

YOOPER SCOOPER

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U.N.'s World Food Program Cried Poverty While Sitting on Cash Stockpile of More Than \$1.22 Billion

Just weeks before it announced the onset of a global food crisis and the urgent need for donors to provide at least \$775 million in additional funding, the World Food Program (WFP) was sitting on a cash and near-cash stockpile of more than \$1.22 billion.

The startling figure is contained in the latest audited statements of the WFP, which were endorsed by WFP's executive director, Josette Sheeran, on March 31, 2008 — just a month before Sheeran announced at an international aid conference on April 22 that a "silent tsunami" in rising food prices demanded the huge infusion of cash for WFP's latest budget.

In an op-ed article published in the International Herald Tribune on May 1, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon further declared that the WFP had just "\$18 million cash in hand" in the wake of its appeal for emergency funding.

The audited statements are due to be presented to the annual Rome meeting of WFP's supervisory executive board in June.

The \$1.22 billion figure, tallied as of December 31, 2007, represents an increase of nearly \$400 million over the WFP's cash reserves a year earlier, as laid out in a report to the WFP's governing executive board in June 2007.

The cash stockpile was in addition to pledges for an additional \$1.33 billion, all of which left the organization with more than \$2 billion in anticipated cash and reserves just before it made its most recent urgent appeal.

In all, the auditors declared, WFP had added an additional \$91 million in cash assets over the 12-month period, leaving the U.N.'s emergency food supplier with roughly the same reserve assets it held in 2005.

Asked a series of questions about the reserves by email yesterday, WFP had not replied by the time this story was published.

Ever since WFP first announced the looming crisis of food aid for the world's poorest people — based largely on dramatic international hikes in food costs — the World Food Program and other United Nations spokesmen, including Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, have been steadily ratcheting up the tab required to top off WFP's budget to meet 2008 needs.



Initially, Sheeran announced that some \$500 million was needed, though she added that would not fully fund such things as school

food programs for some 20 million hungry youngsters. By the time of the aid conference, attended largely by U.N. agencies and World Bank representatives, the needed funding had risen to \$775 million.

By the time the conference ended, Secretary General Ban put the shortfall at roughly \$1 billion.

Ban also announced that a U.N. task force dealing with the food crisis would need as much as \$1.6 billion in additional funding for seed programs and other means of expanding the global food supply.

On Thursday, President George W. Bush called on Congress to add \$770 million in new international food aid to some \$350 million in new aid he announced after WFP announced the "silent tsunami" crisis.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,353944,00.html>
http://www.foxnews.com/projects/pdf/agenda_item_6_2008.pdf
http://www.foxnews.com/projects/pdf/agenda_item_6_2007.pdf
<http://www.wfp.org/english/>
<http://www.un.org/>

Switching to Apple

Microsoft has once again overstepped their level of reasonableness. It is nearly impossible to download forms from their office.microsoft web site unless you bled out more bucks of hard earned money and bought a newer version of MS Office. Pop-ups requiring an entry of the code for the newer version of MS Office kills the download if you enter an older version.

MS downloads may indicate '97 version or newer is required, but it won't let the 2002 users get their grubby mitts on the downloads with their outdated software. In fact, many programs that users had used are no longer compatible with new versions of the same program. In just a few years MS has changed OS programs; again many are not compatible with older types.

Apple Computers had been at least a decade ahead of MS in the late 80s; it now appears as if Apple may once again be the top-dog in both the software and computer hardware industries.

As with any product in America, be sure to flip it over and see where it is made before you buy. Buy American!

"Enslavement By Stealth" or....."How To Conquer a Country Without a Shot Being Fired"

By Ron Ewart, President - NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RURAL LANDOWNERS—Copyright April 30 2008 - All Rights Reserved

Stealth: (1) the attribute or characteristic of acting in secrecy, or in such a way that the actions are unnoticed or difficult to detect by others. (2) an act of secrecy, especially one involving thievery.

It is said that no one can take advantage of you unless you let them. But that assumes that you are aware that someone is trying to take advantage of you. When you are asleep, you are vulnerable to attack by stealth. A thief can sneak up on you in the night without your knowledge, do you physical harm, take your possessions, or burn down your house. A thief is at least honest about being a thief. But a government that does the same thing with stealth, when it has no authority to do so under our constitution, is worse than a thief. To violate the trust of the people, when you hold the power of their lives, their possessions and their property in your hands, as governments do, is treason. While the people slept, government's greed, avarice and the lust for plenary (*absolute*) power filled the vacuum we left by our inattention and apathy.

Thomas Jefferson said: ***"The two enemies of the people are government and criminals, so let us tie the first one down with the chains of the constitution, so the first will not become the legalized version of the second."***

But since the ink was dry on the Constitution we have not heeded Jefferson's words. There are and always have been, those within and outside the government with ulterior motives trying to pervert the Constitution, change its meaning, or interpret its words for their own benefit or agenda. The Founding Fathers crafted an excellent blue print for freedom, but they could not craft a defense against those with evil intent and a lust for power, who would dare to break the bonds of the Constitution, if the people refused to hold those in power, accountable. The Founders could also not prevent the weakness of the people who would sell their souls, their freedom and their liberty for security and a few pieces of silver, dolled out by politicians with their fingers on the vault of the public treasury, thirsting for votes to remain in power. It would appear that after 230+ years and hundreds of thousands of men and women who were maimed or gave their lives to defend our freedom, we successfully became independent from a foreign power, England, only to become helplessly dependent on our own government.

In 1837 Daniel Webster gave us this warning: ***"...There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. ...Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from their carelessness and negligence. I must confess that I do apprehend some danger. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants, and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct; that in this way they may be made the dupes of designing men, and become the instruments of their own undoing."***

It appears we have not heeded all the warnings from all those Vanguards of Freedom throughout our history. Thus today, we reap the whirl wind

of our negligence. For a hundred years or more, those in power, left to their own resources, have crept into our private lives with stealth and have stolen our possessions, our property, our freedom and liberty and there was no ***"shot heard 'round the world."***

Back in the late 1920's President Hoover retained Harvard University and the University of Illinois to undertake a study on how to manipulate the people through their subconscious minds. The study was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Many of the results of that study found their way into administrative policy and federal legislation.

