grey hair and little money that I went out and astonished the news media with nearly 13,000 votes (2%) in the most hotly contested race in South Carolina, to overthrow the educationist bureaucracy. I did a few things that surprised some, like a radio reporter who was surprised at the citing of the names & dates for two centuries in South Carolina "third" parties, or by amusing the Chamber at Broome by saying it was time for votes to take the broom to the trash in public office, or by telling the newspapers of Scotland how the city spells McQueen as "McQueen" and the state SAT perfect score went to Stuart when it was won by Stewart. I have had voters nearly fall out of a chair by telling them that kids should be taught how to multiply in grade school, and learn that two times three is six, not sex, rather than wait for High School Sex Ed. when they are fruitful.

Railroaded into prison

As a "jailhouse lawyer," I am delighted to note District Attorney Miles Lane's complaint about the rise in inmate appeals and petitions. It is due to the incompetent and quiescent counsels called "public defenders."

A vast majority of Nevada prisoners were convicted by a guilty plea for a "plea bargain." In a petition for post-conviction relief, a Nevada prisoner must only show that the guilty plea was involuntary, uninformed or due to ineffective counsel. The latter applies to 70 percent of Nevada's prisoners. The Sixth Amendment guarantee of right to counsel (Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335) has been held to mean "competent and adequate" counsel: qualities hopelessly alien to the staff of Chief Public Defender Shelley O'Neal.

Public defenders often rush indigents to plea-bargaining when the state has nothing even close to a prima facie case.

Justice Hugo Black (Griffin v. Illinois 351 U.S. 12) wrote: "There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends upon how much money he has." Nick DiSpolito, Carson City Nevada State Prison

REAL Facts even make Local newspaper on last day of November. Somehow, they try to pretend that Libertarians don't exist.... maybe because it's not the kind of party they like - one that serves lots of vodka.

But this will not be the Gay '90s as the 1890s.

And that is why I tell you that grey is the color of hope, because we need all the hopes we can get. It is a constant amazement of how government agencies tend to be run by the morally incompetent, who act as if mentally incompetent. How they hire alcoholics for "beverage control", who arrest an adult for drinking a pepsi & trying to put out a campfire, which they prevent, not having made boy sprouts. Ay-yi-yi!

So, from outside Deadbeat City, I wish you Hope, *JA*

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The Bill of Rights is Under Attack

In this "Bill of Rights Year", the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, our rights are under attack as never before. Unlike more specialized groups like the ACLU and the NRA, which work to defend only specific amendments, the Libertarian Party believes that every amendment is important and the rights they protect are interconnected — all must be defended to preserve our freedom.

Amendment One

Freedom of Speech, Press, Religion, and Assembly

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Under attack by conservatives who wish to silence political and artistic expression and by liberals who want to silence racial and sexist expressions.

Amendment Two

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Under attack by liberals who want to control and ban private ownership of firearms.

Amendment Three

Quartering of Soldiers

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Possibly the only one not actively under attack?

Amendment Four

Protection from Unreasonable Search and Seizure

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the places to be searched, and the person or things to be seized.

Under attack by drug warriors who want to expand police power to eliminate "probable cause" and to allow unwarranted seizures and searches.

Amendment Five

Due Process and Grand Jury

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be put twice in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

Under attack by conservatives who want to create re-education camps, mass arrests, and detention centers.

● THERE were no complaints from anyone about the Vauxhall Tavern, South London.

So it wasn't clear why 35 police officers charged into the pub in the middle of a night and arrested people.

Nor was it clear why many of them were wearing plastic gloves.

Ten people, including Ken Comish-Jones, were arrested, hauled off to the police station and cautioned for being drunk (he wasn't).

Ken sued the police for false arrest. This month

Judge Harris awarded him £560 damages. The police, said the judge, had arrested people "willy-nilly" to justify their raid.

I asked the police if this was a crude exercise in gay-bashing, since many gay people drink at the pub.

A spokesman replied: "The reason why the raid took place was in connection with alleged breaches of the licensing laws but also allegations that there was drugs dealing going on inside the public house."

"Plastic gloves were issued and officers were told to use them if appropriate during the search for drugs and in connection with the possibility that hepatitis might be contracted during the drugs search."

The spokesman confirmed that there were no charges for drugs or anything else.

Amendment Six

Right to a Speedy Trial and Court Procedures

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Under attack by advocates of RICO "conspiracy" laws and by advocates of "detention" programs.

Amendment Seven

Right to Trial by Jury

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Under attack by judges and lawyers who want to deny jury trials to tax rebels and who oppose "fully informed jury" statutes.

