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November 8, 2010

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Sam Antonio



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## Generational Deficiencies

The DVD review by Selwyn Duke of David Bossie's documentary *Generation Zero* ("Generation Zero," July 19) missed some critical points. First, the claim that WWII parents overindulged their offspring is misleading. They were misled by a doctor's book of raising children permissively [*The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* by Dr. Benjamin Spock]. That is where the lost generation of hippies and "airy philosophies" arose from. Also, Duke notes that "the Greatest Generation" "empowered international socialists," but doesn't explain the effect of their empowering. Much of the societal decline Bossie documented comes out of socialism, which creates dishonesty and breaks down the morals, mores, and culture of the established functioning society.

America during the 1930s still had a proper foundation and education, owing to the cultural creep of its previous eras, and was still a society of charity, sharing, and helping each other; and it was honest and severely patriotic. The "sane minds" of insane socialism of the international socialists changed America and the people into what David Bossie documented. For instance, it's an insane socialist's idea of doo-goodism in government that creates the stock market's wild swings. The markets work by the minute, governments by months and years. Only an insane mind would believe they can micromanage that.

TOBY ELSTER  
Wichita, Kansas

## Supplying Food Deserts

Michelle Obama wants to use government money and influence to cajole grocery stores to operate in "food deserts" — "Low income urban and rural neighborhoods that are more than a mile from a supermarket" — to allow healthy eating by Americans ("Michelle Obama's Federal Fat Farm," September 13).

One man with a truck and a license to conduct business, and a loan to procure needed food and produce items, could bring the store to "food deserts" sev-

eral times a week in multiple neighborhoods. This is what the capitalist entrepreneur does to make a living. This was done in 1939 in the "food desert" in which I lived. The entrepreneur used a wooden cart and two oxen and brought groceries to the front door.

JEAN LATHRAM  
Sent via e-mail

## California's Money Crisis

In regard to Bob Adelman's article "Conjuring Magic to Cover States' Debt" (August 30 issue), he forgot to mention that CalPERS funds are not public money. They are not subject to the state budget. They are private property (Article XVI, Section 17 of the California Constitution).

The average annual CalPERS pension is about \$25,000 for more than 20 years of public service. Of each dollar, 22 cents comes from the employer, 15 cents from the CalPERS member's contribution, and 63 cents from investment earnings of contributions. Over the past 30 years CalPERS investment earnings have averaged 8.4 percent. For the fiscal year ended June 30 the estimated return was 11.7 percent.

A 7.5 percent annual return is needed to pay long-term pension obligations.

Hence, the Stanford "study" written by five master's degree students is sheer "fantasy." They claim CalPERS is underfunded long term by \$293.7 billion. Their assumption is based on "no risk," low investments, such as 4.14 percent (if such exist).

As to the Bell City fiasco, CalPERS has put a "hold" on the retirement accounts of the City of Bell officials. Attorney General Jerry Brown is investigating the facts surrounding the salaries and benefits of those individuals.

JOHN KLOPPER  
Sent via e-mail

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## \$1.29 Trillion Deficit for 2010 Confirmed

The Obama administration announced on October 15 that the annual federal deficit remained at a whopping \$1.29

trillion during the fiscal year that ended October 1, just a fraction under 2009's record of \$1.43 trillion.

The deficit was more than \$100 billion higher than Obama had predicted with his first budget proposal for 2010, but lower than more recent forecasts. The President's fiscal 2010 budget proposal, issued early in 2009 and entitled "A New Era of Responsibility," placed most of the blame for the deficit that existed in 2009 upon the Bush administration. It claimed (partly correctly) that the Bush administration "helped turn a surplus of \$236 billion at the end of the Clinton Administration, that was projected to grow still larger over time, into a deficit of more than \$1 trillion

in 2009." Of course, Obama's fiscal 2010 budget proposal had already been larded up with "stimulus" spending that spiked the deficit much higher than the nearly \$1 trillion Bush-era deficit.

The Obama-friendly National Public Radio noted hopefully that "there's actually a fair amount of good news [in the October 15] report the administration would like you to know about."

Ironically, much of that "good news" had little to do with the Obama administration's own fiscal prudence or policies. The U.S. Treasury Department press release on the budget figures does claim credit for the slight decrease in deficit size from last year, but reading between the lines reveals that the decrease is simply the result of a Bush-era policy costing less than anticipated. "Due to careful stewardship of the emergency programs, their effect on the deficit was much smaller than previously estimated. The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) had outlays of just \$9.0 billion in FY 2010, which was \$25.9 billion or 74 percent below previous estimates from July 2010," the Treasury press release claimed.

## The Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis

Let us be blunt: The mortgage foreclosure crisis, which first burst into full public view in October when Bank of America suspended all foreclosures, has the potential to completely destroy the American real estate sector in an epic legal and economic meltdown that would make the crisis of 2007-2008 look like the proverbial Chinese tea party.

To grasp the enormity of the crisis now unfolding, it is important to understand the nature of mortgages. Until as recently as two decades ago, most mortgages were undertaken entirely by a single creditor, usually a local bank. The mortgage remained at the bank where it was issued, and was either repaid or defaulted on. In the case of the latter, the bank — holder of both the note (the IOU) and the mortgage lien — foreclosed and repossessed the property.

Beginning in the 1990s, it became fashionable to sell mortgages to other parties, and the mortgage securitization industry was born. Mortgages were sold, repackaged, and sold again, and a bewildering array of mortgage-backed securities was created to underwrite this new market. The United States mortgage business not only went national but international as investors worldwide rushed to get a piece of the lucrative American real estate sector.

To help streamline the process, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac created a national mortgage electronic registry called MERS (Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc.), whose purpose was to streamline the transfer of mortgages by helping mortgage securitizers to avoid the costs and inconveniences of recording mortgages at local courthouses.

Unfortunately for the mortgage sector, there were two big problems with that approach. In the first place, mortgages and mortgage transfers are governed by state, not federal laws. By providing a means to circumvent the hassles of state laws and local jurisdictions, MERS effectively ran roughshod over state authority. The other, potentially greater, problem is that the critical document in a mortgage transaction — the one that empowers the creditor to



AP Images

enforce the terms of the mortgage on a delinquent homeowner — is the note, in 45 out of 50 states. A note, like any claim on assets, must be properly signed to have the force of a title. If it is sold to a new owner, it must be signed again, and so forth. Only thusly can what is called the "chain of title" be legally established.

But many, perhaps most mortgages that have been sold and repackaged again and again over the last few years were done so electronically, thanks to MERS, and typically lack the requisite signatures. Their chains of title, in other words, have been broken.

This time around, the problem is less economic than legal, but the ramifications are truly appalling. It is entirely possible that no title can be established on any mortgaged property unless the mortgage is older than eight or ten years. Millions of mortgage holders — even those not in foreclosure — may be able to abandon their mortgages and leave lenders on the hook, if banks are unable to produce proof of ownership. And the entire banking system could well implode under the weight of untold billions of dollars more in losses that cannot be recouped. The federal government might attempt another TARP-esque bailout — but without any prospect for repayment.

## Fuel Supplies Low as France Engulfed in Protests, Strikes

France is running low on fuel supplies as nationwide strikes led by labor unions paralyze roads, fuel refineries, public transportation, and more. And as of this writing (mid-October) the protests are expected to intensify.

Most of France's refineries have already been shut down by strikes. No crude can arrive due to strikes at important French ports. And protests over the weekend — with crowd estimates ranging from 800,000 to several million — struck over 200 French cities. On October 17, one of France's largest newspapers said that close to 1,000 gasoline stations were having trouble with supplies. The cause, according to Ministers, was panic buying among citizens, not actual shortages. On the 20th, the French Energy Minister said that about one-third of all gasoline stations were out of fuel. Police were attempting to reopen some depots, and the government said it was tapping into its strategic reserves.

But news reports also warned of impending jet fuel shortages at Charles de Gaulle, Paris' main international airport. Government spokesmen said a pipeline to the airport that had been shut by strikes was open again. But reports are conflicting, and unions are complaining that untrained executives re-opened the pipeline and caused a security risk. The Nice airport is already low on fuel and could run out soon, though the government said plans were being made to supply it from Italy.

Truckers, organized by union bosses, have been blocking highways in some areas of the country. Public transportation in many regions has already been affected. Rioters were breaking store windows, burning cars, and clashing with police by October 19. And labor leaders are hoping to bring the transportation sector to a standstill until their demands are met." Even cash delivery drivers are considering a strike, according to the U.K. *Telegraph*. That means ATM machines and banks could soon run out of cash.

