

Cures Found In Birch Sap

No, this has nothing to do with right-wing conspiracy theorists. Scientists have discovered that the sap of the birch tree is rich in rare trace minerals needed by the body. (Sp)

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Reasons for Making Hopeless Fights

Robert Brakeman

In the smallest hours of the morning, and in the darkest hours of a fight against seemingly hopeless odds, it's natural for advocates of minority political or economic or social causes to begin to wonder if it's all worth it, to wonder if there's any use in continuing, in the face of apparently insuperable difficulties. If, as it seems, the battle is a hopeless one, why go on? There is an answer to that (often desperate) question, and it has many parts.

First, the analysis of the odds against the minority-ideologues may be wrong. There is always a conventional wisdom about what can and cannot happen, about what is likely or unlikely to come about, but like all bits of general thought, it's sometimes right and sometimes wrong. Everyone knows of cases from his own experience where a group was told they were attempting the impossible, and two weeks later they were in possession of the field. The only sure way to test the accuracy of the common view of what can and cannot be accomplished in a given field is to try. That common view being as prejudiced and ill-informed as it often is, pleasant surprises are often the rewards of those who dare to challenge the unchallengeable.

Second, even assuming that the conventional wisdom is right in saying that a particular fight is hopeless at the moment (and I'll assume that from here on), more than the immediate moment is at stake. Things change. What really is a hopeless effort today may not be tomorrow. The time may come when a philosophical argument not congenial to the powers that be of the moment may become quite acceptable; if and when such a time comes, there should be available on the public record a competent exposition of the minority ideas involved. Analysts should always be concerned with building a body of thought in which they believe, irrespective of how out-of-favor that thought may be at the moment, because a time may come when the idea is fully competitive, and whether it then prevails will depend upon whether intelligent people will be able to find a cogent and detailed defense of it. If its advocates from prior times have not bothered to put that defense on the record, the chance that the idea will draw widespread support will be diminished greatly.

The third reason is closely allied with the second. The very fact that competent scholars and journalists build a case for a given position may very well hasten the day when that position does become acceptable. The second reason suggests that when the

time comes that the minority position becomes competitive, a cogent exposition of it should be available, to attract enough discerning people to help it become dominant, not just acceptable; the third suggests that building the good case can ensure that the day of acceptability will come (which is not guaranteed automatically), or that it will come sooner than it otherwise would.

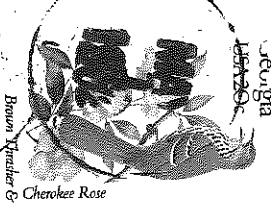
Fourth: If the time comes when a now-shunned idea becomes acceptable, or even predominant, one can be assured that a massive counterattack upon it will be launched by the advocates of the reigning ideology which is being threatened. When that happens, the better the historical and philosophical record for the challenging position, the better its chances to survive the attack (and no attack is stronger than that launched by an ideology whose life is at stake; all that male nonsense about the fury of a women scorned is as nothing next to this kind of counterattack). The advocates of a dying system of thought in totalitarian countries not infrequently have their very lives at stake; in our system it is only their self-image and self-esteem which is hanging fire, but they fight as if it were their lives).

Fifth: It's important to limit the intellectual arrogance of any reigning ideology. The existence of an alternative world view, which is adhered to by men and women both honorable and knowledgeable, cannot help but give at least occasional pause to even the most certain exponent of the ruling system of thought. If such alternative positions were not available, the mind-set of the ruling thinkers and actors would be even worse than it usually is. In political and social philosophy as in other things, competition is healthy. Curbing the absolute certainty felt by the advocates of most ruling ideologies is an important goal.

And the sixth reason is allied to the fifth: The existence of an alternative philosophy can not only set parameters for the intellectual arrogance of those on top, it can also set the same kind of boundaries for their actions. If ever there was a political system in which what gets done is determined by a balancing of political and philosophical forces, the American is it. The fact that there exists a principled and intelligent opposition to an entrenched ruling ideology means that the more extreme acts of that ideology will tend to be prevented. An ideology which is unchallenged may, and probably will, do anything; one which has to fight a continuing battle

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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.
— Mark Twain

THE REASONS FOR MAKING HOPELESS FIGHTS

against harassment from even small minorities will usually be forced to compromise to some extent--the balancing-of-interests which mainly determines the outcome of political disputes will ensure that the outcome will be some diluted form of the dominant ideology, not its pure variety. A limit on its actions has been set.