Amendment Eight

Prohibition Against Excessive Bail, Fines, and Punishments

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Under attack by drug warriors who wish to suspend bail, eliminate restrictions on pre-trial property seizures, and create detention without trial.

Amendment Nine

Rights Reserved to the Individual

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

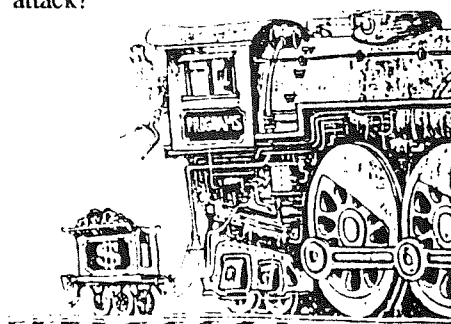
Under attack and ignored by both conservative and liberal opponents of "natural rights" to privacy, free exchange, and self-ownership.

Amendment Ten

Powers Not Granted to Federal Government

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Under attack and ignored by conservatives and liberals who want centralized government.



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COMISH-JONES

FROM THE TEXAS REPUBLIC TO THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC: A LESSON

- Robert Brakeman

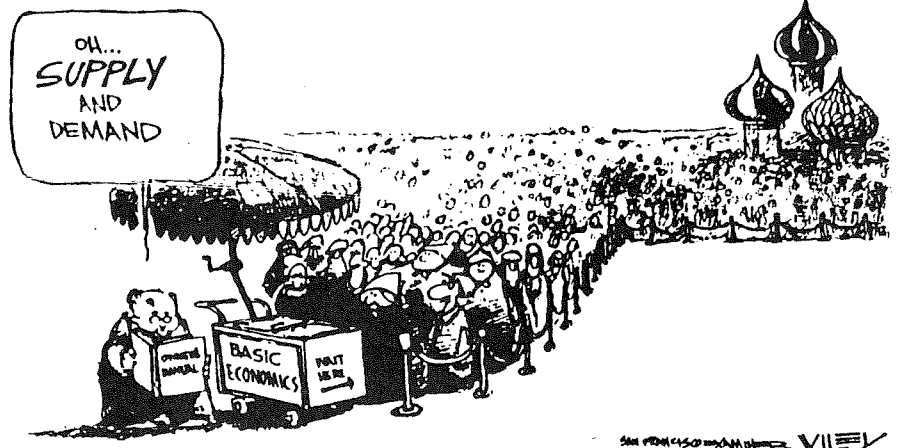
As 1829 gave way to 1830, the westward movement of American was very much on the mind of their government (I will be forgiven, I hope, for suggesting that the government, or even very many people in the government, possess a mind). On December 29 of '29, Senator Samuel Foot of Connecticut offered the first major bill on the subject, which was to dominate much of the next decade's debate on the West: the disposal of the public lands to the settlers and investors. On January 18 of '30, Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri began the Western attack upon the Foot Proposal (which suggested it might be a good idea to restrict the sale of Western lands - the East was afraid her workmen were being drawn off into the Mississippi Valley by cheap land out there). This debate, which went on and on, was an interesting and colorful one, but not one which concerns us here. It's worth mentioning only to show that from the decade's very first days, the West was claiming the nation's attention above other matters.

Another government, in these same days, was also thinking about the American westward movement. In Mexico City there was a regime which was awfully worried about one of its provinces. It was called Texas-Coahuila, and it was really two separate worlds counted as one for administrative purposes. The southern portion, Coahuila, was pure Old Mexico, and the central government was having no more than the usual problems with it (although, considering the tumultuous nature of that government, that was a fairly sizable number of problems; the Regime-Merry-Go-Round was such that those temporarily in power had difficulties everywhere); but in the northern part of T-C, Texas, things were thoroughly out of control - from the Mexican perspective; from the American, they were going quite nicely.

Texas was filling up with Americans faster than the Mexican officials on the scene could count them, let alone control them. Although John Quincy Adams as Secretary of State in 1819 had (erroneously) relinquished U. S. claims to Texas, which had actually been part of the Louisiana Purchase, most Westerners never took the relinquishment very seriously. They continued to pour across the Sabine River and the Red River into the province, and they generally just thought of Texas as they did of, say, the Michigan Territory or the Arkansas Territory: as an enticing area just beyond the tier of states admitted to the Union, where it was their duty to settle and Americanize the place (duty aside, one even hears stories of men and women whose self-interest pulled them to the frontier fringe, if you can imagine).