The anger is mainly directed at President Nicolas Sarkozy's

austerity package. The lower house of the national legislature already passed a bill that would raise the minimum retirement age from 60 to 62. The full-pension age would move from 65 to 67 under the plan, which would also increase the number of years worked necessary for state pension eligibility. The Senate took up the measure on October 19, but was still busy debating amendments by press time. Strikers and protestors intensified the disruptions early in the week, but the Senate is still widely expected to pass some version of the bill by October 25 at the latest.

Protests and strikes have also affected other parts of the European Union, though not as badly as in France and Greece. But analysts are predicting that European resentment against so-called "austerity measures" — tax hikes and spending cuts — will continue to rise, especially after governments bailed out big banks and other profligate regimes.



## Evidence of Major Vote Fraud Surfaces in the Houston Area

In the Houston, Texas area, a group of volunteer citizens called True The Vote, headed by Catherine Engelbrecht, has uncovered, prior to the elections, what appears to be vote fraud on an enormous scale.

Engelbrecht and her friends used computers to analyze voter registration lists. They became curious when they noticed that a large number of voter registrations were from addresses that had more than six registered voters. Their analysis showed about 2,800 such voter registrations per district in Republican areas and 7,500 in Democrat voting districts. Such a large discrepancy between Republican and Democratic households seemed a little suspicious considering Democrats are typically far more likely to be in favor of abortion and small families than Republicans. But the real shock occurred when they came across one voting district with approximately 20,000 such voter registrations. It was in a predominantly minority area in Houston. Of course, once the results were publicized, allegations arose that Engelbrecht's group was guilty of targeting minorities, but Engelbrecht stuck to her guns and said, "It had nothing to do with politics. It was just the numbers."

The deeper they dug, the more they found. They found vacant lots with registered voters. They even found an eight-bed half-way house with 38 registered voters. Then they looked at who registered these voters, and one organization's name came to the forefront. Vickie Pullen, a spokeswoman for True The Vote, informed THE NEW AMERICAN that of approximately 25,000 voter registrations submitted by Houston Votes, an organization headed by Sean Caddle, formerly with the Service Employees International Union, only 7,193 were valid.

With the way voter registration works in Texas, each registered voter receives a voter registration certificate when he first registers to vote and then another every two years. These certificates, typically mailed to voters, are small cards that can be carried in a wallet. They are to be used like ID cards by voters when voting. They also serve a purpose in combating voter registration fraud and outdated voter registrations. When mailed to non-existent people, especially at non-existent addresses, they should be returned to the county elections office. ■

### Redistribution of Health and Wealth

“ObamaCare is the health component of an overall move to make more people dependent on government.”

*Explaining that the President’s healthcare program will severely impact “our culture of hard work and self-sufficiency,” former New York Lieutenant Governor **Betsy McCaughey** has written a book calling on fellow Americans to overturn the law.*



### Caustic Assessment of Democrat Prospects in November Election

“Today, if you see Obama in a political ad, you are almost certainly watching a Republican ad.”

*Expecting a rout of Democrats in November, columnist **George Will** chose a unique way of pointing to President Obama’s soaring unpopularity.*

### Fed Policies Not Universally Accepted, Even by Fed Officials

“[A new round of debt-buying] could flood the engine of the economy with gas that might later ignite inflation.”

*President **Richard W. Fisher** of the Dallas Federal Reserve branch sees more problems ahead for the nation if the Fed’s plans are implemented.*

### Remembering a Wonderfully Incisive Wit

“Just think of what Stalin could have done if only he’d had the commerce clause.”

*Many assessments of political matters issued by the late **Joe Sobran** could make one both laugh and weep at the same time.*



### Targeting The John Birch Society Shows His Desperation

“The John Birch Society has bequeathed its fervor and extremism to the Tea Party of 2010.”

*Senator **Sherrod Brown** (D-Ohio) is wrong: The only thing JBS has shared with Tea Party members nationwide is its call to rely on the U.S. Constitution, not on undefined and shifting conservatism.*

### Defiant and Unremorseful Would-be Bomber Sentenced to Life in Prison

“This is but one life. If I am given a thousand lives, I will sacrifice them all for the sake of Allah, fighting this cause, defending our lands, making the word of Allah supreme over any religion or system. Brace yourselves,

because the war with Muslims has just begun.”

*After being given a life sentence, **Faisal Shahzad** expressed sorrow that he did not succeed in killing many innocent persons in New York’s Times Square and indicated that the terrorism he personified will continue.*

### In England, Druids Are Officially Recognized as a Religion

“There is sufficient belief in a supreme being or entity [in Druidism] to constitute a religion for the purposes of charity law.”

*Britain’s Charity Commission ruled that the Druid Network, totaling no more than 350 adherents, will receive tax exemption like all other religious groups. Druids worship thunder, the sun, and spirits that rise from mountains and rivers.*

### GOP Candidate Points to Her Party’s Deficiencies

“The Republicans have lost their standards; they’ve lost their principles.... That’s why the machine in the Republican Party is fighting against me.... They have never really gone along with lower taxes and less government.”

*Nevada Senate candidate **Sharron Angle**, never the top choice of GOP bosses, hopes to defeat Harry Reid in the nation’s most closely watched Senate race. ■*



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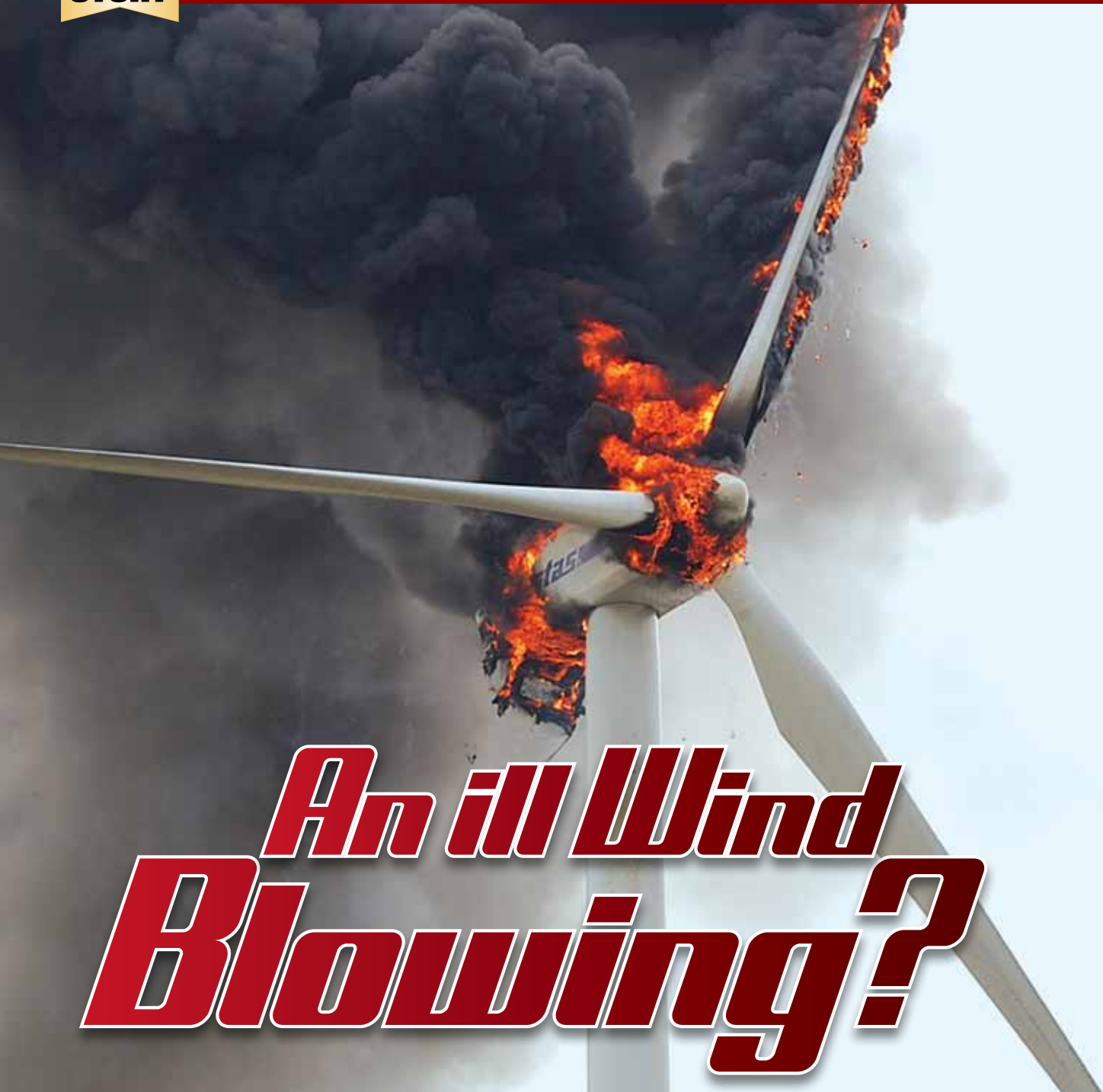


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# An ill Wind Blowing?