Under the government-declared emergency of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt (FDR) continued those manipulative policies and duped the American people into believing that only government could save them from the ravages of a crashing economy, even though it was the government that was largely responsible for the Depression in the first place. He saved them alright and the net result was an almost irreparable crack in the U. S. Constitution and invisible chains wrapped around the people for thinking they could trust government to save them. Those policies then extended the results of the Great Depression for ten more years, until a World War erased the memory. Thus began the beginning of our enslavement.

Here are two quotes that should make chills run up and down your spine:

"The new world order will be built as an end run on national sovereignty, eroding it, piece by piece will accomplish much more than the old fashioned frontal assault". Council on Foreign Relations Journal 1974, pg. 558

"We will have world government, whether or not we like it. The only question is whether government will be achieved by conquest or consent." Paul Warburg, CFR & Architect of the Federal Reserve System in an address to the U.S. Senate 2/17/1950

As we enter another questionable economy that has some of the earmarks of the Great Depression, government once again is trying to save us. But instead of saving us, they make all of our problems far worse. The Federal Reserve monkeys with interest rates and the value of the dollar falls. Since oil is pegged to the dollar, the value of oil rises. The government then introduces a policy to make corn into ethanol. The result is rising food prices across the board. The government refuses to allow the production of new oil resources and won't allow new power plants or oil refineries to be built, driving the cost of oil up even further. Rising oil prices increase the cost of transportation, fertilizer, plastics, resins and dramatically increase the cost of just about everything we buy, in what could be a never-ending upward spiral of super inflation. Such events have broken the financial backs of many countries and led to anarchy.

The government, by edict, forced some inner-city lenders to make questionable loans to people who lacked the resources to repay those loans. Thus, the government, by their own specific actions, gave us the sub-prime debacle that could plummet our economy into a free-for-all dive into who knows where.

The government provides huge grants (*our tax*

money) to environmental groups who then use our money in the legal system to sue the government to obtain radical court decisions in their favor. It is legislation by court decree, rather than through the normal legislative process. They are about to use the same tactic to get the Polar Bear listed as endangered due to so-called, man-caused global warming, so that they can use the listing as leverage to control private property and commerce even more than it is now.

But the government completes their stealth with even more chicanery. They alter the information they feed to the public to make things look better than they really are. The inflation numbers are manipulated such that the government gets to pay back the debt they created, with inflated dollars and we are not the wiser. They tell us that they are fighting inflation, but all the while they are making deals in back rooms with the money handlers and lobbyists, in secret, (*stealth*) to feed their own and the lobbyists insatiable power-hungry agenda and to cover their own tail ends for their mistakes.

Meanwhile, helpless and puppet-like, we dance to the government's drummer and believe everything they tell us, in duplicity with a sell-out print and electronic news media. Way too many people have been conditioned to open their mouths like baby birds and wait for some chunk of government-regurgitated "meat" to drop in. They swallow the swill and open their mouths again, anxiously awaiting the next bite. We have been rounded up like calves to the slaughter and await our final reward. And it didn't take a gun or a cattle prod to do the deed. God forbid we should bite the hand that feeds us.

And for those of you in government, nice job! All that is left now is to strip what is left of the people's pride and freedom by convincing them that they are evil and must sacrifice their property and their life style for the good of the planet. One of your weapons is of course, trumped-up, man-caused global warming. When you have completed that fraud, the entire fate of the people and their property will be in your hands forever. Unless

"When a 'forest fire' is lit, there is no telling which way it will go. It depends on the 'wind', the 'fuel load' and the 'humidity'. The 'wind' is about to blow real hard, the 'fuel load' is huge and the humidity is dropping rapidly. It just takes the right 'match', a lightning strike, or spontaneous combustion. The question is, what (or who) will set it off? Could it be illegal aliens getting amnesty, the U. S. Supreme Court's Kelo vs. New London decision, the approaching recession, a depression, war, confiscation of property rights, socialism, the welfare state, globalism, radical environmentalism, global-warming legislation, or the treasonous trashing of our Constitution by politicians? Could Jefferson have been right when he said: 'society does need a revolution every hundred years. Messy, but necessary if freedom is to be defended and maintained.'

~Ron Ewart

We sincerely hope Jefferson was and is wrong.

The Weakest Link

By J. C. Powers

On the television series, *The Weakest Link*, the hostess asked the players, "Who is the screen door in your submarine?" The show was both educational and amusing; much like the presidential race is today. We have learned not to trust any politician and that Americans have become statistically more stupid than the Iranians or the liberal French.

Like the ploys used by players on the television show, most of the good strategic players seemed to manage to get rid of the intelligent players so by the end they would be left to only compete with idiots. But, as the competition narrowed, the strategic players would be voted-off by those same idiots. So goes the presidential election of 2008.

The national job approval rating for Congress is 18% favorable and 75% unfavorable. These statistics are well below the ratings for President Bush; 28 and 63 percent respectively. <http://www.pollingreport.com/> - We are living the real life version of the movie *Dumb and Dumber*; we just need to figure which is which.

Here in Michigan we have several members of the royalty court of *The Stupids*. Debbie Stabenow pointed out in a Democrat radio address that when President Bush took office, gas was at \$1.50 per gallon. She failed to recognize the fact that this happened while she was in office as well and that the price of oil has doubled since the good Democrats took over Congress.

What is most humorous is that his Highness, Sir Carl Levin, the chamber mistress Nancy Pelosi, court Jester Harry Reid and the village idiot, Bart Stupak, are heavily engaged in pointing fingers at GWB for his failed energy policies. Someone needs to play back the tape and ask Congress what steps they took to prevent the onset of where we are today; as they were warned by the Prophet GWB.

