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PI2025 #0388 – (BA) To Tax or To Tariff, That Is the Question

ASK A HORSE

(Liberty Over License)

“As citizens, we all have an obligation to intervene and become involved - it’s the citizen who changes things.”

~ *Jose Saramago*

Monday,

April 7th, 2025

Liberty Lovers,

U.S.A. Debt Clock Tallies (U.S. National Debt at \$\$\$ **29,235,092,939,567**. Read more at: <https://commodity.com/data/usa/debt-clock/>. Interest Payments Per Year \$ **227,417,880,760** /// Interest Payments Per Second \$7,211 /// National 653t Per Citizen **\$88,730** /// Debt as % of GDP **139.63%** /// GDP Of United States \$ **20,937,000,000,000** /// United States Population 329,484,123 Read more at: <https://commodity.com/data/usa/debt-clock/>. (www.usdebtclock.org has National Debt @ \$\$ **36,625,252,008,352**. - Every 8merican Taxpayer Now “Owes” The (*federal*) State" **\$323,048**; every citizen **\$107,123**.

AAH Reader (<bethannscstalkradio@substack.com>) **Circulates Periodic** perspectives under “*Beth Ann From Beyond the Microphone.*” Recent (*To Tax or To Tariff, That Is the Question*) below.

AAH Considers Beth Ann’s Observations on point in “Our, the American People’s” clash with those who would undermine Liberty.

Please Help Spread Beth Ann’s message far and wide.

Liberty Relies On Strength in numbers.

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To Tax or To Tariff, That Is the Question

Whether it be nobler to tax the American citizens, or to charge foreign governments for the privilege of selling their goods to these United States of America

BETH ANN

FEB 25



2-24-2025

Disclaimer upfront here: I am no economist!

Upgrade to paid



Taxes have long been an argument of necessity (by government) throughout the history of this nation. The king taxed our Founding Fathers to help him pay for his wars and they rebelled in the way of “The Boston Tea Party.” Taxes remain a sore rub with **We the People**. We are taxed on nearly everything in our lives; income tax (fed & state in many places), sales tax, property taxes, gas tax, license and permits (yes those are a tax), and then the fines (also taxes) for not complying; death tax, inheritance tax, real estate tax, gift tax, luxury tax, use tax, social security tax, services rendered tax, excise tax, progressive and regressive taxes too; utility taxes, capital gains tax... the list goes on. All that we are taxed make the “Boston Tea Party” seem like a useless dispute.

I know that list is not all inclusive of the taxation we must endure. Did you know that the IRS has over 800 forms and schedules to “figure out” what you owe to the government. The instruction booklet for filling out the main tax form, (known as the 1040) is over 113 pages long. Page 112 is a patriotic page titled: **“Your Rights as a Taxpayer.”**

See: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1.pdf>

Observe #9 on that list: *“The Right to Retain Representation Taxpayers have the right to retain an authorized representative of their choice to represent them in their dealings with the IRS. Taxpayers have the **right to seek assistance from a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic** if they cannot afford representation.”*

When we actually stop and think about it (we don’t because it’s too infuriatingly painful) **We the People** are not free at all. It’s almost as if we own nothing, even the income we make from our hard work is not ours; we simply rent out our lives to the US Government. The musical, **West Side Story**, had a song that captured the ugly truth of bureaucracy in America; *“Everything’s free in America, for a small fee in America.”*

We pay a lot of unnecessary taxes! We have suspected for years that our tax dollars were being misused. With the recent auditing being done by DOGE, we

now have evidence that the D.C. Occupiers, and their bureaucratic branch of governing, treat our hard-earned money with indifference and disrespect.

While there have been only a few whispers of conversations regarding the discontinuation of income tax, I dare say, that is only a pittance of the taxes we are forced to pay to government. With all that American citizens do pay, Congress has put us in such a debt, that it is completely unsustainable; and they are about to continue with the same insanity, come March 14.

Would you rather be taxed as we are, or could this nation actually function financially on tariffs?

Did you know:

*Before the Civil War, **tariffs represented some 90 percent of U.S. government revenue.** That share fell to about 50 percent with the advent of new taxes to pay for the war effort. Tariffs would become relatively insignificant as a source of government revenue after the introduction of the income tax in 1913, but they remained an important tool for protecting domestic producers from foreign competition.*

I used the following website to glean most of my information...