Utility company executives supposedly stall wind-farm development because they're in cahoots with Big Coal and uranium suppliers, but are the accusations accurate?

by Ed Hiserodt

According to the 2009 Energy Information Agency Report on Electricity Generation, wind power provided 70.8 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) out of the U.S. total of 3,953 billion kWh.

Why, it must be asked, does wind power equal only 1.79 percent of the generated power when over the past 30 years seemingly every political speech has contained the phrase “wind, solar, or other renewables” as the solution to our energy problems? Then, too, while wind power has been pushed

by politicians and environmentalists, new construction of coal-fired plants has been opposed to the extent that net energy production from coal in 2009 was below that of 1996, and no new nuclear plants have been allowed to proceed from the drawing board since the 1979 accident at Three Mile

Island, indicating that an energy void was waiting to be filled by some power source. Cleaner burning but more expensive natural gas has made up the difference, not wind and solar energy.

As we all know, fuel for wind turbine generators is free, so why don't the tight-fisted executives at electrical generating companies insist that the percentage of wind power be brought up to at least 10 percent, if not 20 or 30 percent? One contention is that utility executives are in bed with fuel suppliers and reject wind energy out-of-hand. However, before saddling the operators of generating companies with that condemnation, let us take a look at wind energy from their perspective.

### Wind Energy in the Business Plan

To see wind energy through the eyes of electricity producers, it is important to know one basic fact about electricity generation, whether it be the generator in your car or the output of Palo Verde nuclear complex: Electricity must be used at the instant of generation. When you turn on a light switch, somewhere on the electrical network a generator is loaded and slows down. At generating plants, an automatic device senses the added load and increases the temperature of the steam in the boiler to bring the frequency back to its set point. When you turn off a light, the temperature is automatically reduced, and the frequency returns to the desired value. This is known as negative feedback and is like "cruise control" on your car.

Electric utilities have a variety of generators on a network. The workhorses are large coal-fired and nuclear plants that are designed to run at peak load constantly. Some nuclear plants have run at full power for over a year — the record for continuous power production is 512 days, held by Watts Bar 1 in Tennessee. These plants are used for *base load*, i.e., the load on the system that is there day and night, caused by homes' hot water heaters, heating and cooling systems, street lights, hospitals, 24-hour industries, water and sewage systems, airports, etc. It would make

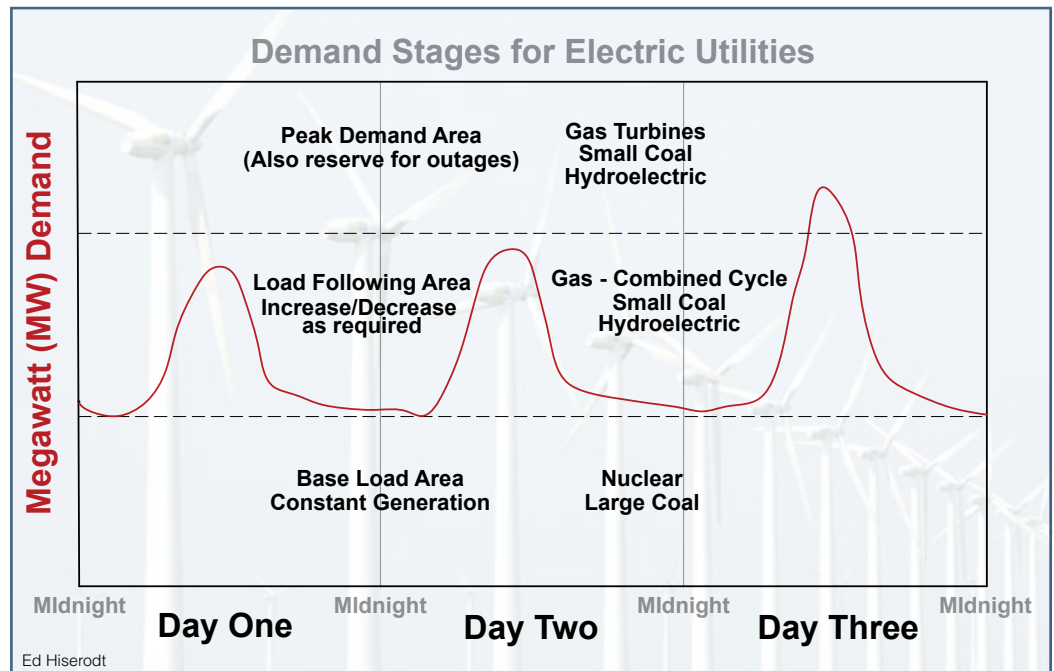
no sense to use wind power for these loads for a number of reasons, but primarily because wind power is not *dispatchable* upon demand.

Power suppliers must contend with fluctuating power demands, both daily and seasonal changes. At 5:30 a.m. alarm clocks start ringing, coffee pots start up, along with hot water heaters for showers. Restaurants fire up toasters, and factories come up to speed for a day of production. Grid operators expect this to happen and, based on hour of day, time of year, and day of week, bring on additional generating assets, such as small coal plants, combined-cycle gas, and — if lucky enough to have them — hydroelectric or pumped-storage generation. This is known as the *diurnal cycle*, and the generators called on to meet the varying demand are known as *demand followers*. Can wind power be scheduled by operators to follow the daily variations in demand? Hardly. Not only must operators respond to a variable demand from customers but, in the case of wind power, must do so with a variable supply, thus bringing a new unknown into the equation.

Fortunately for grid operators (and those of us that expect power when we turn on the light switch), power supplied

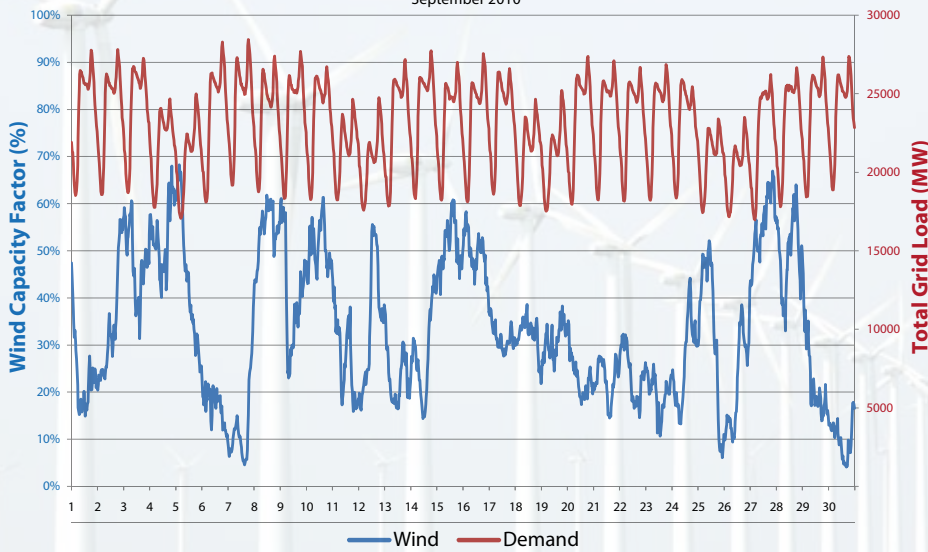
**Can wind power be scheduled by operators to follow the daily variations in demand? Hardly. Not only must operators respond to a variable demand from customers but, in the case of wind power, must do so with a variable supply, thus bringing a new unknown into the equation.**

to the grid can usually be closely modulated by the various dependable sources, but not always. For the grid operator, terror strikes when one of his generating plants suddenly goes offline or when, on a particularly hot July afternoon, the system demand is obviously headed past maximum generation capacity. In these cases of *peak loads*, when demand exceeds the available supply of electricity, a whole lot of unhappy things happen. Frequency and voltage drop, while currents in power lines increase, requiring automatic or manual interruption of loads — blackouts — to protect the grid. To deal with this, "spinning reserves," power plants that have spinning generators but are not loaded, are brought instantly online. Gas turbines — essentially jet plane engines connected to a generator — are also able to add generating capacity in a very short time.