The Daughter of Darkness, Hillary Clinton, blames the evil oil companies for gross profits and wants the great and powerful government to confiscate all their earnings. Between bids to drill on citizen-owned property, tariffs, sales and pump taxes and income taxes, the government makes far more money than all the oil companies combined; and the government doesn't have to invest or do any manual labor to get their "fair share".

It would be nice to speak glowingly about the voters here in the United States, but they have lost their sense of national pride, sense of independence and evidently all their common sense.

So who is the screen door in our submarine? Is it the President? Is it Congress? Is it the Citizens?

Well, the reality is that the first two would not be in any position to do all those stupid things if it wasn't for Citizens who voted for them—even in the fixed races in the Third-World states. The voters may still influence races in those states if they have strong unity.

Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, and Arkansas seem to be loaded with six generations of in-breeding, so its unlikely anything will ever change in those states; but that means there are 46 states that can make the change; or if you're Barack Obama, 56 other states that can make the change.

The biggest challenges in 2008 will be educating voters. Most voters accept anything they're told if they're told whatever it is often enough by CNN, PBS, New York Times and the Washington Post. The fictitious drowning polar bear scenario that piggy-backed global warming is the best example of just how truly stupid Americans can be when it comes down to their ability to make any reasonable discerning judgment of the ridiculous information. They're a lot like members of the UN.

Although a lot of us are inclined to capitulate by allowing the true conservatives to be outcasts from the Republican Party, we have to meet this movement to the left with strong convictions and dedication to help reformulate the GOP. Changes can not be made from the outside; we need to jump into pivotal positions within the GOP's national, state and local parties. We may be beyond the stage where we can ask God to intervene; He's probably ready to hit us with an asteroid. But let's keep praying anyway! ~JCP

The Third Sector

By Henry Lamb

Posted: August 09, 2003—1:00 am EST
By Henry Lamb
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A new mechanism of governance is emerging. Georgetown University calls it "The Third Sector." The United Nations calls it "Civil Society." The President's Council on Sustainable Development calls it "a new, collaborative decision process." Whatever it's called, it is a process to formulate public policy by non-elected individuals, unencumbered by the legislative process.

The process was developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the United Nations. As the IUCN developed its land-management policy proposals, a network of "civil society" organizations, called BIONET, was created to promote the policy proposal and to lobby U.N. delegates. As the IUCN developed its climate change policy proposals, a network of civil society organizations, called Climate Action Network, was created to promote the policy proposals and to lobby U.N. delegates.

The same process created the Women's Environment and Development Organization; the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives; the International Action Network on Small Arms; and many other "networks" of special interest groups, largely funded by the U.N. and sympathetic governments.

The process has been incredibly successful at the international level. It is rapidly becoming equally successful in the United States.

In 1995, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a "network" of special interest groups, banded together to urge UNESCO to declare Yellowstone National Park a World Heritage Site "In Danger." The designation required a willing Clinton-Gore administration to impose additional land-use restric-

tions on private property beyond the park's boundary. Neither local, state, nor federal elected officials had any say in the matter.

Throughout the 1990s, the President's Council on Sustainable Development spawned hundreds of these "networks" to focus on specific issues, such as the Sierra Club's "Smart Growth" programs, and to work at the local and regional levels to generate visions of smart growth for nearly every community.

These special interest groups are often called "visioning" councils, or "stakeholder," or "watershed" councils. They are designed to appear to be representative of the affected community. Most often, however, they consist of individuals who are government employees or executives or staff of special interest groups, with only a token number of carefully selected elected officials and business leaders.

The process of consensus building to achieve "collaborative" decision making has been refined to an art. In a given community, the appropriate council is chosen and begins meeting to discuss the future of the community. When the council is fully formed, and a couple of "day-glow" big-wheels have been recruited, a public announcement explains how the wonderful "citizens" vision will unfold.

At the public meetings, a paid facilitator leads the group to choose from several options in several categories - transportation, zoning, education, economic development - until a final set of proposals is developed, which is then presented to the governing body for adoption and implementation. Rarely do the elected officials have the necessary information, or the political will, to oppose this vision developed by the "citizens" of the community.



In reality, it is not a vision of the citizens of the community. Ordinary citizens are rarely even notified of the meetings. When they do show up to ask questions, they are often ridiculed, marginalized and dismissed. When complete, virtually every one of these plans contain the elements recommended in Agenda 21 and by the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

Councils created to represent trans-boundary jurisdictions have even less input by ordinary citizens or elected officials. When a multi-jurisdictional plan is developed, and presented to the various jurisdictions, they either adopt it, or risk political ridicule and even the loss of federal funds.

These special interest groups - the Third Sector - are deeply embedded in the policy-making process. The American Planning Association was funded by the government to produce model legislation for state governments. The Center for Civic Education has the exclusive authority to write the civics curriculum for federally funded public schools. The Nature Conservancy, and similar groups, are used by government to buy private property, which is then resold to the government for a profit.

This new mechanism of governance has become so prevalent that Georgetown University has developed a special Ph.D. program to train special-interest organization leaders to be even more effective.

The great danger in this emerging new system of governance is the absence of accountability. If citizens don't like the policies developed by these special interest groups, who do they un-elect?

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<http://www.freedom.org/>

Casperson and the King Makers

by C. J. Williams

After fifteen years, Michigan's 1st Congressional District finally has what's turning out to be the Queen Mother of all primary races to unseat Rep. Bart Stupak, a dutiful Democrat who supports U.N. treaties that are destroying America and the constitutional rights of We, the People.

Three Republicans who want Stupak's seat are campaigning to win the August 5th primary and the right to run in the November general election. For two, Linda Goldthorpe and Don Hooper, it's so far been a friendly battle, but it appears the third contender, current state Rep. Tom Casperson, doesn't play well with others.

The first of four "First District Congressional Debates" was held in Boyne City on the evening of May 10th. Goldthorpe was there, Hooper was there; Casperson wasn't.