Visit: <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-a-tariff>

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, designates to Congress the **“Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”**

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What Is a Tariff?

Tariffs have been used to bring in revenue, protect domestic industries from foreign competition and cooperate or retaliate against other nations around the world.

Definition and Purpose of Tariffs

In simple terms, a tariff is a tax that a country's government imposes on goods that are imported from other countries. The importing business pays the tariff when the goods cross the border into the country, typically at a seaport or airport. The most common types of tariffs are "ad valorem" tariffs, which are set as a fixed percentage of the value of the imports, and "specific" tariffs, charged as a fixed amount on each unit of an imported good. In his book *Clashing Over Commerce: A History of U.S. Trade Policy*, Douglas Irwin explains there are three motivations for using tariffs. He breaks them down to what he refers to as the "three Rs": **revenue, restriction and reciprocity**.

The three motivations for using tariffs are to **raise revenue** by taxing foreign countries on the imports; **restricting imports** to discourage foreign goods and encourage domestic production, and of course **reciprocity**; which President Trump has been talking about recently. **Reciprocity** or equal tariffs: if the importer country charges us a tariff of 25%, then we as the exporter will also charge 25%. As I learned in the article: if we have tariffs and other countries do too, we can negotiate to bring those down and promote trade, or if their markets are closed to us, we can raise tariffs against them to retaliate.

Taxes, as we are taxed, is a nation increasing its revenue through the citizens. We don't mind assisting with the maintenance of our infrastructure, our schools and other necessities. However, our tax dollars are being used to benefit other countries, before helping our own in need. Our tax dollars are being used for projects and agendas that are not to the betterment of our own. Because of the lack of respect for American citizens and our tax dollars, our nation now finds itself in a pickle of a debt; unsustainable.

Tariffs, on the other side of this situation, tax importers (other countries). Before the income tax began in 1913 our nation's economy was stable. That year our nation made a drastic turn downward; income tax was established, and **We the People** now paid a portion of our income to our government. 1913 was also the year that Congress decided to forgo its obligation to guard the purse of **We the People**. Congress turned America's economy over to the Federal Reserve. The most misunderstood fact is the belief that the Federal Reserve is part of the U.S., but they are not. While we might have representation in Jerome Powell, the Chair of the Federal Reserve of the United States, the Federal Reserve is made up of outside world bankers, who make decisions regarding interest rates, and they manipulate markets.

Like I mentioned in the beginning, I am not an economist, nor do I pretend to understand all of the ins and outs or pros and cons of Taxes vs. Tariffs. What I do know, however, is that our own Congress continues to approve more and more spending. Our debt is now at \$32 Trillion and growing exponentially by the hour. The unconstitutionally created bureaucratic branch of government should have been audited long ago; in fact, there should be annual audits before the next fiscal budget is written and voted on in Congress.

Americans are excited to finally see an audit by DOGE, but we must stay vigilant. It's important to understand there were a lot of nonpartisan decisions made along the way to create the ever-increasing alphabet departments of bureaucracy. We must also realize that the one thing political parties always manage to unite together on... is spending our money! So, let's keep a closer eye on them varmints in Congress and **Bring America Home. ©**

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Think it Through, See It Through

- It's your property, not "State" property.
Let Freedom Ring – **Abolish** Direct Taxation
Require Citizen-Controlled Taxation

Best Wishes,

Len Ritchey

"Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide."

~ *Napoleon Bonaparte*

"No tendency is quite so strong in human nature as the desire to lay down rules of conduct for other people."

~ *President Taft*

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PI2025 #0387 – Were Protests And Outcries

ASK A HORSE

(Liberty Over License)

(Images courtesy an AAH reader - D)

"No man has ever ruled other men for their own good."

~ *George Herron*

Monday,

April 7th, 2025

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Thank you all forwarders. D

"Were the Soviet Union to sink tomorrow under the waters of the ocean, the American military-industrial establishment would have to go on, substantially unchanged, until some other adversary could be invented."

~ *George Kennan*



One Of "Our, the American People's" media contributors took pains to write a tad more than 1,500 words to tell one and all there were protests and outcries against President Donald J. Trump and everything protesting detractors say Donald J. stands for. And President Donald J. Trump's main destroyer of American democracy, Elon musk. Writer found protests regarding Trump/Musk repugnant.