## Wind Farm Capacity Factor, Grid Load

September 2010



South East Australia Power Grid

**Old unreliable:** The red graph line represents the megawatts of load (demand) on the South East Australia Power Grid, read on the right-hand scale only. The blue line represents the percent of total capacity of several hundred wind turbines over an area of 40,000 square miles, read on the left-hand scale only. (Note: this is two separate graphs commingled.) The total capacity of the wind farms is only 1,918 megawatts, a small fraction of demand.

Where's wind power? Is it even available? Maybe, maybe not. Because the operator cannot reliably call it up when needed, it is certainly not useful for peak loads.

If wind power does not meet requirements for base loads, is not *dispatchable* for load following, and cannot be called up to answer spikes in peak loading, where does wind power fit into the business plan? Assuming the preceding analysis is correct (and it is), wind has no place in energy production from an operational standpoint. As Jon Boone ([www.stopillwind.org](http://www.stopillwind.org)) so tersely puts it: "In terms of reliable, secure, affordable electricity, *wind performs best when it produces nothing.*"

### It's Always Blowing Somewhere

Utility executives would no doubt be concerned with wind power's variability and lack of reliability, and wind industry lobbyists would assuredly attempt to allay executives' fears with the standard answer: "Yes, you may find

**This set of curves** shows (from the top) the total load on the Bonneville Power Administration, hydroelectricity generation, thermal (coal, nuclear, natural gas), and sporadic wind power input. Note that the maximum wind input comes at a low point in system load.

times when local conditions are such that sufficient wind is not available, but as the network of wind farms and projects is tied together in a 'smart grid,' you will be able to draw on wind resources from other areas thus 'smoothing out' your wind power supply."

As they say, "It sounds good in theory." Perhaps we could look around the world and see if this holds true.

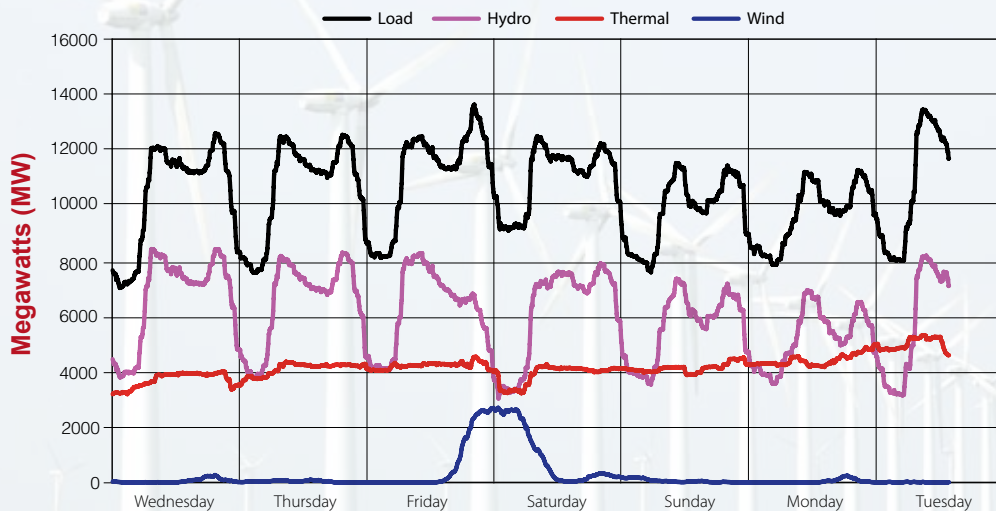
Fortunately, there is such a place to provide us an example. In Southeast Australia,

there are 18 wind "projects" or "farms" interconnected within an area covering 40,000 square miles. Roughly, this would equate to an area in the United States bounded by Des Moines, east to Philadelphia, south to Charleston, South Carolina, and west to a location just south of Tulsa. Certainly most of us would consider 40,000 square miles sufficient for wind power to "average out." The Australian projects have the added benefit that they are all built near the coast where the winds are stronger and more constant than in the outlined area in the United States. But the graph above, which provides actual output data from hundreds of wind turbines, shows this to be another wind fiction.

### Fuel and Emissions Savings

Unable to find a place for wind in electricity generation, proponents change to their pseudo-environmental hats: "You can't deny that when wind energy is producing

## Bonneville Power Administration Week of October 12 thru 18, 2010



power, we are saving fossil fuels that otherwise would be being used.” It is a persuasive argument and correct if considering an isolated system. But it is a wrong one when speaking of industrial electricity generation.

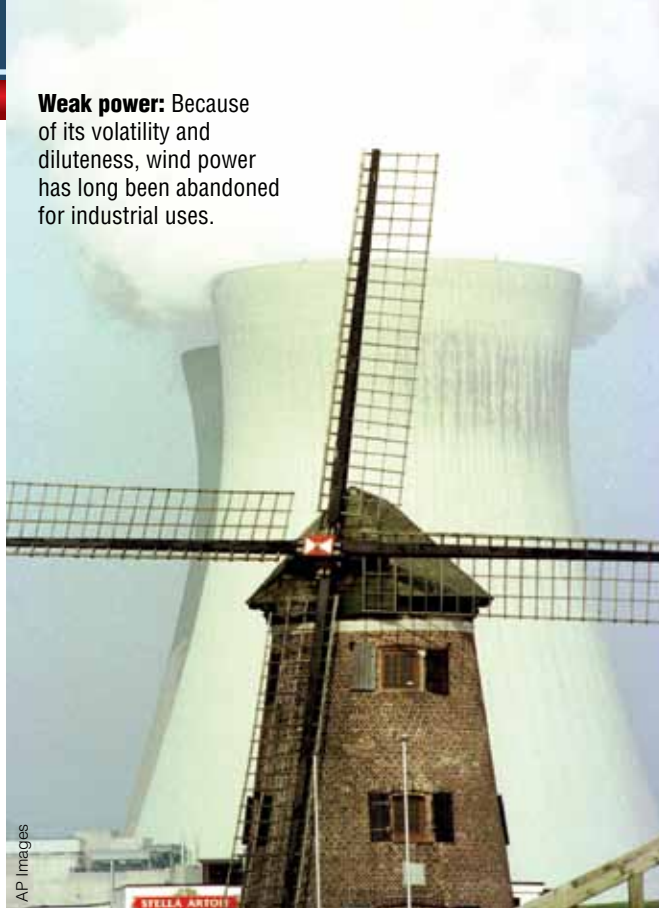
Let us assume that a stand-alone windmill turning a pump runs for an hour and delivers 1 kW of power for 15 minutes, 2 kW for 15 minutes, zero for 15 minutes, and 1 kW for the last 15 minutes. One kWh of energy was used by the pump, and was delivered via wind power. If the pump were instead connected to an electrical outlet, we would have used enough fuel to provide 1 kW of power for one hour, or 1 kWh. Obviously, the windmill here would save on whatever fuel was fueling the generation.

But the wind turbines that are foisted upon our utilities by lobbyists, environmentalists, and politicians do not operate in what might be considered a generating vacuum. They operate in a network of other generating equipment where a change in the output of one device has an effect on the operation of another.

Let us take an imaginary power grid that has 100 megawatts (MW) of coal-fired generating power and 10 MW of wind power. Let us further suppose that there is a constant demand on the system of 50 MW — of which 45 MW is provided by coal, and 5 MW from wind turbines. If the wind component increases to 10 MW, requiring the temperature in the fossil-fired boiler to drop by say 10°F in order to maintain the equality of demand and supply, energy must be shed as waste heat in cooling the boiler. Thus when wind power to the system increases, the energy in the boiler must be wasted, else the balance of generation and usage would be disrupted causing the network frequency to rise.

But then when the wind component decreases, the boiler must increase its temperature to the point where it is now handling the demand. On the way to this point, energy is added to the system without doing any work: The boiler is merely “heating up” to the point that generation occurs. Thus any time the wind compo-

**Weak power:** Because of its volatility and diluteness, wind power has long been abandoned for industrial uses.



nent varies (and it is constantly varying), there is wasted energy in the operation of the primary generating source.