On April 25th, Petoskey and Traverse City radio station WJML Radio Newstalk, which is sponsoring the entire debate series, formally invited the candidates to take part. Goldthorpe accepted immediately, Hooper accepted immediately; Casperson waited until almost the last moment to decline.

"No Show" Casperson turned down the invite through a May 7th press release, which was e-mailed to WJML at 1:22 p.m. on Friday, May 9th by 1st District GOP chairman, Joel Westrom of Marquette.

Casperson's press release reads: *"Unfortunately, I will not be participating in this Saturday's debate that has apparently been unilaterally organized by the Goldthorpe campaign. It is certainly important that constituents of the 1st Congressional District get a chance to meet the candidates and understand our views. Unfortunately, I was just informed of this debate, which in any event is quite premature as the Congressional filing deadline has not passed. So, out of respect to those people and groups to whom I previously pledged my attendance this weekend, and out of fairness and respect to those candidates that have yet to declare their candidacy, I believe the most appropriate way for me to continue to introduce myself is to maintain the schedule I have had in place for weeks."*

However, once the filing deadline has passed, I look forward to working with each of the declared candidates to lay the foundation for additional debates."

To cut to the chase, on May 7th Casperson claimed he was just informed of the May 10th debate; that it was organized in a one-sided manner by the Goldthorpe campaign; that it was too premature to hold it before the May 13th candidacy filing date; and to be fair and respectful to anyone who'd file their candidacy at the last minute, he believed it most appropriate for voters to meet him by sticking to his long-planned schedule.

In truth, Casperson knew about the possibility of a debate series on Feb. 21st when he, Goldthorpe, Hooper, and some state and district level GOP leaders were copied on an e-mail sent by Goldthorpe campaign manager, Bill Kosloskey of Petoskey, to Joel Westrom.

Kosloskey indicated he'd like the 1st GOP District and state leadership to address, as a group, the idea of debates or town hall meetings. Among

other things, he wrote: *"Personally, I'd like to see four or five public debates/town hall meetings, moderated and/or sponsored by the Michigan GOP between all 3 candidates that would facilitate getting their positions out in the open to the constituents in our area - at least two in the UP and as many down here, starting as early as next month. I'd be more than willing to work on putting one together to serve the Petoskey, Harbor, Charlevoix and other surrounding areas."*

In an e-mailed response on Feb. 21st, Westrom wrote: *"That is great you are trying to put a forum together for the candidates. Please contact all the candidates and let me know what you come up with."*

Additionally, in that e-mail Westrom let Kosloskey know he'd been very supportive of Casperson and his bid for Stupak's seat. *"We have almost 150 leadership positions in the First Congressional District alone including county Chairs and their officers (VC, Sec, Treasurer) I work with on a regular basis. It seemed almost unanimous that they were supporting Tom Casperson,"* he wrote.

This, mind you, was prematurely going on long before the May 13th filing date deadline even though two other candidates had informally made their intentions known, one as early as last summer at the 1st Congressional District picnic held at St. Ignace. In fact, the "Casperson for Congress" hype began to surface in various GOP blogs as early as fifteen months ago in the winter of 2007.

In response to Kosloskey via a Feb. 22nd e-mail copied to Westrom, Hooper wrote, *"I wholeheartedly approve of your support for candidate debates. However the party leadership will fight this ardently. They believe they have already selected the candidate so why should they give notoriety to their opposition. However the voting public would love this, so we must depend on folks like you to bring it to reality... I would be delighted to participate."*

According to Kosloskey, "The Hooper and Goldthorpe campaigns agreed to meet just a few days after Don's email, opening up a professional, cross-campaign dialog about the debates. Never did the Casperson campaign, or any representative thereof, contact either the Hooper or Goldthorpe campaigns to indicate a willingness to participate in the planning of any debate program."

Additionally, Westrom indicated in two more emails to Kosloskey, dated April 4th and 7th, that he'd *"talk with the officers about the debates and see what they think and how it would be coordinated"* and also *"talk to Tom about the debate idea and see what he thinks"*. However, there was no feedback from Westrom indicating he followed up on what he claimed he'd do regarding the debates.

With four debates hoped for and the clock ticking, Kosloskey called Casperson several times, but wasn't able to connect with him until April 14th when they talked for 84 minutes. At that time, says Kosloskey, Casperson indicated an unwillingness to participate in the debates, as planned, but did say he'd be more likely to participate if someone else proposed them.

With the 1st GOP leadership dragging its feet and Casperson's negativity, Kosloskey knew if there were to be any debates at all, he needed to quickly find an acceptable sponsor. Among other entities, he con-

tacted the Petoskey News Review on April 15th about sponsoring the series. That e-mail was copied to three different radio stations, as well as to the three candidates and several other individuals.

Shortly after being copied on the request for help, WJML came forward to sponsor the debates, find moderators to conduct them, and handle all the nitty-gritty details. Anyone who attended the first debate, which was also broadcast and now archived online, knows that no partiality was shown to the candidates.

The foregoing being the case, Casperson obviously knew early on that the debate series was being planned, but showed no interest in helping with the planning or checking on progress being made.

Far from being a one-sided effort on the Goldthorpe campaign's part, the Hooper campaign has been actively involved in the debate planning, as has the sponsoring radio station and other individuals.

While Casperson believes the first debate should have been held after the May 13th filing date to give potential Republican ticket late-comers a chance to partake, that date appears not to have concerned him or the state and 1st District GOP leadership when they prematurely opted to formally throw their support behind Casperson last summer.

According to information included in the MI-GOP chairman's 7/14/07 daily online newsletter,

"That's Saul, folks!", he and the state Republican National Committee members signed a formal "RNC Rule 11" letter on July 13, 2007 regarding Casperson.

The first portion of Rule 11(a) reads: *"The Republican National Committee shall not, without written and filed approval of all members of the Republican National Committee from the state involved, contribute money or in-kind aid to any candidate for any public office except the nominee of the Republican Party or a candidate who is unopposed in the Republican primary after the filing deadline for that office."*

Actually, out of respect and fairness to all contenders, political party ethics mandate that a party shouldn't support or endorse any candidate who faces opposition in the primary. Only after the primary, when one Republican candidate remains, is it truly proper for the party to support, financially or otherwise, the voting public's candidate for the general election. Regardless, one 1st GOP District candidate has prematurely received "favorite son" status.