Reason seven takes off from the previous one: Just as opposition will set an outside limit to the actions of those in power, it will also cripple their efficiency in reaching whatever that limit is. Thus the problems of those in control are compounded. First, they've had limits set to their actions which would not otherwise have existed; then, they find they have to work a lot harder to get as far as they're going to be allowed to get. They have to put more into it to accomplish less. Their resources are drained in fighting off attacks from minority forces--leaving that much less to be expended in the drive toward the main goals. Every hour, and every dollar, and every thought, and every plan devoted to fighting off attacks, is one less of those items which can be used to push toward the goals of the dominant ideology.

Reason eight derives from several previous ones, but it has a special applicability to youth. As each new generation of Americans reaches the age of intellectual awareness, and then intellectual maturity, it must be made aware of the fact that nothing is a given, that all political and social positions are questionable and contestable. Those who operate under the auspices of the reigning ideology would like young people to believe that their world-view is the only rational one, if not the only one, period. They would like them to grow up thinking: "Given the fact that . . ."; "Given the necessity for . . ."; and "Since we all agree that . . .". It doesn't matter how those sentences are ended. If the propagators of the reigning ideology can convince each coming generation that all good people agree on their fundamental premises, they can of course win any argument about specific points or specific programs. If they can get the young to accept their worldview, there's no way the opposition forces can come back and win in the second half (of the sentence). The young of each new generation must be made aware that there are innumerable men and women, whose IQ's, erudition, credentials, and experience are at least the equal of those of the people in power, who find the "givens" ludicrous. If they are not made aware of it, opposition ideologies cannot survive, let alone challenge successfully the dominant one.

Reason Nine: An opposition ideology can clearly die, or come very close to it, when morale among the

opposition forces dies. To keep the oppositionist position viable, some semblance of morale among its backers has to be maintained, and that in turn depends upon the inculcation of a feeling among supporters that one is not alone. Scholars must be able to read in the professional journals articles by their peers which express an ideology close to their own; journalists must be able to read articles (and in the case of broadcasters, hear commentaries) by colleagues whose views approximate their own; and citizens who have no professional involvement in public affairs must be able to find others whose views are congenial, whose principles derive from the same intellectual tradition. And all of that only comes to pass when such a tradition has been kept alive by analysts and philosophers who cared enough to express their views cogently and courageously, even when they had no chance to prevail at the moment.

In order for morale to be maintained within the oppositionist community, it isn't necessary that their views be given equal treatment by the media of communications. If that were the test, no opposition morale, and therefore no opposition, would survive very long, for the reigning ideology almost always controls the media of thought, just as it controls everything else. All that's necessary is that the minority view get enough publicity to keep it alive and available to those who will find it attractive. It's impossible to quantify, for all times and all cases, how much is enough, but it's usually clear when a particular opposition position isn't getting enough: with each succeeding generation, it becomes, not necessarily less popular, but just less noticeable--it's not that people are increasingly critical of it, it's just that they don't talk about it at all. Morale among oppositionist forces will certainly decline dangerously when members of that opposition cannot find substantial support for their ideas, either within the media or among their fellow-citizens. And that happens when political thinkers and analysts of the minority viewpoint draw an incorrect conclusion (that just because they can't hope to prevail at the moment, there is no point in making the fight), and lapse into silence. Morale matters, and competent advocacy, even when it can't change things at the moment, keeps it alive.

The tenth and final reason for making hopeless fights is surely the simplest, and it may also be the most important. It's the little matter of intellectual integrity. The fact that one believes very strongly in a particular precept is reason enough to state it as often and as competently as possible. The other reasons are all utilitarian: They're useful because they help to achieve some specific goal: keeping an unpopular but right idea alive, or helping it grow, or helping it prevail, or helping it resist

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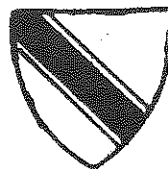
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THE REASONS FOR MAKING HOPELESS FIGHTS, continued
counterattack once it does prevail. This reason is moral in nature: it calls for doing something simply because it's right that it be done, irrespective of any consequences for good or evil. Honorable and principled men and women, whether they're public affairs professionals (journalists, academicians, and even some politicians to whom those two adjectives apply) or citizens in other occupations, should make hopeless fights, and advocate hopelessly minority ideas, because they owe it to those ideas, for reasons outlined in numbers one through nine; reason ten suggests they should make these fights because they owe it to themselves. Adherence to principle has a high value entirely apart from any beneficial effects it may have on practical politics, loyalty to political and social principles may be the highest loyalty of all the many varieties.

So, the next time that people discourage you from making a hopeless fight, or defending a hopelessly unpopular principle, remind them that winning the immediate battle at hand is not the only concern; history, and the future, and intellectual integrity, all have their claims--claims which can only be paid by making "hopeless" fights.

