

## Chapter 08

## Perspective of the Book

This book proposes solutions for several long standing domestic problems facing the United States.

The proposals are well thought out, and however much they might be resisted because of political, philosophical or economically entrenched attitudes, they would, in totum, bring rapid and positive change to the American social and political landscape. All are in some way modifications of ideas already floated. It is the unique perspective from which they were drafted, and the combination of the way in which taxation, trade deals and import tariffs, delivery of medical care, immigration and vote security would be handled that makes them extremely beneficial. They are not based on any particular new political "ism". In fact, the principles underlying the proposals are those that have been with us since before the founding of the Republic. They are all drawn with consideration of the single most important principle underlying the fabric of this country - individual liberty.

All government programs demand a certain diminution of individual liberty in their execution, and a certain confiscation of personal wealth in their funding - still, programs and policies can be created that have the a minimal impact on individual liberty - and have a fair method of being funded. Freedom from forced subservience to any government is at the heart of the adage, "The government that governs least governs best."

Conservatives have often looked askance at any Centrally administered social program as antithetical to republican government. I agree with the general

premise, but I disagree with the absolutism of the conclusion that a Federally funded arrangement respectful of republican values can't be implemented; or that central government sponsored programs promoting the general good can't be accomplished without an accumulation of greater centralized bureaucratic authority, wasteful spending or a loss of individual liberty. Programs that promote the general welfare of the country, are founded upon our basic principles and are respectful of individual liberty are possible and would be very beneficial.

It is how programs are structured, how they are funded, how they are managed, what impact they have on individual liberty and the accretion of power by the central authority as a result of any program - is what should determine its worthiness.

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The Constitution also mandates that the Central Government should "*Promote the General Welfare.*" It is discovering ways in which the concept of liberty from an intrusive government and the promotion of a healthy society can work together is and that should remain the challenge for our nation.

While Progressive Leftists (Socialists) immediately look to an all powerful central government as the solution to any problem, and modern day Republicans skirt around any issue that involves the Central Government, the Founders guidelines of frugality and individual liberty serve as the guideposts for successful and beneficial ways to allow for a healthy and prosperous nation. Co-mingled with the idea of helping citizens, is the very selfish and self serving belief that citizenship is something that should not be handed out like candy to anyone whose entree into the United States serves someone's political agenda. If the nation is to provide for its citizens, it must carefully guard and cherish citizenship. While some people dream of a one world utopia, the responsibility of the Central

Government is to provide a framework in which the individual states and individual citizens can enjoy the type of happy lives they desire.

All of us are aware of the fact that in spite of all the money collected today, we are a nation consumed by debt, incurred because of financial favors being done for special business interests, rapacious spending by the executive and legislative branches, entitlements of all sorts, bloated and unnecessary bureaucracies, inefficient approaches to almost all policies and programs, or out and out 'bribes' in the form of Federal programs to get votes from constituencies. Our leaders treat themselves as royalty and devil-may-care spenders while they preach frugality to us in everything we do. Wasteful spending is the rule rather than the exception.

The American government may be thought of as an engine clogged with dirty oil that is preventing the engine parts from running smoothly. The American Federal Government was designed to be frugal and sparse in its operation. So, while proclaiming a need to return to Constitutional government is great rhetoric, it is the execution of actions that are in accordance with the guiding principles of our system that will bring us where we want to go. Truly we must either return to the principles that underlie this country or accept its ultimate theft by hordes of selfish egocentrics.

All of the proposals in the book demand Congressional action to initiate them, although it will be the Executive that will be responsible for implementing and managing the programs and reorganizing the various departments involved in administering the ensuing legislation.

The challenge we face is whether we have sufficient wisdom to discern the essential from the whimsical; and, once armed with understanding, gather the will to demand our Representatives in the House do what is necessary and good for the country.

I specifically refer to the House because we have of late focused our attention on the more prominent but Constitutionally less important branch of Government - the Presidency.

Because of the momentum towards extreme centralization and the development of a cult of personality strong man Executive, the proposals offered were all developed with an eye to individual liberty and a reduction of central government intrusion into the citizen's life.

We have increasingly imparted to the more distant Presidency our hopes and aspirations, rather than focusing our attention and energy upon those closest to us, officials who will actually meet with us, and who ultimately have the most Constitutional power. Whether or not this power has been exercised of late is a reflection of our inadequacies as citizens and voters to demand that the power of the House be brought to bear upon the Government in such manner as to serve our best interests.

When a population is as divided as ours, and the strength of the people in the incarnation of the representatives that most closely represent them is not brought to bear on the government, a single beguiling voice, with the portent of great harm to our liberties, becomes the loudest.

Over the years, Americans have continued to look more and more in the direction of the central government, which because of the development of faster and handier communications has deceptively begun to appear closer to the individual citizen. The leader of the central government is given constant attention, and has come to be seen as the incarnation of the national government, rather than as a solitary servant selected to manage the operations of that government.

It is this expectation that the central government be the ultimate enforcer of personal morality that is mostly responsible for the factious nature of our politics, and the ability of the major Parties to manipulate us. The great distraction with social issues has taken our eye off of the system itself.

One of the most immediate dangers to the United States is the evolving attack on one of the most important aspects of its republican structure - the distributed electoral base, which has already succumbed to the 17th Amendment, the change to a statewide popular election of Senators. The most recent attack is on the Electoral System of voting for .President. Considering that in 1787 the greatest challenge to the ratification of the constitution was that many people correctly believed the plan was too radical because of the power given to the Central Government, it is ironic that so many people today want even more power concentrated in Washington.

If all voting for national offices were changed to a popular vote system, the States would effectively become administrative districts, and that would essentially end the United States as designed. While that may not happen overnight, it would appear that if there is not some fundamental change in the population's understanding of the system, it will eventually happen some time in the future.

Before those wedded to republicanism and republican values put all the blame on the Democrats, much of this change can be laid at the feet of the Republicans. Conservatism, the home of democratic republicanism has, for all intents and purposes, been dead in Washington for many many years.

Those on the sidelines have ignored much of what has been happening around them, even as it has begun to affect them. In spite of the 24 hour news cycle and the continual spotlight on the Oval Office, much reluctance to get involved still exists, and much of the interest the public might otherwise have - has been diverted by the various medias' trafficking in trivialities.

Information has been put in front of us today on a more continual basis than at any time before, but most of this information is opinion, or out and out disinformation (lies) being paraded as news. At its core, the news we receive is more establishment propaganda than anything else. The information inundating Americans, while wide in scope is frivolous and shallow in content, distorted in perspective and often lacks veracity. Those coming out of American universities today are ill prepared to understand the nature of the geo-political world around them, and apparently very little about the U.S..