In Texas, they Americanized things so well that at some point during the 1820s a tipping-point was reached: a point at which ethnically and culturally and emotionally the province had become part of the United States.... with the only important Mexican institution-or-influence left being a shaky political shell. To put it in a sentence, here's what you had: a gigantic and splendid empire stretching from river to river (from the Sabine, which was the Louisiana border, down to the Rio Grande), which was technically Mexican but realistically American. Reality always prevails over technicalities and legalisms; the only question is how long it will take. "How Long" was exactly what was worrying the dictators (that's a carefully chosen word which describes them perfectly) in the Mexican capitol.

They thought they had some time left before Texas had become so American-in-reality that it would also become American-in-legality (by being annexed to the U.S.), but they didn't know how long. What they did know was that with settlers pouring in to take advantage of Texas's fine lands and minimal government (historians have always under-emphasized the degree to which our movers-west were attracted by the general underdevelopment of government in the



West, relative to the East; regimes too weak to "serve" them "effectively" - meaning get in their way and loot them - were often a beacon to the independent types who went West), the longer they waited, the more hopeless their cause would be.

They'd had plenty of warnings. In 1812 an American, Augustus Magee, and an expatriate Mexican, Bernardo Gutierrez, led an expedition into Texas which was aimed at freeing the province from Spanish rule (this was before Mexico gained its independence); these men were mostly slaughtered by the authorities, but enough people supported them to worry Spanish/Mexican officialdom. In '19, after the Adams-Onís Treaty referred to earlier, another American, James Long, tried to establish a Free Republic of Texas. He too was eventually crushed after enough initial success to further terrify the authorities. (Long played upon American resentment that a New England Secretary of State had given up the excellent American claim to Texas.) In 1826 Haden and Benjamin Edwards, two American empresarios (they were colonizers given permission by the Mexican government to bring in U.S. settlers; the regime was eventually to regret ever establishing such a system of immigration-encouragement) led what came to be known as the Fredonian Uprising against the government; force was on the government's side, and the Edwardses were easily put down - but the trend of events was beginning to seem ominous.

So in early '30, the government acted. It passed the colonization law. This seemed on its face to be a statute of universal applicability and no particular animus - but in fact it was a simple Anti-American-Settlement-in-Texas device (it spoke of "citizens of Foreign countries lying adjacent to the Mexican territory" of Texas, in describing those against whom the law's restrictions were aimed; now guess how many "foreign countries" there were on the Texas border).

The law provided: that no more Americans could settle in Texas; that any foreigner (read: American) entering the province had to have a Mexican passport; that no more slaves could be brought in; and that the religious restrictions were tightened (U.S. settlers of Texas were supposed to be practicing Catholics). At the same time, the government began policies of: withholding land titles, even those clearly legal under their own rules; closing all the ports but two; and beginning the rigorous collection of American tolls at those. In sum, the program was one of isolating Texas from the Americans - or rather it was one of trying to do that.

Of course the entire carefully constructed plan failed with a totality which must have surprised even the skeptics. And the reason it failed contains the lesson this whole episode holds for our own time: the people at whom the new rules were aimed were precisely those who would never obey them; while those who would obey them were not the cause of the government's concern, OVER

From the TEXAS REPUBLIC, continued

and were of no danger to it. The former were those violently independent, boisterous, untamable frontiersmen (and women) who'd roared into Texas with the goal of making it American territory (though, to be sure, they had other goals too); they were people who cared so little about physical threats (and that was the only sanction the Mexican government could hold over them, for the settlers cared nothing about whether Mexican politicians liked them or not, and they certainly felt no "loyalty" nor patriotism toward the central government) that they were willing to cross hundreds or thousands of Indian-bedeveled miles (and often miles infested with Natchez-trace land pirates and river pirates too), in risky modes of transportation (river travel, for instance, had a lot more than romance to it), and in the face of the constant threat of starvation, to come into an area where the officials were known to be unfriendly, where the church was an alien one to them, where they'd be at least partly under the control of big-boss empresarios, and where there was even more of an Indian threat than back home or on the way. These were the kind of people who were going to change their behavior or their plans because some far-off group of hacks, styling themselves a "government", had "enacted" something they called a "law"? Aside from the physical dangers they'd already endured (or, for those who had'n't left yet, already decided to endure), these people had resisted the taunts, and warnings, and cries of "foolishness!" and "a God-forsaken country" from friends and relatives back home in Columbia or Vicksburg or Joplin; the sign "Gone to Texas!" on a front lawn was common enough back in the states to have populated Texas pretty well - but the folks who posted those signs were still a decided minority of their neighborhood in Indiana or Missouri or Tennessee. It's not clear whether Tennessee's Davy Crockett ever really said that his enemies could go to Hell, and he would go to Texas; but it's clear that he knew that, in going, he was doing something dramatic, dangerous and noteworthy. Such men were going to care what the Mexican regime said?