"To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

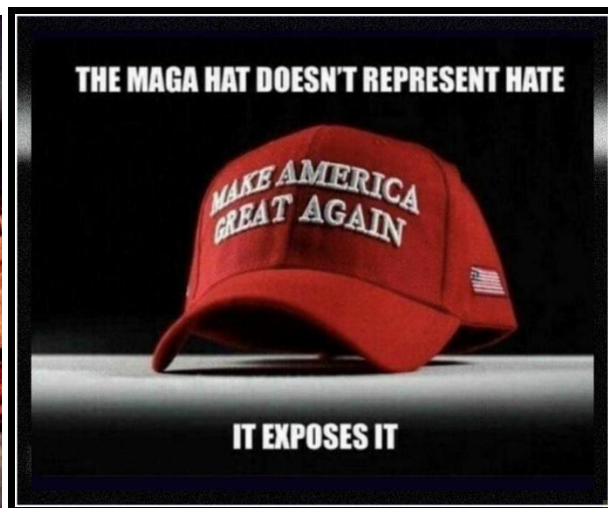
~ *George Mason*



Wouldn't Hurt For "Us, the American People" to consider elective office candidates as intending to do as they say they'll do during their campaigns. Takes a little scrutiny, given legislative office candidates have a reputation for saying one thing during campaigns, doing another when seated. Voters, one would think, expect – or, at least, want – legislative office candidates to keep their campaign word.

"All men are created equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; among which are the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing the obtaining of happiness and safety."

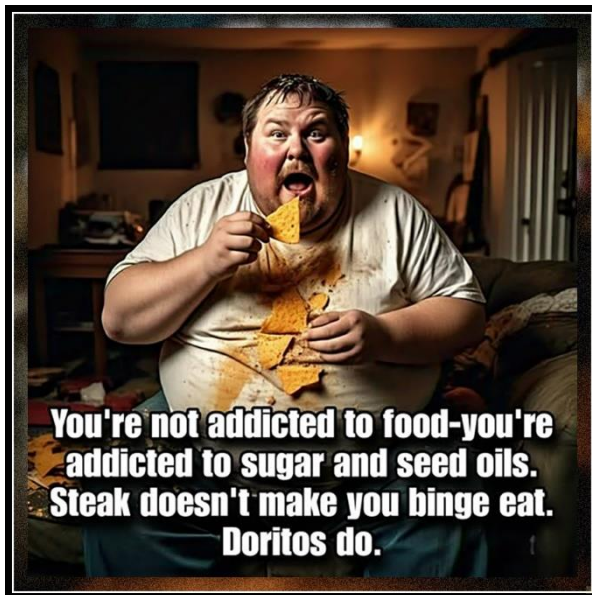
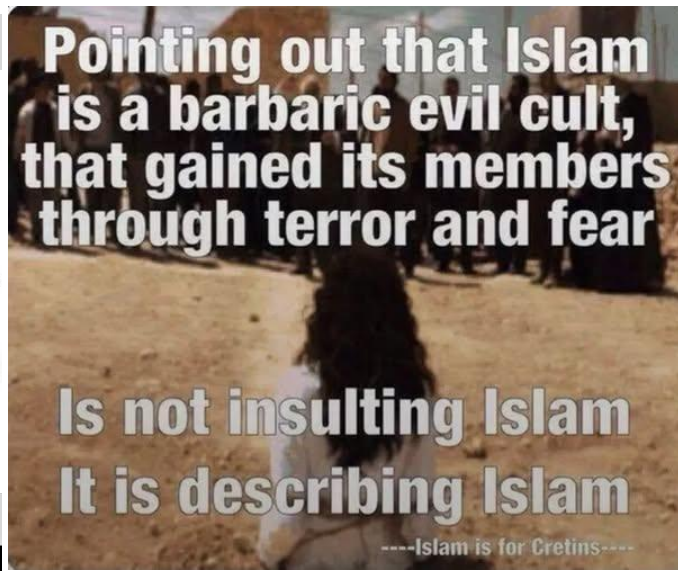
~ *George Mason*



Former Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush promised “We, the American People” would not see them raise taxes. Both broke their campaign word. President Clinton said he’d worked as hard as he could to not raise taxes, but, biting his lip, said he had to. President Bush raised taxes on luxury items. Mr. Bush had an out of sorts, having said, “Watch my lips, no new taxes.” No new, higher existing.