In practice, the base load is rarely affected by wind, but the boilers in the power plants functioning as spinning reserves (“spinning standbys” in the U.K.) don’t stop consuming fuel while the wind generation is occurring. To be responsive to wind speed increases or decreases, the boilers must maintain a temperature very near that required for production should they be called upon to respond instantaneously to changes in the wind component.

Those generators paired with wind generation experience inefficiencies that are related to wind volatility (the bigger the swings, the worse the effect) and the percentage of wind on the grid (the higher the wind percentage, the greater the inefficiencies). When the wind-power component equals one percent or so of a grid’s power, studies show there are little or no savings of fossil fuel, but when wind power is over two or three percent, there may be an *increase* in fuel usage and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions — the *raison d’être* for wind power in the first place.\*

### Looking at the Long Term

Utilities executives, whose job it is to make sure that customers have a reliable, economical source of electric power, would likely want to deeply explore the benefits versus drawbacks of wind generation, and so far it doesn’t look good. Wind power certainly does not fit into normal generation plans, and the savings of fossil fuels is largely a myth. Moreover, even if a plethora of wind farms are tied together, the vagaries of the weather insure times of insufficient wind; therefore, all current generating assets must be kept available. In fact, the assets need to be consuming thermal energy, ready, rotating, and costing the utility and/or its customers money without doing any useful work, i.e., generating electricity.

There is another factor that should be considered: maintainability. How will the flood of turbines currently being installed hold up over time? For comparison, remember that many of our 104 nuclear plants are nearing their 40-year expected lifetimes, but thanks to careful engineering and maintenance are being extended for another 20 years of operation, often at a higher than originally designed MW output level.

A modern wind-turbine generator is a highly complex device that is much more than three blades connected to a genera-

\* Interested readers should download “The Ultimate Irony” by Kent Hawkins, available from [http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/subsidizing\\_co2.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/subsidizing_co2.html)

**When the wind-power component equals one percent or so of a grid’s power, studies show there are little or no savings of fossil fuel, but when wind power is over two or three percent, there may be an *increase* in fuel usage and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

**If the wind component increases to 10 MW, requiring the temperature in the fossil-fired boiler to drop by say 10°F in order to maintain the equality of demand and supply, energy must be shed as waste in cooling the boiler.**

tor. There are motors to adjust the pitch of the blades to maximize the wind-to-shaft efficiency — and to stop rotation in high winds to avoid damaging the turbines. There is an anemometer on top that directs a motor to turn the blades into the wind, a large bearing to hold the weight of the blades and resist the many other forces on it (such as the gyroscopic force encountered when turning the nacelle), and a transmission to increase the speed of the drive shaft from a few rpm to 1,800 rpm. It also has a variety of electrical controls to synchronize the output frequency to within microseconds of the grid frequency, monitor subsystems, and communicate this information to wind-farm operations.

**Both construction and maintenance of wind turbines** require courage and large cranes. Note the workmen on top of this 4.5 MW German installation.



AP Images

Knowing that mechanical systems do experience wear, and must be maintained and eventually replaced, what does this bode for wind turbines?

A report sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory<sup>†</sup> — not exactly a regular skeptic of wind power — contained the following statement:

Despite reasonable adherence to these accepted design practices, wind turbine gearboxes have yet to achieve their design life goals of twenty years, with most systems requiring significant repair or overhaul well before the intended life is reached.

Ouch! Since the cost of wind energy is largely due to the high cost of wind turbines, wouldn't that increase the already-high price paid for wind power? From the same report:

Since gearboxes are one of the most expensive components of the wind

turbine system, the higher-than-expected failure rates are adding to the cost of wind energy. In addition, the future uncertainty of gearbox life expectancy is contributing to wind turbine price escalation. Turbine manufacturers add large contingencies to the sales price to cover the warranty risk due to the possibility of premature gearbox failures.

But that's only one source. Perhaps the wind promoters in government are being uncharacteristically negative. How about a Durham University School of Engineering report<sup>‡</sup> looking to promote off-shore wind generation. These were the concluding points regarding the state of wind-turbine reliability:

1. Unreliability: Greater than one failure per turbine per year is common.
2. Unreliability is higher for larger turbines.
3. Such unreliability will be unacceptable offshore, we need reliability of less than 0.5 failures per year per turbine.

Fixing a broken wind-turbine gear box isn't as simple as strapping on a tool belt and turning wrenches for a couple of hours. Perhaps you have seen the scary sight of your car's engine being pulled out of the engine compartment by an overhead crane in a repair shop. There are hoses and wires and belts and tubing poking everywhere. It is maneuvered over to a bench where the mechanics perform mysterious operations, and then the overhead crane plucks it up and returns it back into the car. In a few hours you're on your way with a considerably lighter wallet.

Now imagine that it is not your car sitting on terra firma, but a nacelle with blades together

<sup>†</sup> Contract No. DE-AC36-99GO10337 to Midwest Research Institute

<sup>‡</sup> Durham University School of Engineering, "The Reliability of Different Wind Turbine Concepts, with Relevance to Offshore Applications."



weighing 92 tons, perched 25 stories in the air so that a crane longer than a football field must be brought in, in many cases over mountain roads, to pick up the gearbox or generator and bring it to earth. The mechanic in this case isn't leaning over your fender, but has had to climb 25 stories on a ladder — not a staircase, elevator, or man-lift — straight up hand-over-hand with precious few places to rest on the way up (or down).

It gets even worse when doing maintenance or replacement of rotors, clinging to the nacelle while directing the crane operator as to where to put the hook.

Oh, did we mention the transformers and miles of underground 25,000- to 30,000-volt electric cables connecting the wind turbines to the collection transformer?

### Rephrasing the Question

Given the ample drawbacks to wind generation for utility companies and the paucity of benefits, maybe we should change the question to: "Why would any utility executive be in favor of wind energy being anywhere on his or her radar?"

Two reasons are evident. First, there are some left-wing, environmentalist activists in charge of large utility companies. "Cap and Tax" supporter Peter Darbee, president of Pacific Gas and Electric, comes immediately to mind. (But he is likely an exception to the rule.)

Second, most executives want to keep their companies profitable and stay out of jail, though not necessarily in that order. Enter the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which requires utility companies to produce a certain percentage of "renewable" energy output. Lawmakers, many of whom don't know a volt from a pineapple, have taken it upon themselves to require those who have provided energy to their customers for many decades to change their wicked ways and embrace wind energy — to please the wind lobby and the radicals in our government. Unfortunately, it is within their power to do so, temporarily. The manipulations can only continue for so long before the energy chickens come home to roost.

Politicians, their scientific lackeys, and environmental activists can lie, and people can be taken in by smooth-sounding propaganda about "free energy" and "green jobs." But eventually the laws of physics will show that charlatans have hoodwinked a country into wasting its capital on structures that one day will be toppled like the statue of Saddam Hussein: torn down in protest of government manipulation and deceit. ■



Photo: Polizeiinspektion Stade

**Wind turbine fires** are usually started by lightning or electromechanical malfunctions. With fires being fueled by several hundred gallons of hydraulic fluid, firefighters can only look on and work to put out secondary fires, like the one shown here in Buxtehude-Hedendorf (Lower Saxony), Germany.



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# The Wind-Farm Eruption

For 30 years wind power has been a political ideal, yet wind generates little of our country's electricity. Now, wind farms are springing up. Who's funding them, and why?

by Ed Hiserodt

Those of us who drive in the Midwest or Southwest are often startled to see a plethora of wind turbines sprouting like overnight mushrooms in an area we remember as farms or grazing lands. But unlike the fragile mushrooms that we kicked over when walking to school on spring mornings, these mushrooms have 700-ton concrete bases, are nearly 30 stories tall, and cost upwards of \$3,570,000 each. What caused all this to happen since our last trip to the area? Who is footing the bill? And why?

### Will the Real Constructors Stand Up?

To find who is driving the construction of these massive fields of wind turbines, and who's paying for them, it behooves us to know who is *not* behind them, such as electricity consumers.

In a Heartland Institute article,\* Penny Rodriguez writes about attempts by city officials in Austin, Texas, to push city residents to buy "renewable" energy through Austin Energy, which is controlled by the city. Austin Energy contracts with wind farms and solar projects to supply energy, and Austin Energy tries to convince users to buy "green power."