There was also the little matter of financial risk. The newly-arrived Texas settler who was deciding to abide by the new rules vis-a-vis bringing in more slaves, or trade with the U.S., or the family back in The States who'd already decided they were going to the New Area - both groups had taken, or were about to take, major financial chances, and had made, or were about to make, important financial sacrifices, to begin their new lives. In relative terms, travel then was more expensive than today; there were many invariably significant start-up costs when they reached Texas; and, for many, they'd had to sell out some sacrifice back home once it had become known they were set on moving on.

So, we have a bunch of daring, adventurous, risk-taking people, who've either just risked everything to come to Texas or are about to, and we're asked to believe that they're going to let some edict of a Mexican dictatorship deter them. Unlikely. These superdetermined, super-independent pioneers were just the ones the government was most worried about, because they tended to be equally so when it came to the matters of (A) bringing Texas within the U.S. & (B) safeguarding their liberties against the incursions of a succession of Mexican tyrannical regimes - but they were just the ones who'd laugh at the new law, & they did.



They cared nothing about the government's new land-title manipulation policies; they just traded land among themselves, and squatted. They brought in goods through ports of their own choice (not just the Gov's two) and they avoided duties. They avoided the officials who tried to check on whether they were really practicing Catholics or not - or they just lied about it. They looked at the edict against bring in more new slaves - and brought them in anyway (not exactly in accord with their sincerely pro-liberty views on other subjects, but that's another tale).

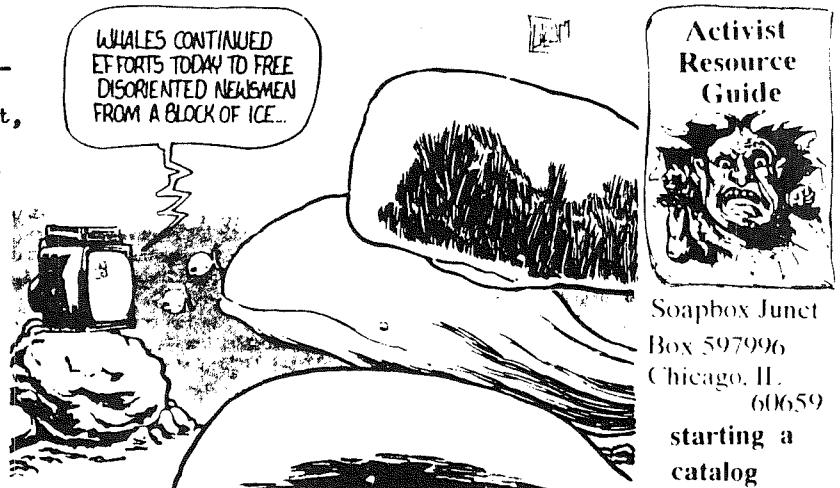
They went where they wanted when they chose, and ignored the need for passports. And those who were back in The States getting ready to move just ignored the new anti-immigration rule and kept charging in.

Didn't anyone take the new rules seriously? Perhaps, but to the extent that there were such people, they were just the ones the Mexicans weren't worried about; anyone timid or sheeplike enough to be cowed by a mere edict from a dictatorship was not the kind of person who was going to be a threat to the government, by either agitating for American annexation or for the rights of Texas within the Mexican Federation. Here was a genuine paradox: those weak people who'd obey the law meant nothing to the government; and those "intractable Americans who ignored the law" and kept poring in and doing as they pleased were the very ones it was meant to affect (as a convention of settlers had told the government would be the case; being a government, they ignored reality & tried to enforce their law).

Have there not been, in our own era, desperate cries for similar laws - ones which by definition will affect only irrelevant people and not their targets? I refer of course to the fanatical cries for "gun control". "Fanatical" is precisely the word, for it conveys just the right impression: mindlessness plus enthusiasm. Can anything be clearer than that the targets of the law (criminals) will not obey it, while the non-threatening people (the non-criminals) will? Another genuine paradox. The present author & many others, have detailed at some length the profoundly important case against government interference with the citizen's right to keep arms; here I'll only add this: in this area as in so many others, American history has much to teach us - if only we care enough to take a look.

*Western Historian Thomas Clark's words.

Note: Mexican government was highly unstable; General Santa Ana became President, and was deposed 11 times. -jh



racism, classism, feminism, animal rights, peace, alternative culture, ecology, sexism, civil liberties, alternative education, children, victim rights, alternative spirituality, recycling, ableism, alternative healing, anarchism, people without homes, people with AIDS, gay/lesbian, etc. would you believe what some of the activist cetera could be?

Sing, Farmers, SING!

July 2, 1991

C R P Signup

Tele # 669-96

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced the eleventh Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup to be July 8-July 19, 1991,