The Plight Of The South

Touring New England, Alicia Clark told the Providence, RI Journal, on why the LP is less numerous in New England, "I think it is the character of the people. In the South, people are more independent-minded. They are a people who don't care for government help." This was not the most diplomatic thing one could say in Rhode Island, and she was talking primarily about the Southwest, but in many ways it is truer than one might think.

Now I have a pile of books to review for SLM that is taller than I am, but one that needs to be reviewed urgently is Pat Conroy's The Lords of Discipline, a best-seller about The Citadel, a state military college that he attended in the '60s. It is, like his other books, The Water is Wide and The Great Santini, both made into films, autobiographical; it is in fact the middle one in time between them. The proposal to film this book on the site have met with determined refusals from state and college officials, at least some of whom must have read the book.

At one point Conroy says, No Southern man is complete without a spell under military rule They were just, like the rest of us, damaged goods. The book is an eloquent condemnation of militarism, and the degradation that living under military discipline involves.

When he writes about the South, and its sons at The Citadel, he makes a common error; he assumes 1 South, when there are 3. Conroy, who taught in all-black schools, should know better. The cadets represent one South, the South that rode with J. E. B. Stuart. The South that marched with T. J. Jackson is another matter altogether. You may find its sons serving in the enlisted military, but not often at military schools. (The 3rd South is, of course, the blacks.)

When Charles Blackwell or I say that the average Southerner is a libertarian but doesn't know it, we are not talking about the members of the country club or the chamber of commerce primarily, though you'll find some both places. We are talking about the people who work for a living, doing something useful and productive. 7 or 8 years ago the Char-

Are You Still Sexy?

Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons & Daughters of the Kings of Britain (unofficially known as the Royal Bastards), 107 Lake Lane, Rock Creek, Jacksonville, NC 28540 is a fun group, open to any who qualify. Except for Edwards V & VI, who died before puberty, virtually all the Kings of England had at least 1 extra offspring (even the gay ones).

In Massachusetts 2 persons who live together without being married are guilty of "lewd cohabitation". But if the landlord refuses to rent them quarters, he is illegally discriminating. (Diagonal Relation)

47% of American households planted vegetable gardens in 1981, a new record. (Moneysworth)

Foreign Affairs Research Institute of London estimates that 140 million have died of communist wars, purges, death camps, etc. (American Way Features)

Radar Electric offered raises and health club memberships to employees who would quit smoking; discovered increases in morale & productivity estimated at \$5,000/year. (Management World/Moneysworth)

"Tax evasion is becoming socially acceptable," says former IRS agent Mark Roseman of Philadelphia. "Lots of people even think it's a fun crime." (Mnyw)

lotte papers sent a reporter to York to interview Charles; she then went around town talking to citizens at random, asking, Do you favor abolishing welfare? Abolishing the income tax? etc., and was astonished by the answers. She came back to the furniture store and said, You're right, they really are libertarians, and don't know it.

The Southerner is a patriot, but he loves the country and hates the government. He is conservative, but he wants to conserve the good things in this country, whether it's clean water or local self-rule or politeness. He doesn't like strangers, but would do almost anything to help one in need.

The independence of the Southern common soldier which so astonished foreign observers in the Civil War is no aberration. It is the original American character that Crevecoeur and de Tocqueville noted in the 18th and 19th centuries.

And it's waiting. The libertarian movement is too often accused of being male, single, middle-class, college-bred, etc. It needs to be a mass movement. It can be. - jh

Editorial

Only 8% of Americans regularly read books. (SFR) Indeed, only about 40% read anything at all, and most of these read nothing by the newspaper and 1 or 2 magazines. But this isn't the worst of it; of those who read books regularly, at least 1/2 read only hack work; romances if female; detective stories if male. Oh, once in a while they read a good book in these genre or a bestseller outside these genre, but not regularly. Likewise, those who read regularly, include the ones who read as little as 6 books a year, and students who read only because they are required to. The situation is not new; book readership apparently peaked in the US during the 1930s (the library was the cheapest source of entertainment for those out of work), before TV. The decline in literacy may have some effect; even the brighter graduates have not been taught reading properly in many cases, and do it with some difficulty. But 8% of the population is far less than the percentage of college graduates; most college graduates do not read books regularly.