City residents have declined to sign up for higher rates under the city's voluntary GreenChoice program.

Contracting with renewable power providers and offering the service to customers sounded like a good idea to city officials until the price tag came in at up to three times the cost of conventional power. City residents aren't buying.

Fancy that.

Rodriguez continues, "In one of America's most liberal cities and one that prides itself on its environmental awareness, the latest allotment of renewable power is 99 percent unsold after seven months on the market." Did the city council see the errors of its ways and mend them accordingly? Hardly. It has now mandated that Austin Energy generate 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and has contracted to purchase \$250 million of solar power from an array to be built near Webberville, Texas.

The citizens of Austin are paying for the wind farms — through higher utility rates — but they aren't becoming stockholders. Just poorer. Perhaps electric consumers are secretly investing in "renewable" energy, but they are certainly not banding

\* "Austin Consumers Avoid Pricey Renewable Power," *Environment & Climate News*, October 2009.



National Wind Watch

**Wind farms** don't age well. Note the oil leak and missing housing on turbines near Palm Springs. Developers are more interested in subsidies than operations.

together to put up wind farms. It appears that they would just rather not be bothered about where energy comes from, just so long as it is there when they flip the switch.

Also not behind the wind farms are rank-and-file *environmentalists*. These folks, who travel in Priuses and not private jets, stare with us in disbelief at the mountain ridges where they battled furiously against walking trails — and which now host gawky football field-sized blades surrounded by denuded acres (trees would disrupt wind flow to the turbines), miles of roads big enough to bring in a 400-foot crane, miles of trenching for the underground cables necessary to bring the 25,000-volt outputs to a central transformer, and thence many more miles of high-voltage power lines to deliver the power to a power grid. They're not smiling much anymore. Nor are Audubon Society members who were promised that the term "Avian Cuisinart," used as a synonym with wind turbines, was just right-wing hyperbole, until someone thought to count the dead hawks, eagles, and other birds and bats without allowing time enough for ground scavengers to make off with the evidence. As this group learns the real scoop on wind energy, they are becoming very angry.

Some elitist environmentalists and the

heads of environmental organizations do try to whip up grass-roots fervor for wind power, but they don't put their money where their mouths are. A wind farm with 25 1.5 MW turbines costs upward of \$100,000,000. Although the leaders of Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, or the ridiculously misnamed Union of Concerned Scientists are evermore touting "green, renewable energy," a listing of the major players doesn't provide any evidence that these groups are putting their money up for wind-farm construction. While our environmentalist neighbors pay lip service to "clean energy" and "free fuel," they are seldom if ever involved in wind-farm projects.

The environmental movement is becoming increasingly fractionated by the wind energy controversy. The *uber radicals* at the top of the various "green" movements — and high in the Obama administration — are for wind energy precisely because it doesn't work. (Think about it. None of the projects/techniques/schemes of providing energy supported by the government have any chance to produce industrial-grade power in significant quantities. All of those that have a chance — such as coal-to-liquid fuel conversion and community-sized, inherently safe reactors — are stifled by the environmental

bureaucracy for various reasons, primarily global warming and nuclear waste. Both rationales are almost exclusively based on counterfactual claims, poor hypotheses, and hysteria rather than real danger. A reasonable person would have to say that it is too coincidental that radicals always land on the side of the argument for reducing the energy assets of the United States. I think it is important that we all realize this and assess all government programs in light of it.)

Radical environmentalists know as well as we do that nuclear power is the safest, most reliable, and cleanest source of electricity. They know a single nuclear plant delivers the same power over a year as does a 300-square-mile wind farm with 2,200 30-story wind turbines, the difference being that the nuclear plant delivers energy when needed, not just when the wind is blowing. If you want to de-industrialize the Western world, you champion energy sources that will lead us back to the days of human and animal power, and those are wind and solar power.

For those environmentalists who want the smallest environmental impact by humans on the planet, without the goal of de-industrializing our economy and culture, the battle is on with their leaders.

In the case of *utility companies*, they and grid operators, who must provide "dispatchable" electricity, are more than just a little disenchanted with wind power, except in the case of politically motivated or subsidy-chasing individuals. As we have noted in the cover story article "An Ill Wind Blowing?" (page 10), grid operators have no trouble with wind turbines — as long as their output is zero. This is true because electricity must be used at the moment it is generated, and these "frequency chasers" (so named because they must keep the grid frequency at 60.0 Hz) balance electricity generation with fluctuating power *demand*. When the power *supply* is also fluctuating, as it does when winds increase or decrease in speed, balancing loads on the power grid is much more difficult. When the wind component of a power grid reaches five percent, serious instabilities begin to occur. (Of the highly touted 20-percent wind generation in Denmark, only a few percent is used by Danish users, who pay the highest electric rates of any industrialized country. The

vast bulk of Danish wind energy is sold at a loss to the much larger German-controlled and Norwegian grids that can accommodate the volatility of Danish wind generation.)

So while some utility executives are leftists and support “renewable energy” as an article of faith, with others pandering to vocal green factions and politically liberal regulatory agencies, most, we suspect, would love to be free of the political and economic distractions to concentrate on the important work that must be done in providing us electricity — a life-giving and life-enhancing commodity.

Even professional *lobbyists* and lobbying organizations on behalf of wind power don’t fund wind power, though they do convince politicians to spend plenty of taxpayer money (our money) on wind farms. The largest wind lobby, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), is a strong supporter of centralized government control. If you want one-sided propaganda about the benefits of wind energy, and how to get in cahoots with the manufacturers, this organization is your one-stop shopping mall. It represents itself as a scientifically based organization, but always avoids the real ques-

tion regarding wind energy: Can electricity be delivered when it is needed?

The AWEA is, for example, in the forefront of pressuring the Senate to pass a “National Renewable Electricity Standard” during the coming lame-duck session of Congress. This would mandate a national requirement for all electricity producers to obtain a certain percentage of their energy generation from “renewable” sources, with wind being the primary alternative — especially given the dreadful performance of solar plants, which average only 16 percent of their stated capacity (as opposed to 20-35 percent for wind). This would be a huge subsidy for wind proponents as the full power of the government would require electricity users to buy “green” power no matter what its cost.

When politicians offer a subsidy on a commodity or service, several actions occur almost instantaneously: Entrepreneurs will begin tooling up to create the subsidized item, the subsidized industry will hire new workers, and then it will employ the best lobbyists it can find. The

**Also not behind the wind farms are rank-and-file *environmentalists*. These folks, who travel in Priuses and not private jets, stare with us in disbelief at the mountain ridges where they battled furiously against walking trails.**

product being created doesn’t affect the pattern. If the product is curb-feelers, then you can bet the curb-feeler industry will be hiring, form an association of curb-feeler manufacturers, and hire lobbyists to convince Congress that curb-feelers are necessary for our children’s safety, will stimulate our economy, and, moreover, without them our national security will be threatened. Substitute wind power for curb feelers, and you’ve got the message. But do we see AWEA comrades coming up with big bucks for \$100 million wind farms? I don’t think so.

Finally, there’s the *mainstream media* and *liberal politicians*. Though these individuals and corporate cronies are promoters of wind power and are happy to cause money to be spent on wind farms, they’re not known for investing their own dollars.

### The Driving Force

There are many wind-power worshippers, but we haven’t located the individuals or groups with the deep pockets and clout to set in motion all of the wind-turbine construction that we’ve seen disfiguring the U.S. landscape.

You have probably never heard of the largest wind-energy producer in the United States: NextEra Energy, formerly the FPL group — which you have likely never heard of either. You will have heard of other big investors, however: BP, Shell, GE, and Goldman-Sachs, for example.

Why are these large corporations and investment firms the main financiers of wind energy, not the utility companies that already have electricity-generating infrastructure and have been providing us with power for decades? The common denominator here is lots and lots of money — and lots and lots of tax liabilities.

These companies are not so much interested in creating power, but in siphon-



Bill Whittaker

**Once the wind farm arrives,** reality sets in and with it an understanding of forces promoting wind energy — as evidenced by this float in the Vasa, Minnesota, 2010 Fourth of July parade.