The problem is that We, the People haven't yet had a chance to voice our opinion, through our CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT to vote in the August 5th primary, as to which of the three Republican candidates WE believe will be the best person to compete against Bart Stupak, and most importantly to represent OUR voice in Congress.

Many 1st District voters feel the next three months should be used to discover what the three candidates believe about issues so we can most effectively cast OUR votes at the ballot box instead of letting the MI-GOP usurp a privilege that rightfully belongs to We, the People.

The second debate will be held in the U.P. at the Houghton High School auditorium on Friday, June 6th at 7 p.m. Perhaps this time there will be three podiums instead of just two. ~ CJ

Too "Complex"? - Thomas Sowell - Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Some people think that the reason the public misunderstands so many issues is that these issues are too "complex" for most voters. But is that really so?

With all the commotion in the media and in politics about the high price of gasoline, is there really some terribly complex explanation?

Is there anything complex about the fact that with two countries— India and China— having rapid economic growth, and with combined populations 8 times that of the United States, they are creating an increased demand for the world's oil supply?

The problem is not that supply and demand is such a complex explanation. The problem is that supply and demand is not an emotionally satisfying explanation. For that, you need melodrama, heroes and villains.

It is clear that many people prefer to blame President Bush. Others prefer to blame the oil companies, who have long been the favorite villains of the left.

Politicians understand that. Numerous times they have summoned the heads of oil companies before Congressional committees to be denounced on nationwide television for "greed," with the politicians calling for a federal investigation to "get to the bottom of this!"

Now that is emotionally satisfying, which is the whole point. By the time yet another federal investigation is completed— and turns up nothing to substantiate the villainy that is supposed to be the reason for high gasoline prices— most people's attention will have turned to something else.

Newspapers that carried the original inflammatory charges with banner headlines on page 1 will carry the story of the completed investigation that turned up nothing as a small item deep inside the paper.

This has happened at least a dozen times over the past few decades and it will probably happen again.

What about those "obscene" oil company profits we hear so much about?

An economist might ask, "Obscene compared to what?" Compared to the investments made? Compared to the new investments required to find, extract and process additional oil supplies?

Asking questions like these are among the many reasons why economists have never been very popular. They frustrate people's desires for emotionally satisfying explanations.

If corporate "greed" is the explanation for

high gasoline prices, why are the government's taxes not an even bigger sign of "greed" on the part of politicians— since taxes add more to the price of gasoline than oil company profits do?

Whatever the merits or demerits of Senator John McCain's proposal to temporarily suspend the federal taxes on gasoline, it would certainly lower the price more than confiscating all the oil companies' profits.

But it would not be as emotionally satisfying.

Senator Barack Obama clearly understands people's emotional needs and how to meet them. He wants to raise taxes on oil companies.

How that will get us more oil or lower the price of gasoline is a problem that can be left for economists to puzzle over. A politician's problem is how to get more votes— and one of the most effective ways of doing that is to be a hero who will save us from the villains.

You have heard of the cavalry to the rescue. But have you ever heard of economists to the rescue?

While economists are talking supply and demand, politicians are talking compassion, "change" and being on the side of the angels— and against drilling for our own oil.

Has any economist ever attracted the kinds of cheering crowds that Barack Obama has— or even the crowds attracted by Hillary Clinton or John McCain?

If you want cheering crowds, don't bother to study economics. It will only hold you back. Tell people what they want to hear— and they don't want to hear about supply and demand.

No, supply and demand is not too "complex." It is just not very emotionally satisfying.

Too "Complex"?: Part II Thomas Sowell Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Let's face it. Supply and demand will never replace "need" and "greed" in political discussions of economic issues.

Talking about the "need" for more affordable housing or more affordable medical care is what will get politicians more votes this election year.

Voters don't want to hear about imper-

sonal things like supply and demand. They want to hear about how their political heroes will stop the villains from "gouging" them or "exploiting" them with high prices.

Moral melodrama is where it's at, politically.

Least of all do voters want to hear about the most fundamental reality of economics— that what everybody wants has always added up to more than there is.

That is called scarcity— and if there were no scarcity, there would be no economics. What would be the point, if we could all have everything we want, in whatever amount we want?

There were no economists in the Garden of Eden because everything was available in unlimited abundance.

A politician with good rhetorical skills can create a new Garden of Eden in people's minds, though only in their minds. However, that is sufficient, if that vision or illusion can be kept alive until election day, and its failure to materialize afterwards can be explained away by the obstruction of villains.

One of the many ironies of politics is that those politicians who do the most to reduce supply often express the greatest outrage about high prices.

So long as the voters buy it, the politicians will keep selling it.

Make a list of those politicians who do the most to prevent our drilling for our own oil. Then make a list of those politicians who express the most outrage about the high price of gasoline. Don't be surprised if you see the same names on both lists.

Make a list of those politicians who most loudly lament the lack of "affordable housing." Then make a list of those politicians who have most consistently promoted restrictions on the building of housing, under the banner of "open space" laws, "farmland protection" policies, preventing "urban sprawl," and other politically soothing phrases.

Again, do not be surprised at seeing the same folks on both lists.

Is it really too "complex" to figure out that taking vast amounts of land off the market will make the price of the remaining land far more expensive? Or that houses built on very expensive land will be very expensive housing? (Continued Page 7)

Too "Complex"? - Thomas Sowell - Continuation from Page 6

Despite the current decline in housing prices, a recent advertisement in a Palo Alto, California, newspaper listed a vacant lot for sale at \$879,000. If you build anything more elaborate than a tent on that property, you are talking about a million-dollar home, be it ever so humble.

Many of the places with very high housing prices have very modest homes on very small amounts of land. The San Francisco Chronicle ran a story about a graduate student seeking a place to live, "visiting one exorbitantly priced hovel after another."