Foresight Is Less Expensive Than Hindsight

I've been looking at some election statistics, and want to share a few with you. First, the vote for Libertarian Presidential candidates, by state:

	1972	1976	1980
Alabama		1,481	13,318
Alaska		6,785	18,479
Arizona		7,647	18,784
Arkansas			8,970
California	980	56,388	184,434
Colorado	1,111	5,330	25,744
Connecticut			8,570
Delaware			1,974
Florida			30,524
Georgia			15,627
Hawaii		3,923	3,269
Idaho		3,558	8,425
Illinois		8,057	38,939
Indiana			19,627
Iowa		1,452	13,123
Kansas		3,242	14,470
Kentucky		814	5,531
Louisiana		3,325	8,240
Maine			5,119
Maryland			14,192
Massachusetts	43	135	22,038
Michigan		5,406	41,597
Minnesota		3,529	31,593
Mississippi		2,609	5,465
Missouri			14,422
Montana			9,825
Nebraska		1,476	9,041
Nevada		1,519	4,358
New Hampshire		936	2,067
New Jersey		9,449	20,625
New Mexico		1,110	4,365
New York		12,197	52,648
North Carolina		2,219	9,677
North Dakota		256	3,743
Ohio		8,961	49,033
Oklahoma			13,828
Oregon			25,838
Pennsylvania			33,263
Rhode Island		715	2,458
South Carolina			9,807
South Dakota		1,619	3,824
Tennessee		1,375	7,116
Texas			37,643
Utah		2,438	7,226
Vermont			1,900
Virginia		4,648	12,821
Washington	1,537	5,042	29,213
West Virginia			4,356
Wisconsin		3,814	29,135
Wyoming		89	4,514
Dist. of Columbia		274	1,104

Notice that there are substantial gains in every state except Hawaii from 1976 to 1980.

State Party in Financial Trouble

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Analysis of the 1980 race another way, excluding the 2 major candidates, produces some interesting results. Except where indicated, Anderson finished 3rd and Clark 4th.

	Anderson	Clark	Others
Alabama	16,481	13,318	21,208 @
Alaska	11,155	18,479 !	857
Arizona	76,952	18,784	1,678
Arkansas	22,468	8,970	4,939
California	739,833	148,434	89,035
Colorado	130,633	25,744	7,801
Connecticut	171,807	8,570	6,966
Delaware	16,288	1,974	400
Florida	189,692	30,524	285
Georgia	36,055	15,627	
Hawaii	32,021	3,269	2,006
Idaho	27,058	8,425	1,057
Illinois	346,754	38,939	24,566
Indiana	111,639	19,627	9,914
Iowa	115,633	13,123	4,207
Kansas	68,231	14,470	4,132
Kentucky	31,127	5,531	6,278
Louisiana	26,345	8,240	12,700 @
Maine	53,327	5,119	5,069
Maryland	119,537	14,192	
Massachusetts	382,539	22,038	8,288
Michigan	275,223	41,597	15,252
Minnesota	174,997	31,593	11,749
Mississippi	12,036	5,465	4,749
Missouri	77,920	14,422	2,119
Montana	29,281	9,825	
Nebraska	44,854	9,041	
Nevada	17,651	4,358	
New Hampshire	49,693	2,067	1,670
New Jersey	234,632	20,652	24,506
New Mexico	29,459	4,365	3,808
New York	467,801	52,648	59,307
North Carolina	52,800	9,677	2,703
North Dakota	23,640	3,743	1,278
Ohio	254,472	49,033	21,139
Oklahoma	38,284	13,828	
Oregon	112,389	25,838	15,355
Pennsylvania	292,921	33,263	35,905
Rhode Island	59,819	2,458	555
South Carolina	13,868	9,807	2,086
South Dakota	21,431	3,824	250
Tennessee	35,991	7,116	3,697
Texas	111,613	37,643	528
Utah	30,284	7,226	2,759
Vermont	31,760	1,900	3,058 #
Virginia	95,418	12,821	16,010 #
Washington	185,073	29,213	12,671
West Virginia	31,691	4,356	
Wisconsin	160,657	29,135	13,000
Wyoming	12,072	4,514	
D. of Columbia	16,131	1,104	3,110 #

! Clark led Anderson in Alaska, came in 3rd.

@ Rarick, American Independent, came in 4th in Alabama & Louisiana.

Commoner, Citizens, came in 4th in Vermont, Virginia, & Dist. of Columbia.

Note: except for Alaska, Clark received less than 1/2 of Anderson's vote in every other state except Alabama and South Carolina.

Except for the 5 states noted where Clark came in 5th, he generally received more votes than all the minor party candidates combined, with 4 exceptions: Kentucky, where a Respect for Life candidate got 4,233; New Jersey with 8 others, led by the Citizens Party with 8,203; New York with Right to Life 24,159 and Citizens 23,186; and Pennsylvania with Socialist Workers 20,291.