**BusinessWeek** magazine reported that the FPL Group (now NextEra Energy) had an annual tax rate of 1.3 percent on more than \$7 billion in earnings over the last four years. Analysts explained this low rate was possible given tax breaks for having invested in alternative energy.

ing government subsidies and taking advantage of “renewable” energy tax breaks. Let us use an example by Glenn Schleede, who was Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget under Ronald Reagan and is a well-known critic of industrial wind energy, in a memorandum to Governor Bob McDonnell asking him to “consider objectively the true costs and benefits of electricity from wind” to the citizens of Virginia. He first cites the “Five-Year Double Declining Balance Accelerated Depreciation” (often referred to as “5-year 200% DB”) that is allowed for calculating the share of “wind farm” capital cost that can be deducted from taxes by “wind farm” owners and their “tax partners.”

As the table shows, in six years the tax liability on the owner of a \$100 million “wind farm” and his “tax partner” has been reduced by \$41 million, a schedule not allowed for traditional generating facilities that have longer and slower depreciation periods, typically 20 years.

Clearly such a write-off is an investment for companies such as Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Iberdrola, and

other players with large profits and tax liabilities.

When a wind farm is on-line and generating, it receives a \$0.021 “Federal Production Tax Credit” for each kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity generated for its first 10 years of operation. A 100-million-dollar project would have a rated capacity of about 40 megawatts (MW) and, with a capacity factor of

30 percent, would generate 105.4 million kWh per year, providing a subsidy of \$2.2 million per year or \$22 million dollars over 10 years.

But since our Congress thought it cruel for wind-farm owners to be required to wait for their money, or perhaps the wind farmers weren’t generating as much power as had been anticipated, our wind farmers and their tax partners are offered the option of an Investment Tax Credit (ITC) of 30 percent of capital costs, in our case \$30 million. But wait. What if the owners didn’t need the tax credit? Thankfully the “stimulus” legislation made wind-farm developers (and their tax partners) eligible to receive an equivalent *cash grant* from the U.S. Treasury in lieu of the ITC.

Then, too, some states offer their own ITC. For Arizona it’s 10 percent, so off comes another \$10 million.

There’s more. In fact, we’re just getting started. Not only are taxpayers gouged, but the ratepayers are forced to take a hit also. Here’s how this scam works. Legislators, the self-anointed energy experts and protectors of the environment, decree that

electric utilities must obtain such-and-such percentage of their energy from “renewable” sources. This is called a Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS. The utilities, being required to supply “green” energy, must find a source for it. Enter from stage left the aspiring wind farmer and his tax partner with their sales pitch: “We know you’ll be needing some ‘green’ electricity, so we’re here to offer you our help. Now if you’ll just sign this 20-year contract promising you’ll use our electricity first, and that you’ll pay a small premium for this electricity because of our greenness, then we’ll give you these Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to show to the state so they won’t fine or imprison you for not meeting their RPS.”

Now how does this work? “Our” government mandates the utilities to buy expensive, unreliable energy from wind farms, and the utilities then pass these higher costs through to the ratepayers. We then blame the utilities for raising our rates. Tricky, no?

It’s not unrealistic for a utility to pay an extra three cents per kWh above the market rate for electricity. (Nuclear electricity costs \$0.0203 per kWh, including all the maintenance, insurance, and decommissioning costs.) Using the same MW and capacity factor as in federal calculations, the wind-farm owners now add to their take a contract worth \$3,942,000 per year or \$78.8 million over the 20-year contract period — not for electricity, but for the subsidy caused by the “need” for “green power,” caused by the mandate brought about by politicians, most of whom don’t know a kilowatt from a kumquat.

### Tax Shelter & Cash Flow Benefits: 5-Year 200% Declining Balance Depreciation for a \$100 million “wind farm”

Tax Year	Deduction from Otherwise Taxable Income		Reduction in Corporate Tax Liability	
	% of Capital Investment (both equity & debt)	Amount	Federal Tax Avoided (35% tax rate)	Virginia Tax Avoided (6% tax rate)
1	20%	\$20,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$1,200,000
2	32%	\$32,000,000	\$11,200,000	\$1,920,000
3	19.2%	\$19,200,000	\$6,720,000	\$1,152,000
4	11.52%	\$11,520,000	\$4,032,000	\$ 691,200
5	11.52%	\$11,520,000	\$4,032,000	\$ 691,200
6	5.76%	\$5,760,000	\$2,016,000	\$ 345,000
Total	100%	\$100,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$6,000,000

Glenn Schleede

Not bad. Tax savings for the wind farmer and his “tax partner” of \$41 million plus an ITC from the federal government of \$30 million, another ITC from the state for \$10 million, and a contract for \$78.8 million — all of this without generating a single kilowatt-hour of electrical energy. Again, there’s more, such as zero sales tax on equipment, no property taxes, and low rates for equipment assessments, not to mention a variety of subsidies, grants, and other unpublicized deals to attract support for a commodity (wind-generated electricity) that otherwise would not exist.

It is virtually impossible for anyone not intimately involved in a wind-farm project to have knowledge

of all the subsidies and benefits, but we can see how this actually shakes out in a real-world example, in this case NextEra Energy (formerly FPL group).

Among other assets, NextEra owns Florida Power and Light with total revenues of \$15.6 billion and a net income of \$1.62 billion. At the corporate tax rate of 35 percent, their federal tax liability would be \$567 million in 2009 *alone*.

*BusinessWeek* magazine reported in April 2009 that the FPL Group (now NextEra Energy) had an annual tax rate of 1.3 percent on more than \$7 billion in earnings over the last four years. This amounted to a total of \$88 million in taxes. Analysts in *BusinessWeek* explained this low rate was possible given tax breaks for having invested in alternative energy. The article added, “To ensure those tax rules reach into the future, FPL employs a cadre of well-placed Washington lobbyists. In 2008, the company paid well over \$500,000 to five top-drawer firms to make its tax case to Congress, the White House and the U.S. Treasury.” Makes one wonder how much over \$500,000 they spent and which legislators and other officials were benefactors of this largesse.

While it’s a fact that wind-powered ships



**Eyesores:** Thirty or so wind farms of about 100 turbines each, like this one in Palm Springs, would be required to produce the same yearly energy as one nuclear power plant.

discovered the New World and opened up exciting frontiers, and wind power was used to pump water to keep Holland from sinking into the sea and to water cattle on U.S. prairies, no matter what the advocates of wind power say, and regardless of the subsidies paid, wind is not a substitute for fossil fuel, hydroelectric, or nuclear generating plants. As Glenn Schleede summarized in his memorandum to Governor McDonnell:

- Electricity from wind is very high in true cost and very low in true value.
- The wind industry and other wind energy advocates greatly overstate its benefits and understate its adverse environmental, economic, energy, scenic and property value impacts.
- Claims of job and economic benefits from “wind farms” are greatly exaggerated.
- “Wind farms” are being built primarily for lucrative tax benefits and subsidies for their owners — not because of their environmental or energy benefits.

It is not like we don’t have a map of our future if we continue down this road of subsidizing wind and solar energy. In Eu-

rope, particularly Denmark, Germany, and Spain where the wind-generation subsidies have been as lavish or more so than ours, there has been a strong reaction — revolt is probably a better word — against the transfer of taxpayer and ratepayer wealth to the purveyors of “renewable” energy. In those countries electric rates have risen dramatically, with Denmark having a rate three times the average in America. As reported by Andrew Gilligan in the September 12, 2010 *New York Times*:

Unfortunately, Danish electricity bills have been almost as dramatically affected as the Danish landscape. Thanks in part to the windfarm subsidy, Danes pay some of Europe’s highest energy tariffs — on average, more than twice those in Britain. Under public pressure, Denmark’s ruling Left Party is curbing the handouts to the wind industry.

Americans must educate their legislators and the public to the pitfalls of wind subsidies before we find ourselves with not only high energy costs, but with decreased productivity from squandering our capital on wasteful piddle-power projects. ■



# Choose Freedom



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No one wants to see people suffer due to a lack of medical care, hence ObamaCare was sold as a reform measure to ensure that all can receive care.

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Find out how the 2,500-page bill affects you, your family, your doctor, even your job. Go to [JBS.org](http://JBS.org) for tour dates and plan to attend a stop of the *Choose Freedom — Stop ObamaCare* tour.

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# BOND's 20th Anniversary



BOND, the organization run by the Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson, an authentic voice of moral black leadership, celebrated its 20th anniversary and looked toward the future.

Sam Antonio

by Sam Antonio

Change, hope, optimism, community organizer — words usually associated with Barack Obama — more ably describe Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson, if a man is judged by his actions and not by rhetoric.