"To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

~ **George Mason**



Not A Stretch To Say Our Discontent with government stems from government not meeting our expressed or unexpressed expectations. Goes from bad to worse when our expectations include having government redistribute wealth. Government redistributes wealth by confiscating property (wealth) and restricting choice (Liberty). We've more options by generating wealth, not getting other people's.

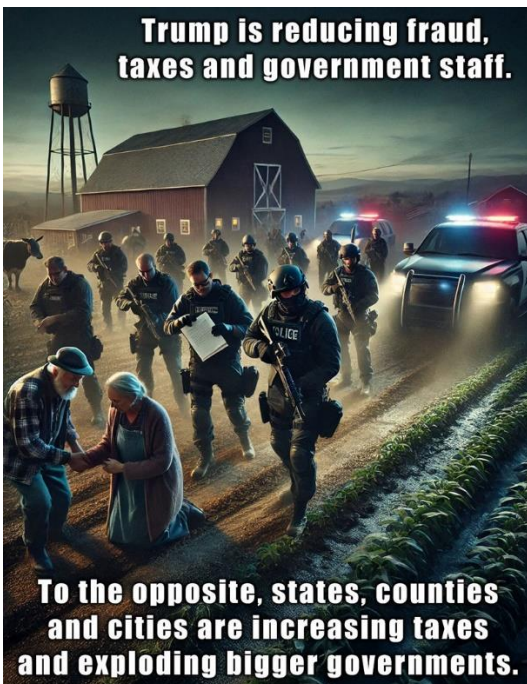
"Considering the natural lust for power so inherent in man, I fear the thirst of power will prevail to oppress the people."

~ **George Mason**

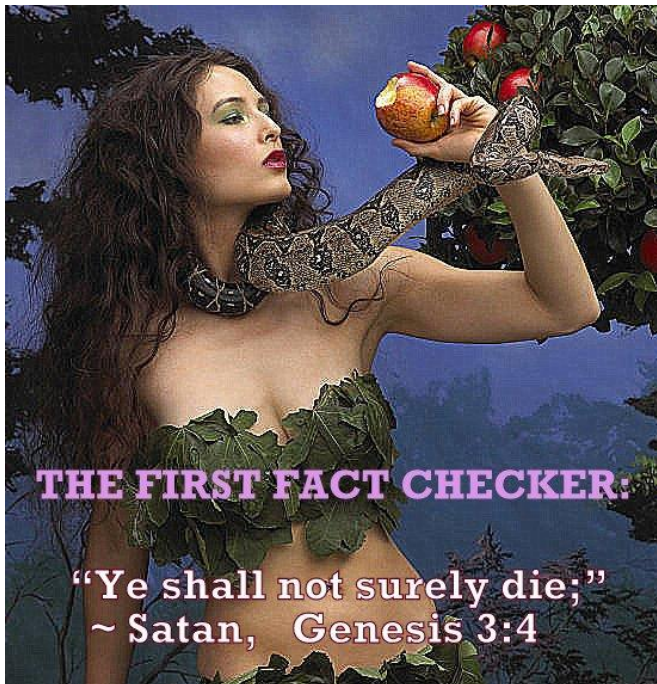
At the first sight of spring, the state flower can be seen blooming on every roadside.



Trump is reducing fraud, taxes and government staff.



To the opposite, states, counties and cities are increasing taxes and exploding bigger governments.



THE FIRST FACT CHECKER:

**"Ye shall not surely die;"
~ Satan, Genesis 3:4**

People Prepared To Live In Liberty do not allow legislators - or other public officials within These United States of America, to enter into defined-benefit contracts with collective bargaining units to confiscate American's property. They exercise citizen sovereignty to protect their property.

"If large numbers of people believe in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech even if the law forbids it. But if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them."

~ **George Orwell**

Think it Through, See It Through

- It's your property, not "State" property.
Let Freedom Ring – **Abolish** Direct Taxation
Require Citizen-Controlled Taxation

Best Wishes,

Len Ritchey

"Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide."

~ *Napoleon Bonaparte*

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PI2025 #0386 – We Might Even Choose

ASK A HORSE

(Liberty Over License)

"Perhaps in time the so-called Dark Ages will be thought of as including our own."