One of the curious stories is the vanishing of the Wallaceite 3rd parties, the American and American Independent (which were together in 1972, but have since split. The candidates were Rep. John Schmitz in 1972, Gov. Lester Maddox of Ga. (AI) and Tom Anderson of TN in 1976, and ex-Rep. John Rarick of LA, and Percy Greaves of NY (once Libertarian candidate for Governor) in 1980. Here is what happened to them, respectively:

	1972	AI76	Am76	AI80	Am80
Alabama	11,918	9,198		15,010	
Alaska	6,906				
Arizona	21,208	85	564		
Arkansas	3,016		389		
California	232,554	51,098		9,856	
Colorado	17,269				
Connecticut	17,239	7,101			
Delaware	2,638		645		400
Florida					
Georgia	2,288				
Hawaii					
Idaho	28,869	5,935		1,057	
Illinois	2,471				
Indiana			14,048		4,750
Iowa	22,056		3,040		189
Kansas	21,808	2,118	4,724	789	1,555*
Kentucky	17,627	2,328	8,308		
Louisiana	52,099	10,058		10,333	
Maine					
Maryland	18,726				
Massachusetts	2,877		7,555		
Michigan	63,321				21
Minnesota	31,407		13,592		
Mississippi	11,598	4,049	6,678		
Missouri					
Montana	13,430		5,772		
Nebraska		3,378			
Nevada		1,497			
New Hampshire	3,386				
New Jersey	34,378	7,716			
New Mexico	8,767				
New York					
North Carolina	25,018		5,607		
North Dakota	5,646	269	3,698		235
Ohio	80,067	15,529			
Oklahoma	23,728				
Oregon	46,211				
Pennsylvania	70,593	25,344			
Rhode Island					
South Carolina	10,075	1,950	2,996	2,086	
South Dakota					
Tennessee	30,373	2,303	5,769		
Texas	6,039		11,442		
Utah	28,549	1,162	13,304	522	965
Vermont					
Virginia	19,721		16,686		
Washington	58,906	8,585	5,046		
West Virginia					
Wisconsin	47,525	8,552		1,519	
Wyoming	748	30	290		
D. of Columbia					

* Candidate in Kansas was Shelton.

N C LIBERTARIANS MEET

North Carolina Libertarian Party convention will be April 24 at Raleigh. Candidates workshop will be April 25. Tom Palmer, Eric O'Keefe & Jim Clarkson will speak at the convention; Chris Hocker and the latter two at the workshop. Cost of the package is \$25/\$30; for the workshop \$8/\$10. To get the lower price, send money to Carl Wagner, Box 5663, Raleigh, NC 27650 before the convention.

GLAD YOU ASKED . . .

In 1970 less than 6% of home buyers were childless couples; in 1980 it was 78%. (Am Bus) What does this prove: that couples can afford a house or a child, but not both?

Merit Systems Protection Board says that sexual harassment on the job cost the government about \$189 million in 2 years; 42% of female federal employees and 15% of male reproted that they had been harassed sexually on the job. (Am Bus) Well, we always knew something was going on, and they weren't spending all that time working.

Physicist Yuri Orlov estimates that the Gulag now holds 5 million. At its peak it held 29 million, including German POWs. (La Libre Belgique)

Martin Goyenache, fleeing from French gendarmes, crashed through the chain at Swiss customs, and was arrested. He was found to be smuggling \$1,700,000 in French francs. But this is not illegal in Switzerland, so he paid a small fine, for damage to govt. property. (La Vanguardia/Spot.)

Farmers Home Administration lent \$929,541 to build a motel in Opelika, AL with Jacuzzis in each room, massage devices & circular waterbeds, as well as mirrors on the ceiling. Congressional investigator said, "it sounds to me like the best little whorehouse in Alabama." FmHA said loan was made "to improve the quality of rural life." (Sp) Well, you could say it does that.

Rep. John Hiler has suggested that tax protest movement could be killed by lowering taxes & ending government waste. (Sp.) It known as trying to kill it with kindness. Congress wasn't interested, though.

Center Joint School District, North Highlands, CA lost \$111,000 in federal grants to help slow students, and discovered that educational achievement soared, because teachers had time to devote to students instead of attending meetings and filling out paperwork for the govt. (N E)

Former IRS employee Allen Wolfe is suing the Service, claiming it drove his wife to suicide by setting herself afire and burning down the house, in Independence, MO. (NewZLetter) Usual audit.

Interesting subject for inquiries; how many miles per gallon of gas does a bicyclist get? You didn't know it took gas to ride a bike? The gas is used in running the tractors that cultivate the food that the bicyclist consumes, in calories (not to mention the petrol used in fertilizers).