It is not at all uncommon for land to cost more than the housing that is built on it, in those places where politicians have made housing unaffordable with land use restrictions under pretty names-- all the while lamenting the lack of affordable housing.

So long as politicians can get some people's votes by publicly feeling their pain when it comes to housing costs, and other people's votes by restricting the building of housing, they can have a winning coalition at election time, which is their bottom line.

Economists may point out that the different members of this coalition have conflicting interests that could be better resolved through competition in the marketplace. But how many economists have ever put together a winning coalition?

So long as voters prefer heroes and villains to supply and demand, this game will continue to be played. It is not because supply and demand is too "complex" to understand, but because it is not emotionally satisfying.

Too "Complex"?: Part III Thomas Sowell Thursday, May 15, 2008

In one of those typical San Francisco decisions that makes San Francisco a poster child for the liberal left, the city's Board of Supervisors is moving to block a paint store from renting a vacant building once used by a video rental shop.

That paint store is part of a chain, and chain stores are not liked by a vocal segment of the local population. Chain stores are already banned from some parts of San Francisco, and at least one member of the Board of Supervisors plans to introduce bans on chain stores in other areas.

Chain stores have been disliked for decades, at both local and national levels. Taking advantage of economies of scale that lower their costs of doing business, chain stores are able to charge lower prices than smaller independent stores, and therefore attract customers away from their higher-cost competitors.

The economics of this is certainly not too "complex" to understand. However, politics is not economics, so politicians tend to respond to people's emotional reactions-- and if economic realities stand in the way, then so much the worse for economics.

All sorts of laws and court decisions, going back as far as the 1930s, have tried to prevent the economies of scale that lower costs from being reflected in lower prices that drive high-cost competitors out of business.

Economists may say that benefits always have costs, that there is no free lunch-- but how many votes do economists have?

There was a time when courts would have stopped politicians from interfering with people's property rights by banning chain stores. After all, if whoever owns the vacant video rental store in San Francisco wants to rent it to the paint company, and the paint company is willing to pay the rent, why should politicians be involved in the first place?

However, once the notion of "a living Constitution" became fashionable, the Constitution's protection of property rights has been "interpreted" virtually out of existence by judges.

The biggest losers are not people who own property but people who have to pay higher prices because politicians make it harder for businesses that charge lower prices to come into the community.

Despite the political myth that government is protecting us from big businesses charging monopoly prices, the cold fact is that far more government actions have been taken against businesses that charge low prices than against businesses that charge high prices.



The biggest antitrust cases of a century ago were against the Great Northern Railroad and the Standard Oil Company, both of which charged lower prices than their competitors.

The Robinson-Patman Act of 1936 was called "the anti-Sears, Roebuck law" because it was directed again this and other chains that charged lower prices than smaller retailers could match.

For a long time, there were so-called Fair Trade Laws designed to keep low-cost businesses in general from charging low prices that drive high-cost businesses out of business.

Fortunately, enough sanity eventually prevailed that Fair Trade Laws were repealed. But the emotional needs that such laws met were still there, and today they find an outlet in hostility to Walmart and other "big box" stores-- especially in San Francisco and other bastions of the liberal left.

People have every right to indulge their emotions at their own expense. Unfortunately, through politics, those emotions are expressed in laws and administrative decisions by people who pay no price at all for indulging either their own emotions or the emotions of the people who vote for them.

That is why the Constitution tried to erect barriers to government power, of which property rights were one. But, once judges started saying that "the public interest" over-rides property rights, that left politicians free to call whatever they wanted to do "the public interest."

Neither economics nor property rights are too "complex" to understand. But both get in the way of willful people who seek to deny other people the right to make their own decisions.

Anyone who doesn't like chain stores is free not to shop there. But that is wholly different from saying that they have a right to stop other people from exercising their own freedom of choice. That's not too "complex" to understand.

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<http://www.townhall.com/columnists/thomassowell/archive.shtml>

Pity Party Declarations By Peggy Noonan May 16, 2008; Page A11

Big picture, May 2008:

The Democrats aren't the ones falling apart, the Republicans are. The Democrats can see daylight ahead. For all their fractious fighting, they're finally resolving their central drama. Hillary Clinton will leave, and Barack Obama will deliver a stirring acceptance speech. Then hand-to-hand in the general, where they see their guy triumphing. You see it when you talk to them: They're busy being born.

The Republicans? Busy dying. The brightest of them see no immediate light. They're frozen, not like a deer in the headlights but a deer in the darkness, his ears stiff at the sound. *Crunch. Twig. Hunting party.*

The headline Wednesday on Drudge, from Politico, said, "Republicans Stunned by Loss in Mississippi." It was about the eight-point drubbing the Democrat gave the Republican in the special House election. My first thought was: You have to be stupid to be stunned by that. Second thought: Most party leaders in Washington are stupid - detached, played out, stuck in the wisdom they learned when they were coming up, in '78 or '82 or '94. Whatever they learned then, they think pertains now. In politics especially, the first lesson sticks. For Richard Nixon, everything came back to Alger Hiss.

They are also - Hill leaders, lobbyists, party speakers - successful, well-connected, busy and rich. They never guessed, back in '86, how government would pay off! They didn't know they'd stay! They came to make a difference and wound up with their butts in the butter. But affluence detaches, and in time skews thinking. It gives you the illusion you're safe, and that everyone else is. A party can lose its gut this way.

Many are ambivalent, deep inside, about the decisions made the past seven years in the White House. But they've publicly supported it so long they think they . . . support it. They get confused. Late at night they toss and turn in the antique mahogany sleigh bed in the carpeted house in McLean and try to remember what it is they really do think, and what those thoughts imply.

And those are the bright ones. The rest are in Perpetual 1980: We have the country, the troops will rally in the fall.

"This was a real wakeup call for us," someone named Robert M. Duncan, who is chairman of the Republican National Committee, told the New York Times. This was after Mississippi. "We can't let the Democrats take our issues." And those issues would be? "We can't let them pretend to be conservatives," he continued. Why not? Republicans pretend to be conservative every day.