~ *Georg Christoph Lichtenber*

Monday,

April 7th, 2025

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"There is a sacred realm of privacy for every man and woman where he makes his choices and decisions-a realm of his own essential rights and liberties into which the law, generally speaking, must not intrude."

~ *Geoffrey Fisher*



“Our, the American People’s” President Donald J. Trump, according to media reports, is down-right guilty of discrimination. Because, a federal judge has determined President Donald J.’s administration is withholding funds from blue states only. Or, at least, is really skewed numbers. So, anti-Trump forces have more reason to chew on as they plan Donald J.’s ouster when America holds Election 2028.

"A false conclusion once arrived at and widely accepted is not easily dislodged and the less it is understood the more tenaciously it is held."

~ ***Georg Cantor***



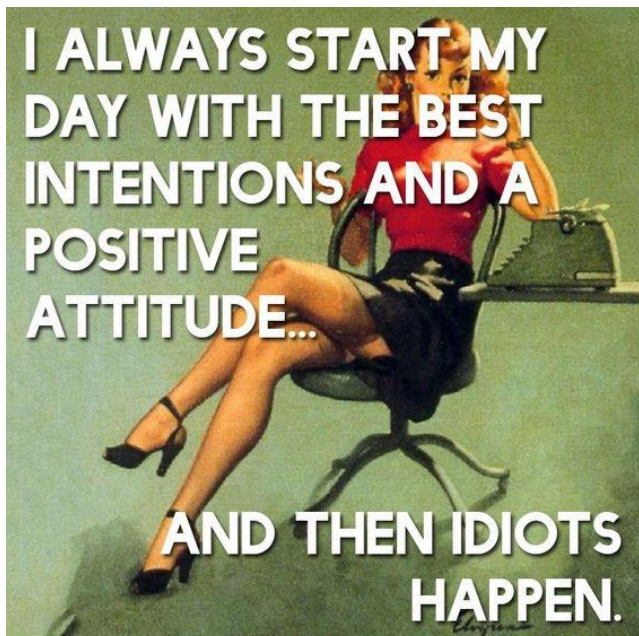
GOOD INTENTIONS

Evil succeeds best when it is done in the name of good.

Why “We, the American People” would wait to throw President Donald J. Trump out, if he’s as incorrigible as his detractors say, is unfathomable. We are, all said and done, a sovereign citizenry. America’s elected officials serve at our pleasure, not ours. Or, they’re supposed to. Our behavior, in contrast, could be takes as our thinking we serve at their pleasure. We could have a Lemming complex.

"He knows nothing and thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career."

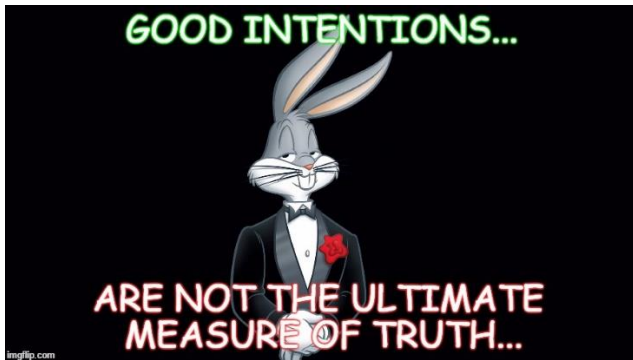
~ *George Bernard Shaw*



George Washington, Thought By Some to be an American founding father, is said to have said our representatives who do not measure up to expectations held by "Us, the American People" will, ultimately, be recalled by us. No reason why it ought not be at first transgression. Particularly so, when a first transgression be unfair treatment of one's political adversaries when one has positional power.

"It is not in the nature of politics that the best men should be elected. The best men do not want to govern their fellowmen."