IRS shut down the Post Oak answering service in Houston, thus effectively cutting off its 500 subscribers, 425 of them physicians, from callers, including patients with medical emergencies. (Spot)

When George Flagg of Des Moines refused to participate in an IRS audit, and the federal court refused to enforce the IRS summons, the IRS simply disallowed all his business expenses, and sent him a bill for \$40,500. (WSJ/Ergo)

In 1955 Congress had 5,203 employees and a budget of \$70.7 million; by 1979 it was up to 20,000 and \$1.2billion. (NE)

In Oklahoma City, officials have told Tom Keneda to get rid of his 2 Rhode Island Reds, for crowing louder than permitted. (FFWorld)

In Hertford, England, 8 students were suspended at Hitchin Boys School for hair too short; told to stay home and let it grow out. (EvNews)

A judge in Tulsa, OK has ruled that pen-nies are not legal tender, and ordered John Atkins to pay his ex-wife by cashier's check. (FFWorld)

Crime and Corruption

Is the gold all in Ft. Knox? "Mr. President, Where Is Our Gold?" is available from Edward Durrell, Box 586, Berryville, VA 22611 for \$1 + SASE.

Keystones Soc. of Tampa is suing IRS to challenge constitutionality of taxing wages; group is composed of blue collar workers. (Duck) Atty. is L. Pino, 24 S. Orange Av., Orlando, FL 32801.

In Columbia, SC, William Wolf heads the IRS Problem Resolution Program. (CR) And guards chickens.

San Francisco police want to give tickets to motorists who park at jammed parking meters; claims that this costs city \$175,000/year. (SF Progress/LCN) Haven't considered fixing the meters.

New newsletter: Currency Competition, 325 Pennsylvania Av, SE, Washington, DC 20003, \$10, from U S Choice in Currency Commission.

Aspen, CO received \$350,000 in federal urban transport money - to take skiers to the slopes. (var) Another way mass transit helps the poor.

Providence, RI has a new crime problem: teenagers raiding parking meters to get coins to play video games. (Better Living) And defend the earth from space invaders.

In Exeter, RI the school board, faced with a cut in funding, cut purchases of soap & toilet paper and had the chutzpah to ask for donations, instead of cutting such things as staff travel to conventions. (BLiv) What next, pay toilets?

"Authoritarian pietists and super patriots have developed a reigning ideology and mentality along the Potomac that threaten freedom and justice for all in our society," says Rev. Avery Post, head of the United Church of Christ. (Advocate/Lambda)

Pres. John Silber of Boston University says that a high school diploma is worthless; it does not certify competence in anything, merely that the recipient was institutionalized for about 12 years, whether in a prison colony, reform school or place for mental defectives. (MLShopper)

I.M.: Yuri Kukk, former chemistry instructor at Tartu University in Estonia & human rights activist, 40, in Gulag.

William Berry, president of Virginia Electric & Power, called for an end to regulation and free competition among electric companies at an industry meeting in Palm Beach, FL. (Spot) Stranger than fiction.

In Out-of-the-way Places

Selective Service has bought a million names for \$20,000 from American Student Lists Co., for a one time mailing that, they say, won't add the list to government files, to encourage those who haven't signed up for the draft to do so. (ZNS/Star Root)

P. M. Edward Seago of Jamaica has a crime wave on his hands; when he took over last year he dumped socialist goons off the public payroll, so many of them have gone into robbery for themselves. (ZNS)

Soldiers of the Peoples Liberation Army are not having much luck finding wives, says China Daily, which says that women prefer higher paid workers or other civilians. Morale is sinking.

In Faizabad, India a drug addict was bitten by a poisonous snake, reports London Times; he survived. The snake died.

In New Delhi Janakabai Dhangar trained monkeys to attack anyone wearing a khaki uniform; police raided her still dressed in plain clothes and feeding the monkeys peanuts. (Illustrated Weekly/FFW)

Gold Bar, WA held a bake sale to raise \$9,000. when the town overspent its 1980 budget. (Seattle Times/FFW)

"If you are buried on a weekday, notify the Town Manager's Office by 10 a.m. the day before. If you are buried on a weekend or holiday, notify the Town Manager's Office by 10 a.m. on the last regular workday prior to the day of interment." says Culpepper, England News. Doesn't say what to do if it's a real emergency.

A 30 year old man set fire to his trousers in an attempt to get in touch with his father-in-law, magistrates at Canterbury heard. (Kentish Gazette/FFW) I've heard of smoke signals, but

In 1980, GM stockholders received \$2.95 a share; taxes at all levels amounted to \$6.37 a share. (SAGB) It's called private enterprise.

Holy Southern Church, 6918 Woodley Av, Van Nuys, CA 91406, favors independence for Dixie.