The Bush White House, faced with the series of losses from 2005 through '08, has long

claimed the problem is Republicans on the Hill and running for office. They have scandals, bad personalities, don't stand for anything. That's why Republicans are losing: because they're losers.

All true enough!

But this week a House Republican said publicly what many say privately, that there is another truth. "Members and pundits . . . fail to understand the deep seated antipathy toward the president, the war, gas prices, the economy, foreclosures," said Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia in a 20-page memo to House GOP leaders.

The party, Mr. Davis told me, is "an airplane flying right into a mountain." Analyses of its predicament reflect an "investment in the Bush presidency," but "the public has just moved so far past that." "Our leaders go up to the second floor of the White House and they get a case of White House-itis." Mr. Bush has left the party at a disadvantage in terms of communications: "He can't articulate. The only asset we have now is the big microphone, and he swallowed it." The party, said Mr. Davis, must admit its predicament, act independently of the White House, and force Democrats to define themselves. "They should have some ownership for what's going on. They control the budget. They pay no price. . . . Obama has all happy talk, but it's from 30,000 feet. Energy, immigration, what is he gonna do?"

* * *

Could the party pivot from the president? I spoke this week to Clarke Reed of Mississippi, one of the great architects of resurgent Republicanism in the South. When he started out, in the 1950s, there were no Republicans in his state. The solid south was solidly Democratic, and Sen. James O. Eastland was thumping the breast pocket of his suit, vowing that civil rights legislation would never leave it. "We're going to build a two-party system in the south," Mr. Reed said. He helped create "the illusion of Southern power" as a friend put it, with the creation of the Southern Republican Chairman's Association. "If you build it they will come." They did.

There are always "lots of excuses," Mr. Reed said of the special-election loss. Poor candidate, local factors. "Having said all that," he continued, "let's just face it: It's not a good time." He meant to be a Republican. "They brought Cheney in, and that was a mistake." He cited "a disenchantment with the generic Republican label, which we always thought was the Good Housekeeping seal."

What's behind it? "American people just won't take a long war. Just - name me a war, even in a pro-military state like this. It's overall disappointment. It's national. No leadership, adrift. Things haven't worked." The future lies in rebuilding locally, not being "distracted" by Washington.

Is the Republican solid South over?

"Yeah. Oh yeah." He said, "I eat lunch every day at Buck's Cafe. Obama's picture is all over the wall."

How to come back? "The basic old conservative principles haven't changed. We got distracted by Washington, we got distracted from having good county organizations."

Should the party attempt to break with Mr. Bush? Mr. Reed said he supports the president. And then he said, simply, "We're past that."

We're past that time.

Mr. Reed said he was "short-term pessimistic, long-term optimistic." He has seen a lot of history. "After Goldwater in '64 we said, 'Let's get practical.' So we got ol' Dick. We got through Watergate. Been through a lot. We've had success a long time."

Throughout the interview this was a Reed refrain: "We got through that." We got through Watergate and Vietnam and changes large and small.

He was holding high the flag, but his refrain implicitly compared the current moment to disaster.

What happens to the Republicans in 2008 will likely be dictated by what didn't happen in 2005, and '06, and '07. The moment when the party could have broken, on principle, with the administration - over the thinking behind and the carrying out of the war, over immigration, spending and the size of government - has passed. What two years ago would have been honorable and wise will now look craven. They're stuck.

Mr. Bush has squandered the hard-built paternity of 40 years. But so has the party, and so have its leaders. If they had pushed away for serious reasons, they could have separated the party's fortunes from the president's. This would have left a painfully broken party, but they wouldn't be left with a ruined "brand," as they all say, speaking the language of marketing. And they speak that language because they are marketers, not thinkers. Not serious about policy. Not serious about ideas. And not serious about leadership, only followership.

This is and will be the great challenge for John McCain: The Democratic argument, now being market tested by Obama Inc., that a McCain victory will yield nothing more or less than George Bush's third term.

That is going to be powerful, and it is going to get out the vote. And not for Republicans.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/declarations.html>

<http://www.peggynoonan.com/main.php>

Dear Barack: You're wrong about small towns

Dear Barack Obama:

I grew to like you over the last year.

I've always thought of you as dangerously naive at best. Eloquent, gifted, genuine, yes. But dangerously naive at best.

I couldn't vote for you — but not because of your funny name or your lunatic pastor. I couldn't vote for you because you say we should raise taxes (even on the rich, who I'm convinced already pay too much), and because you say we should abandon Iraq (which I'm convinced would be surrendering a war we must win), and because you don't respect the Second Amendment (which I'm convinced should disqualify any politician from any office).

Still, I've liked your message of unity and your ability to inspire. And, since your rise I've hunted, quite frantically, for young conservative leaders with your talent. (To my relief, I found Bobby Jindal.)

And I've long said if you beat Hillary Clinton, you will have done your country a tremendous service. But anymore I'm having a harder and harder time rooting for you.

First came your wife's comment about being proud of America for the first time — conveniently, right after you started winning primaries. Then came your own words about your grandmother, who is just a "typical white person" — a racist, or at least someone with racist tendencies. (I'm a

"typical white person," I suppose, and I'm no racist. In fact, little makes me angrier than when it's insinuated I am.)

Sometimes people say things they don't really mean. But this is a pattern.

Last week, we heard your comments about small-town America. Someone at a San Francisco fundraiser asked you why it's so hard for Democrats to win in rural areas. You said:

"You go into some of these small towns in Pennsylvania, and like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them... So it's not surprising then that they get bitter, they cling to

guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them..."

Is that a minority? HEY CLETUS, GET THE GUN! (If only we had a job to go to, some time in the last 25 years...)

Here's a thought: Maybe gun rights voters know gun control laws kill people and steal freedom.

Here's a thought: Maybe some of us have moral objections to an immigration system that forces rule-followers to wait decades for legal status, and rewards border-violators with amnesty.

