

Quotes & Notes

17% of those on Manhattan's voter rolls are dead.

--WNBC TV

The difference between Republicans and Democrats (regarding the flat tax) is that Republicans fear the people won't understand, the Democrats fear they will.

--Dick Armev

The only difference between Republicans and Democrats is that Republicans will take two weeks longer than Democrats to accept socialism.

--Michael Reagan

Clinton Turning Back the Clock on Civil Rights

By waging war on the California Civil Rights Initiative, Bill Clinton is turning back the clock on civil rights, the Libertarian Party charged last month.

"More than 30 years ago a Southern governor stood defiantly in the school house door, barring American school children because of their race," said Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

"Today Gov. George Wallace has been replaced by Bill Clinton, who stands at the door of the schoolhouse and the workplace as well, barring Americans because of their race and gender, turning back the clock on civil rights."

The Clinton administration plunged last month into the legal battle against the California Civil Rights Initiative, which bars preferential treatment based on race or sex in college admissions, public employment and state contracting.

In late December a federal judge issued an injunction preventing the enforcement of the initiative, Proposition 209, which Californians approved by a 54 percent majority in November.

Giving Clinton's phrase in support of affirmative action a new twist, Dasbach said, "End it, don't mend it."

"Affirmative action is unfair and un-American because it forcibly divides individuals into groups and rewards or punishes them accordingly. Under this absurd system, the son of multi-millionaire black comedian Bill Cosby would get preference over the son of a white janitor."

Under the guise of protecting civil rights, politicians have always written laws that discriminate in favor of their political supporters, Dasbach said.

For example, current California law requires set-asides in public contracting by race and sex.

Not only does this allow state officials to reward the interest groups that financed their campaigns, it leads to a perverse side effect: Contractors rejected for a job because of their race or sex are compelled to spend their tax money financing the winner's business.

"Bigotry is always reprehensible," he said, "but it is even worse when mandated by the government and financed with taxes paid by its victims."

Dasbach noted that Congressional Republicans are silent on Clinton's decision to challenge the law, and that Bob Dole failed to strongly support Proposition 209 in his presidential bid last fall.

"Both parties have voted for a wide array of discriminatory laws at the federal level, such as racial set-asides," he said. "Now Clinton is playing the race card again, and Republicans lack the moral stature to call his bluff."

Inevitably, affirmative action and other civil rights laws will be twisted to suit anyone's purpose, Dasbach said. For example:

- In 1992 a Florida court awarded a white woman permanent disability benefits because her employer failed to provide a segregated workplace to accommodate her fear of blacks.
- A man once sued an employer who fired him for bringing a gun to work. The man, who was under psychiatric care, claimed the employer was violating a provision of the Americans with Disability Act, an outgrowth of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- A Chicago company once had to explain to federal bureaucrats why it failed to promote a woman who claims she was discriminated against because of the microchip in her tooth that allows her to communicate with others.

"Getting rid of racial discrimination is a noble goal, which is why politicians can't be trusted to achieve it," Dasbach said. "Most Americans understand that, even if their leaders don't."



How I Spent my Summer Vacation by Chris Inama

As many of you know, I recently completed my studies for an MA in Economics (Austrian School) at the unique program offered at California State University, Hayward. Since then, I have joined the faculty of the University of Phoenix, where I teach courses in Business Law and Micro- and Macro-economics to undergraduate and MBA students.

With a large amount of luck (mostly manufactured by one of my CSUH professors, Kurt Leube, himself formerly a protege of the great F.A. Hayek, of esteemed memory), in honor of my academic achievements and my brand-new professorship, I was invited to spend a week in Vienna, Austria, as a fellow at the biannual meeting of the prestigious Mont Pelerin Society.

The Mont Pelerin Society was founded shortly after WW2 in the Swiss village from which it takes its name, by Hayek, Milton Friedman, and others, to study free market economics and liberalism (in its true sense--not the modern US leftist socialism that has coopted the name). Among the several hundred members in attendance from all over the world this year were Noble Prize-winners James Buchanan and Gary Becker.

I have never been to Paris or Rome, but I hated London when I was there. On the other hand, the city of Vienna is marvelous. The streets and parks are pleasantly clean, and the people are kind and courteous--I felt like I was wearing a sign saying, "Be nice to this American geek", because almost everybody automatically addressed me in English. But more important, around every oblique corner (the narrow streets rarely intersect at right-angles) is something of historical or artistic significance. In addition, my own great-grandfather came to the US from Austria in 1875, and I still have distant relatives there, so it was nice to meet one cousin, again, who is a Jesuit priest. His beautiful Baroque-style church was built in 1624--and its not nearly the oldest in Vienna!

The conference itself was quite interesting. Really famous scholars, whose work I am familiar with from my studies, presented papers and answered questions. Since the Society funded most of my expenses, I had to work one day as the official time-keeper--what a feeling of power it was to turn on the red light when Federal Appeals Court judge and U. of Chicago professor Richard Posner spoke longer than his allotted time! One professor from Madrid presented a paper relating to the same issues about which I wrote in my master's thesis, and he honored me by asking for a copy of my thesis and a critique of his paper.

One day was set aside for a trip out to the country to see a 600-year-old monastery, with a boat-ride back to Vienna on the formerly blue Danube. At lunch, I sat between a German professor and a Japanese professor who had both known Hayek intimately, and they shared many subtle insights. The afternoon was spent drinking wine and watching the countryside go by, "talking politics" with VIP's from at least three other continents.

This trip was the opportunity of a lifetime! Classical liberalism is not dead, even if the US Government under its bi-partisan ruling coalition is rushing as fast as it can toward socialism (following mainstream academia).