To reduce the number of active priests, the Czechoslovak govt. is drafting them, even if they had been deferred for medical reasons. (Open Doors)

Vladimir Titov, a former KGB agent who read the confiscated samizdat and changed sides, has been arrested, charged that, after reading Solzhenitsyn, "he had no respect for communists." (Op Dr)

The mind of man is capable of anything, because everything is in it, all the past as well as all the future.

Joseph Conrad

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your huddled masses yearning to
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tempest-tossed, to me....
(UNLESS FROM CUBA & HAITI)



DC Gazette (APS)

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE, or THE RIGHT TO STEAL

by Rev. R. J. Rushdoony

One of the acts of the Puritan Commonwealth in England was to try and to behead King Charles I. For this act, many historians to this day seem to bear a grudge against Cromwell and the Puritans. With the Restoration in 1660, and the reign of Charles II, the men associated with Charles I's trial were themselves tried and executed. The presiding judge at this trial was Sir Orlando Bridgeman, who, in his charge to the Jury, declared that kings were subject to none but God, and could do no wrong; even if they could do wrong, they were beyond punishment. This "legal" position made a guilty verdict inescapable. The Church of England added to its liturgy a service for that noble "martyr" of the faith, Charles I, a liturgy used for generations.

The fact is that, apart from being a stupid and very unconstitutional monarch, King Charles I was also a thief. At one point, Charles marched off with 130,000 English pounds of other people's money, expropriated from London's goldsmiths, who stored their deposits in the Tower of London. It was a theft that failed, like everything Charles did, but at least he tried! Somehow, historians often gloss over this aspect of Charles' reign. This is not unusual. When Otto J. Scott, in *James I*, noted in passing that monarch's homosexuality, one historical journal disapproved and spoke of that vice as a royal privilege!

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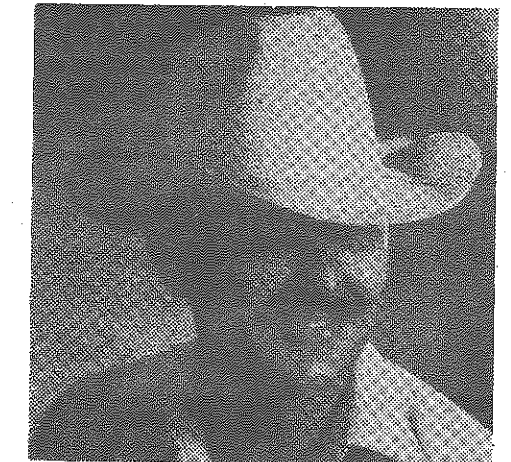


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WANTS REVOLT—Dean Allen of Texas City, Texas is running for the congressional seat now held by Democrat Jack Brooks. Allen, running on the Libertarian Party ticket, advocates "tax revolt" as a means to reduce the power of the federal government.

Common Sense

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Reagan's Promises, Reagan's Lies

Lenin said that he would force the capitalist nations to maintain military conscription until the uniform became a symbol of servitude rather than patriotism.

--Ronald Reagan, Reason magazine, July, 1975

But perhaps the most fundamental objection to draft registration is moral. Only in the most severe national emergency does the government have a claim on the mandatory service of its young people.

--Ronald Reagan, May 5, 1980

With his decision to continue registration and to begin a ruthless crackdown on resisters, Ronald Reagan has dispensed with any pretense of a commitment to individual rights, and pushed the country headlong into militarism. The few Reaganauts and nonpartisans who clung to the hope that Reagan would fulfill campaign promises to get the government "off the backs of the people" and make the armed forces purely voluntary have been dealt a stunning betrayal. When it comes to rights, according to the Reagan Doctrine, the individual has to get in line behind "national defense," the war economy, and "American pride."

If the public took Reagan's campaign rhetoric seriously, what are they to make of the President's philosophy now? In 1980 the Great Conservative Hope said, "Advanced registration will do little to enhance our military preparedness," saving only seven days out of a six-month period. Now after giving the matter some thought, Reagan says registration will save the military six weeks in mobilizing. What information has the President availed himself of in these past few months to cause such a turn-about? Perhaps he has seen how well draft registration has been proceeding, with six out of every ten eligible men signing up. Or perhaps he has noted that it cost the taxpayers only \$5 million to collect a list of names which have not been verified for accuracy, which do not all come with Social Security numbers, which have not all been updated with the current addresses of the highly mobile 18-20 male population and which have not been culled for possible medical-religious-occupational exemptions. Leaving resisters aside, it would take six months just to find the ones who have signed up. Who is Reagan kidding?