Here's a thought: Maybe some Americans cling to their church because their pastor is a nice person, because they find love there, because there they have something they can believe in.

Here's a thought: Maybe, just maybe, us simpletons in small towns find it harder to be bigoted

than all o' y'all cityfolk. Maybe, in small towns, where everybody knows your name — and how hard you work, if you pay your taxes, how well you treat your neighbors, how often you volunteer in the community, and whether or not you're a good parent — people see the content of your character, so they don't give a hoot about the color of your skin. (But I grew up in a small town where about a third of the population is of a different race than me. What do I know?)

And here's my favorite thought of all: Maybe small-town folks are — really — capable of thinking. All on our own.

You're wrong about why small-town Americans don't vote for Democrats.

We don't vote for Democrats because we're self-reliant so we don't like the government trying to "solve" everything for us. And because you tell your rich friends in San Francisco that we're dumb. And because, each election, whichever one of you is running for president traipses all over the country telling us you have all the answers, that you're the one on our side, that you understand and respect our way of life.

But each time, a little bit here and there slips out — and by the end of the campaign, we can tell what you think about us. And we manage to learn who you really are.

And we see you're just a horse's ass.

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UPPER PENINSULA PATRIOTS

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The Yooper Scooper is a private newsletter to be exchanged among friends and like-minded individuals via the internet or through a hard copy printed at personal expense. Even though Democrats can campaign from the pulpit while conservative ministers have to remain silent with threats of being removed from their non-profit status by the Democrats, the freedom of speech still has meaning and relevance among the people. We would like to take this opportunity to stress that if you take offense to the content of this newsletter you are probably indeed a descendent from monkeys. As for the rest of us, we hold the truths of God, Creationism, Free Will, the Ten Commandments and the Constitution close to our hearts and within our souls.

~ J. C. Powers, Editor
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<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/3159>

I remember the time that Catherine - one of my daughter Shannon's friends when she was little, told me that she wanted to be President one day. Both of her parents are liberals and were standing there with us. I asked Catherine - 'If you were President what would be the first thing you would do?'

Catherine replied - 'I would give houses to all the homeless people.'

'Wow - what a worthy goal, Catherine.' I told her, 'But you don't have to wait until you're President to do that; you can come over to my house and clean up all the dog poop in the back yard and I will pay you \$5 dollars. Then we can go over to the grocery store where the homeless guy hangs out and you can give him the \$5 dollars to use for a new house.'

Catherine (who was about 4) thought that over for a second, while her mom looked at me seething.

Finally, Catherine replied, 'Why doesn't the homeless guy come over and clean up the dog poop and you can pay him the \$5 dollars?'

Welcome to the conservative side, Catherine.

This Side UP By J. C. Powers

The Ojibwa Indian Casinos in both Baraga and Marquette are being boycotted by supporters of jobs and mines. Evidently it's a quiet little movement that is slowly growing. As the Ojibwa Indians join the spandex crowd, it is suspected that eventually the environmental correctness will dictate that the Tribal members must use synthetic feathers for their war bonnets and biodegradable gill nets. Not exactly a passage of honor.

The reality is that the Indians are missing some excellent opportunities. The Michigan Tribes need to coordinate to reclaim the land that was stolen from them through various ambiguous and retracted treaties. It's time for the Indians to not only gain a foot-hold on their former tribal lands, but to help grow the number of tribal members in one swift act.

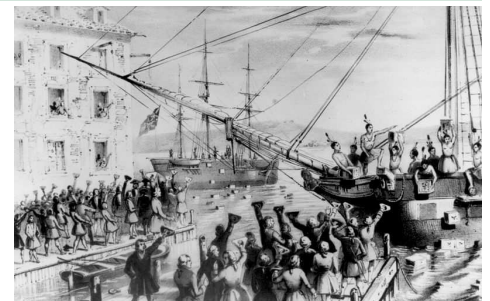
What I suggest is that all Michigan tribes enter into a collective tribal compact to develop and sell land to the white folk and make them honorary members of the tribe for \$250 per person per year. It appears that tribal land is the last bastion of true freedom - there are no property taxes and no ban on smoking. The tribes could also eliminate the controls and taxes on tobacco products. Since tobacco is used for many Native rituals and rites, tobacco is an integral part of Native American culture and should be honored.

Of course, just like the Native Americans who live on sovereign land, the new tribal members would be able to vote in any tribal elections and in all state and national elections as well. But there should be a catch. If you're a Nazi, Communist, Democrat or RINO, you should not be eligible for membership. In fact those people who join and who are later identified as something other than a God-fearing American should be put on a chunk of ice in the spring and pushed out into one of the Great Lakes, you know—like the Eskimos.

The next step that the Tribes should take is to allow non-Native members who own land to transfer their property into an Indian Trust, thereby eliminating any State authority to tax or impose any restrictions and controls on the land. It will all be Indian Land.

Another benefit is that the Tribe can work on conservation programs that actually work. Honor the doe; spare the herd. Also, any of the garbage collected from all tribal members should be disposed of in one of the landfills off of the reservation land.

The best part of it all will be that we won't have to go through the hassle of seceding from the State or conducting some type of political take-over by "radical" patriots. Once we're comfortable in our newly formed sovereign nation, there can be other



1773—The Boston Tea Party; A new America!

steps taken to regain control of the politically deranged.

Native American buckskin clothing could be issued to the new members for use at Pow-Wows. Eventually the clothing could be part of the regalia used for the newer version of a Tea Party when Native Americans and disenfranchised White Men collectively deviate from the 21st Century Trail of Tears and reclaim their country.

The best news for Native Americans is that they can drill for oil and gas, build refineries and nuclear power plants, dig all the ore they want out of the ground without EPA and DEQ intervention, build steel and paper mills and generally become a wholly independent nation with their own money who are still entitled to a free education.

So, let's pass the piece-pipe and a pinch of tobacco—I'll gladly be the first to sign on the dotted line. ~JCP