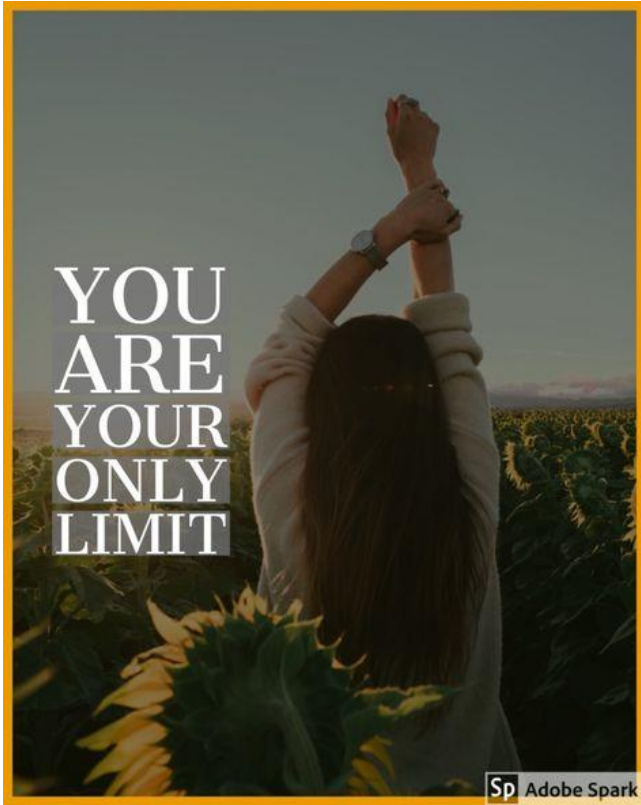
~ **George E. MacDonald**



It Is A Dilemma, Trying To Be Neutral when one has lawful power at one's disposal. Especially so, when one – say, an American President – can, supposedly, choose not to act on court orders. Not unreasonable to conclude not enough of us Americans are upset with President Donald J. Trump to send him on his way. We might even choose to send judges who hold him in contempt on their way.

"An election is coming. Universal peace is declared, and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry."

~ **George Eliot**



People Electing To Live In Liberty do not allow legislators – or other public officials within These United States of America, to give quarter to, offer sanctuary to, or negotiate with terrorists. They refuse to live in fear or at risk brought on by “State” policy.

"One sword keeps another in the sheath."

~ ***George Herbert***

QMi.scxp28

Think it Through, See It Through

- It's your property, not “State” property.
- Let Freedom Ring – **Abolish** Direct Taxation
Require Citizen-Controlled Taxation

Best Wishes,

Len Ritchey

“Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide.”

~ ***Napoleon Bonaparte***

“No tendency is quite so strong in human nature as the desire to lay down rules of conduct for other people.”

~ ***President Taft***

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ASK A HORSE

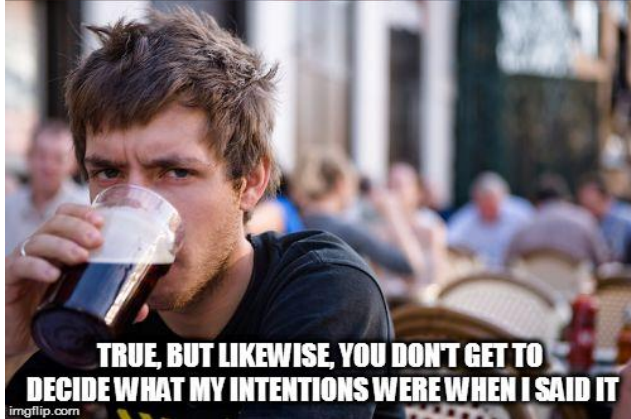
"When the government's boot is on your throat, whether it is a left boot or a right boot is of no consequence."

Monday,

Liberty Lovers,

"It is because every individual knows little and, in particular, because we rarely know which of us knows best best that we trust the independent and competitive efforts of many to induce the emergence of what we shall want when we see it."