To get a more plausible rationale for Reagan's reneging on recinding registration, we have to go to those nameless Administration sources quoted by U.P.I. Stopping the sign-up now, they say, might "send the wrong signal" to the Soviet Union during the current Poland crisis. But wait! Wasn't Carter's registration a signal to the Russians during the Afghanistan invasion? And didn't the Republican who was to inherit the White House criticize it as a poor response? And indeed it was! Did the Russians cover and pack up their tents in Kabul following the Presidential proclamation? Did Soviet troops stow their weapons and put on their best foreign tourist behavior?

So what the hell is Reagan or anyone else expecting Jeruzelski and the Soviets' clients to do in Poland? If we didn't use those 19 year-olds in the Mid-East, who expects us to use them in Poland? What sort of double-standard is this that demands agitation over European Christians and not over Asian Moslems?

The hypocrisy of the Reagan administration is exceeded only by its presumptuousness. After almost two years of advancing the idea that registration was a drain on time, money and liberty, he now wants us to goosestep in time with his new drum. And the Reaganauts are actually boasting that more young men will sign up with Shoot-from-the-Hip Reagan than with Nambypamby Carter.

Selective Service still Joan Lamb says that most of the 800,000 men not registered (government figures) will change their minds and register after Reagan has made clear he will continue the program. According to Edwin Meese, the less-than-overwhelming sign-up rate was due to the confusion over the future status of registration (a confusion abetted by the news media who had misled many to believe that registration would expire Jan. 31, 1981--see "News Briefs," Peace Action, Sep., 1981.)

There is talk now of a grace period: all past offenders would be welcomed to sign up at the Post Office and no questions asked. Well, since no one has so far been prosecuted for late registration, we may regard the past year and a half as a continuous grace period. Yet that has done nothing to diminish the number of resisters.

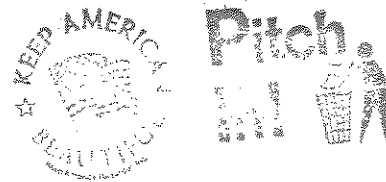
Does anyone seriously believe that a man who refused Carter's invitations is going to take up Reagan's offer?

We live in an age of renewed brinkmanship (remember that Cold War term?). With Reagan planning to spend \$1.5 trillion on defense the next five years (if we last that long) and the Navy shooting down Ghadafy's planes and Congress launching the MX and the B-1 and Al Haig talking about exploding a nuclear device over the Soviets' bow--the only resisters turning themselves in will be the psychotically self-destructive.

--David Rosinger

- Peace Action

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The Goose Step, Upton Sinclair (1922)

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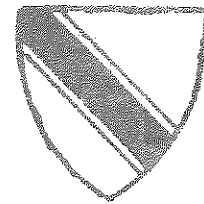
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Thomas Jefferson

(First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801)

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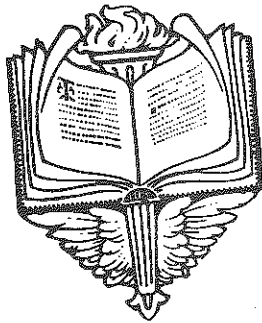
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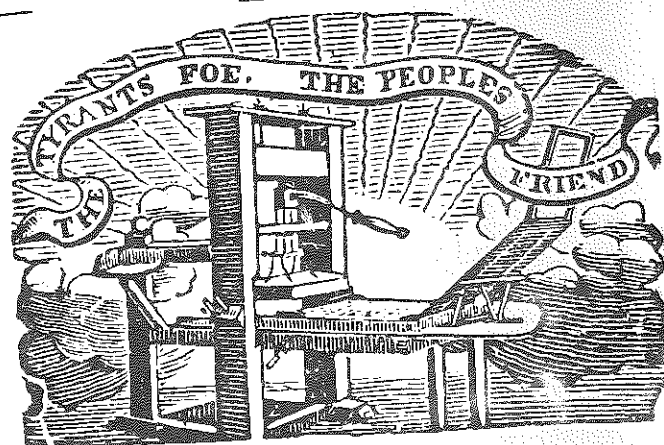
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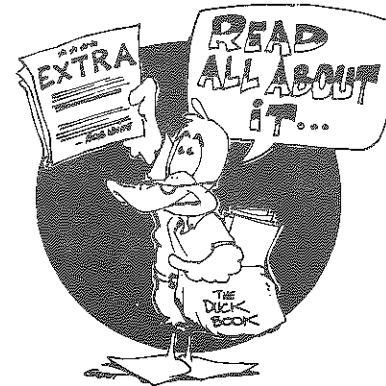
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THE MIAMI HERALD. AUGUST 13, 1981

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