What moral can we learn from this adventure story? Learn economics! Too few of us really understand it, and it truly makes the human world go around. I urge everyone to look into the program at CSUH, the only institution of higher learning in the US that will actually put "Austrian School" on the diploma of an Economics Dept. graduate.

Obituary--Bill Wade by Warren Gibson

Bill Wade died suddenly and peacefully on November 29. He was 59.

Bill was active in the Libertarian Party starting about 1978. He was a candidate for Congress in San Mateo County in 1980, the year when Ed Clark got nearly a million votes.

For nearly all his adult life, Bill suffered from multiple sclerosis and was confined to a wheelchair. But he never gave in to the disease, fighting it with good medical care and dietary habits. He remained actively engaged in a variety of interests until the end.

Some of us who were around in 1980 remember wheeling him around from door to door, campaigning.

Everybody who knew him will remember his lust for life and the special twinkle in his eye. He was an inspiration to us all and will be sorely missed.

Social Security-- "privatization" ...or government takeover of business?

A government panel's proposal to "privatize" Social Security might save the ailing retirement program--but could deal a death blow to the American system of free enterprise in the process, the Libertarian Party warns.

"These Social Security bail-out proposals represent a trillion-dollar wolf in privatized sheep's clothing--and the result could be de facto nationalization of many of America's major industries," warned party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

After two and a half years of study, the Advisory Council on Social Security released a report on Monday recommending three "privatization" scenarios to bail out the troubled program, which will go bankrupt by 2029.

All involve massive Social Security investments in the stock market, whether through direct government purchases, mandated private retirement accounts, or government-managed stock accounts. According to the 13-member panel, the higher yields from stocks would make up for the revenue shortfall that will otherwise bankrupt the 62-year-old federal program.

"But all three plans are pseudo-privatization--and are really blueprints for a potential trillion-dollar government takeover of American industry," said Dasbach.

Under the various proposals, the government would direct between \$500 billion and \$2.1 trillion worth of Social Security investments in private companies over the next 15 years, noted Dasbach.

"That represents 5% to 10% of the total value of the stock market--which would immediately make the federal government the largest and most influential investor in American business," he said.

This poses two significant dangers, said Dasbach:

- In an effort to guarantee adequate revenue for Social Security recipients, politicians could begin legislating companies' business decisions--"in effect, trying to micromanage billion-dollar businesses from the floor of the House and Senate," said Dasbach.

"How long would it be before Congress starts passing new laws regulating executive salaries at General Motors, planned layoffs at IBM,--proposed merger at U.S. Steel, or Microsoft's marketing decisions--all in the name of protecting their Social Security-receiving constituents?" he asked.

- The government will try to impose more meddlesome social engineering programs on private business.

"Politicians already have an aggressive track record on this sort of thing," noted Dasbach. "For example, the federal government's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) now micromanages the personnel policies of the 400,000 companies that do business with the government. The urge to do more social engineering--this time on every business in America--will be irresistible for politicians like Ted Kennedy and Jesse Helms."

What's the solution?

"We should choose real privatization--and get the government completely out of Social Security," said Dasbach. "As our 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne proposed, we should sell trillions of dollars worth of unneeded federal assets to finance the liquidation of Social Security through the purchase of private retirement annuities for senior citizens.

"Under such a program, senior citizens would have guaranteed contracts with trustworthy private companies --instead of relying on politicians and bankrupt government programs. And the politicians wouldn't get \$2 trillion worth of influence over American business.

"We need to protect Americans' retirement accounts--but protect free enterprise, too," said Dasbach. "The only way to do that is to reject all three of these so-called privatization plans."

Clinton on Compationate Use

If you suffer from cancer, AIDS, or glaucoma, the president who claims to "feel your pain" is actually trying to make you more sick and more miserable, claimed the Libertarian Party.



"By threatening to arrest and imprison doctors who prescribe marijuana to relieve pain and suffering, Bill Clinton has made compassion--crime," party Chairman Steve Dasbach said today. "He is mistaking political judgment for medical judgment, and thousands of sick and dying people will suffer needlessly as--result."

Clinton announced this week that the federal government would prosecute doctors in California and Arizona who attempt to prescribe medical marijuana to patients. Voters in those states made it legal for physicians to prescribe controlled substances when they passed referendums in November by wide margins--65% in Arizona and 56% in California.

The administration's plan, detailed earlier this week, includes jailing doctors and their patients for up to 10 years; revoking doctors' power to write prescriptions; and sending in federal agents to prosecute patients who argue that the marijuana in their possession was prescribed by--physician.

"Clinton's threats already have intimidated doctors," Dasbach noted. Several physicians in Arizona and California now say they will decline to recommend marijuana because Clinton can drive them out of business by pulling their licenses to write prescriptions.

"Clinton has shown an appalling eagerness to trample the will of the voters," Dasbach said. "Not only is he unleashing the power of the federal government to defy state law, he is encouraging local prosecutors to help him."

Attorney General Janet Reno already has promised local police that she will send in federal agents to help prosecute defendants who argue their innocence based on the fact that their pain relievers were prescribed by a doctor, Dasbach said.

Reno acknowledged that state and local police cannot confiscate the doctor-prescribed drugs, thanks to the new law. But she told them to do so anyway, and federal agents will "adopt" the seizure, thus circumventing the law.

Dasbach also noted the irony of the federal government, which itself runs--marijuana farm, prosecuting doctors for prescribing it. "The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Mississippi operates--seven-acre marijuana plantation in Oxford," Dasbach said. The facility has provided--small group of victims of multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, and other ailments--monthly canister of marijuana cigarettes--at taxpayer expense--since the 1970s.

"In other words, Bill Clinton is authorizing the federal government to arrest and imprison doctors in Arizona and California for providing the same pain relievers the government itself is providing to people around the country," Dasbach said.