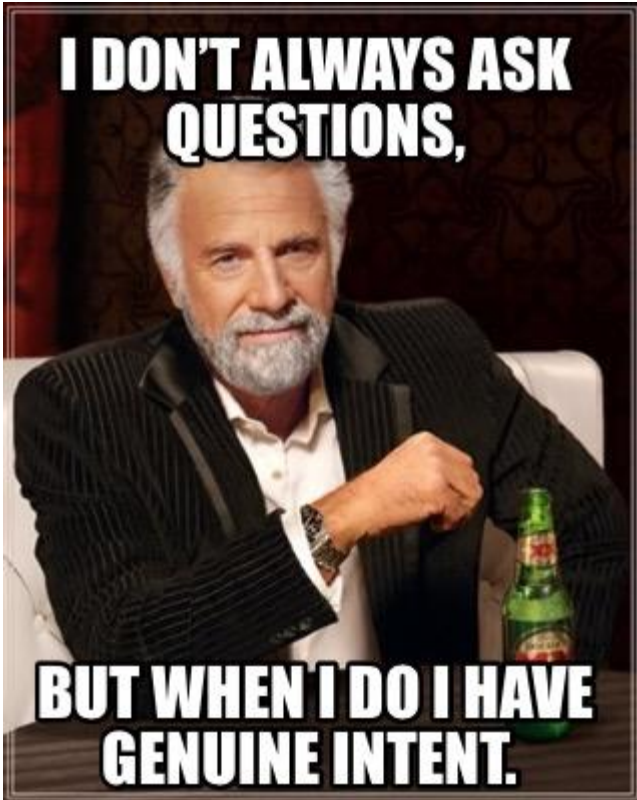
~ *Friedrich von Hayek*



“Our, the American People’s” Former President, Barack Obama, is worried our democracy may be in peril, given America’s federal government punishes universities for not punishing students who do nothing more than exercise their freedom of speech rights. Media reports accurate, Mr. Obama considers such behavior a breach of a basic compact between America’s government and Americans.

"The power which a multiple millionaire, who may be my neighbor and perhaps my employer, has over me is very much less than that which the smallest 'functionaire' possesses who wields the coercive power of the state, and on whose desecration it depends whether and how I am allowed to live or to work."

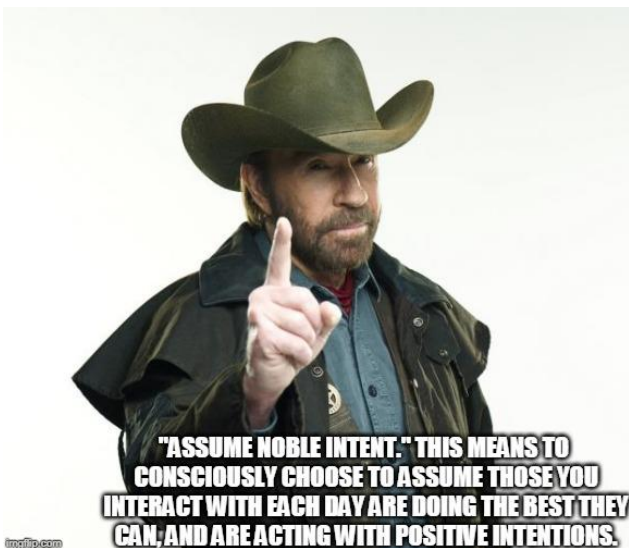
~ ***Friedrich von Hayek***



"We, the American People" can never be sure politicians-legislators articulate their intent. We can hear their words. We can witness – and are impacted by - their deeds. Government is supposed to have our consent before it acts. We are foolish if we concede election outcomes as consent. We would be smart to recognize elections as nothing more than our permission to get our consent, not presume it.

"Many who think themselves infinitely superior to the aberrations of Nazism, and sincerely hate all manifestations, work at the same time for ideals whose realization would lead straight to the abhorred tyranny."

~ *Friedrich von Hayek*



There Is Some Media Coverage of election outcomes indicating anti-GOP voters are beginning to trend democrat. It should matter not to “Us, the American People” who wins elections. Election-winning candidates claim their allegiance to America’s commonwealth, federal (U.S./National), and state Constitutional precepts and protections. They legislate based on their Constitutional construal.

"Live and let live."

~ **Friedrich von Schiller**



No Exaggeration To Predict we will be at odds with government excess until we stop electing political party members and start seating people who are not empowered to make their personal attitudes, values, and beliefs (PAVB) lawfully compulsory. Allowing legislators’ lawfully compulsory PAVB to rule means we are permitting legislator PAVBN to take precedence over sovereign citizenry PAVB.

"Anyone taken as an individual is tolerably sensible and reasonable - as a member of a crowd, he at once becomes a blockhead."

~ **Friedrich von Schille**



People Determined To Live In Liberty do not allow legislators – or other public officials within These United States of America, to permit federal authorities or courts to define or limit their 10th Amendment powers beyond specific Constitutional constraint. They protect their lives and property against “State” intrusion.

"Thou shall not steal, even by majority vote."

~ **Gary North**