On Saturday, October 16, in Los Angeles, Reverend Peterson celebrated the 20th anniversary of the organization he founded, BOND, the Brotherhood Organization of a New Destiny. BOND's mission of "Rebuilding the Family by Rebuilding the Man" has defined not only the success of the organization, but also established Reverend Peterson as the moral leader for black Americans.

BOND's vision statement affirms that its mission is "to help men and their families, particularly in major urban areas, find spiritual and personal freedom through our personal development programs and community outreach and renewal efforts."

For 20 years Jesse Lee Peterson has provided the leadership to make his organization a unique success. It has delivered a promising future for young people's lives, and that is truly change we can all believe in.

Reverend Peterson himself is an example of a life turned around by the very values and lessons he teaches. He was born

in Comer Hill, Alabama. His early life was spent at a former plantation where his great-grandparents were slaves. He grew up with rage toward his mother and father, but for the last two decades has been teaching responsibility to young black men.

At the speaker's rostrum Reverend Peterson recounted his personal journey from rage to responsibility: "I had resentment in my heart. I resented my father and mother. I resented my mother who tried to keep me away from my father. My father, because he was so weak, he didn't know how to take care of me.... That resentment ... turned back on me because you become what you hate. You take on the spiritual identity of the person that you hate."

Only through personal introspection and the power of prayer was he able to let go of that anger and permanently replace it with forgiveness. What followed in his life was permanent peace and understanding. His personal story became a mission.

To change society for the better, he believes, one must begin with the individual. It is a renewal that is spiritual and inward. It is also the hardest path to take, but it is the path Reverend Peterson has chosen. Throughout history people have looked toward government mandates to change society, for that is the easy path. Politicians pander to the masses and render empty

promises; false community leaders do the same and further impoverish their followers; and unscrupulous dictators follow the same path to increase their power.

"You cannot control a moral people," Reverend Peterson once stated in an interview, "You have to keep them immoral in order to control them." He recalled growing up in Alabama, picking cotton on a plantation. Back then black Americans didn't rely on government. Families, neighbors, and churches would help. Work and responsibility were intertwined along with respect for the elderly.

He added, "The purpose of BOND is to rebuild the family by rebuilding the man. I believe that if we can get man to turn back to God and love what is right with all their heart, soul, and might and get married before having a family then a community can change."

"I started BOND because I realized that, not all, but most black Americans were suffering because they had anger because their fathers aren't around. They are relying on the government, and they are following the so-called black leaders who are setting them up in order to use them for their own personal gain. If I could get them to understand that, [and] if they could overcome their anger, then they can't be controlled by their outer environment."

He shared with THE NEW AMERICAN a valuable lesson BOND has taught to young black men: “They have learned to judge people based on character and not color.”

Once young men appreciate the content of a person’s character, especially their own, they can make great strides in life. Peterson has been richly rewarded by lives he has dramatically touched. The tangible success of BOND’s far-reaching influence was evident by the remarks of the people who have been touched by Reverend Peterson’s wisdom and moral leadership — from his faithful radio show listeners to the young men who graduated from BOND’s programs to the many who received wise counsel to put aside the anger in their hearts and embrace forgiveness.

Scott Stewart is a shining example of a young man whose life was transformed by becoming a BOND program graduate. He was an angry youth when he first encountered Reverend Peterson, but his anger was overcome by forgiveness, which engendered continued success. After completing the BOND program, he graduated from high school, attended Princeton University, earned a law degree from Stanford University, and is now employed with a law firm in Washington, D.C.



Sam Antonio

**Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson** proudly shows his award he received from Art Thompson (shown below). The inscription reads: “The John Birch Society honors Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson for his commitment to family, character, morality and responsibility — the foundation of a free society.”

Seemingly unbelievably these days, Peterson can add: “I’m proud to tell you that we have done it without one penny from the government. Not one dime. We never asked for a dime from the government. It’s people helping us to help others.”

Now that mission will be expanding. Starting in September 2010, BOND will open the doors of a new BOND Academy for Boys and Girls. The academy will emphasize the three Rs of education, patriotism, and learning a valuable trade. “It’s time to take the kids out of the public school system. It’s not about education, not

about God, it’s about corrupting their minds and their hearts and turning them away from the family,” he warned as he explained BOND’s vision for the next 20 years.

If the next 20 years are as successful as the past 20, the next anniversary celebration should be even more grand than the present one, and BOND’s 20th-anniversary banquet was highlighted with live music, an inspirational video presentation, speeches, and a keynote address from singer and actor Pat Boone.

In attendance that evening to present an award to Reverend Peterson was Art Thompson, chief executive officer of The John Birch Society. In his remarks he noted the motto of the society, “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.” He informed the audience that the society just instituted “an award for individuals who really exemplify that motto and take it way beyond and the influence that they have way beyond the norm. One of those individuals we felt should be the first recipient of this award is Reverend Jesse Lee Peterson.”

Barbara Coe, founder and president of California Coalition for Immigration Reform, was also in attendance. In her introductory remarks for Reverend Peterson, she stated, “Most importantly, this man does not just talk, he walks the walk every day of his life and works tirelessly to provide disadvantaged young men the support that he was denied to become productive, loyal, law-abiding American citizens. In short, he uses his life’s lesson to achieve his God-given goal.” ■



Sam Antonio

**Chief executive officer of The John Birch Society** Art Thompson (right) with singer, actor, and preacher Pat Boone at BOND’s 20th Anniversary Celebration. As the special guest speaker, Pat Boone delivered an inspirational talk on America’s Christian heritage.



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# Idealized Islam

The Rev. Elijah Abraham, who grew up in Iraq and was a strict adherent of Islam, explains why political compromise is not possible with Islamists.

*Interview with Rev. Elijah Abraham  
by James Heiser*

In the nine years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans have been subjected to a great deal of “spin” from the political elites and the media regarding the history and teachings of the Islamic religion, and the rise of jihadist terrorist organizations around the globe. America’s history of religious freedom and the religious dimensions of the current conflicts in which American troops are engaged leave many citizens feeling confused: How should they perceive Islam? How may they best understand the faith of Muslims living in the United States?

Rev. Elijah Abraham offers a much-needed perspective on the nature of Islam. He was born and raised as a Muslim in Iraq, but converted to Christianity when he found that Islam did not answer his most pressing religious questions.

Rev. Abraham earned a degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2002. In 2006, Rev. Abraham started Living Oasis Ministries, an organization devoted to teaching American churches about Islam and the best means for reaching out to Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the past year, he has also helped to establish Veterans Against Jihadism (VAJonline.org), en-

deavoring to inform our nation’s veterans about Islam and the origins of the current conflict in the Middle East.

Rev. Abraham was recently interviewed by Rev. James Heiser for *THE NEW AMERICAN* and shared his perspective on Islam and the current threat posed by the ideology of the Islamic jihad.

**THE NEW AMERICAN:** *What was it like growing up in Iraq as a Muslim?*

**Rev. Elijah Abraham:** Born in a Muslim family, you really have no choice but to be a Muslim. If a child is born to Muslim parents, according to Islamic law, he is immediately a Muslim. And that locks that human being — be it a boy or girl — into Islam. Whether he grows up knowing what Islam is all about — that’s really secondary. Of course, it would make the parents happy if that child grows up and knows everything about Islam, becomes an Imam, or whatever he does to advance Islam. But he will learn about Islam from his parents, from society, from school, from the mosque if his father takes him to the mosque, from the culture. Islam is a way of life. It’s not like here in America. Christianity, or whatever faith that you have here in America, is a personal thing. That’s why they don’t have “separation between Islam and State.”

So I grew up under that environment. I was a member of a large family, and my fa-

ther was self-employed, and he did pretty well. He didn’t work for the government. My parents were devout and prayed five times a day and observed all the religious holidays, and they tried to teach us kids to do that, but they really didn’t enforce it because my parents were uneducated. If they were educated and read the Koran themselves, probably they would have enforced all the Islamic laws on the family. We were more nominal Muslims, as kids. My dad and my mom were devout because they wanted to please Allah.

**TNA:** *Growing up in a nominally Islamic home, what was your view as a child of Christianity?*

**Rev. Abraham:** It’s a license to sin, and that was the view not just for me, but really for every Muslim around the world. You ask any Muslim. Usually when I witness to Muslims, they ask me, “What religion are you?” I say, “What do you mean?” “Well, what do you believe?” “I’m a follower of Jesus Christ.” “Oh, so you’re Christian!” I don’t say “yes” right away; I say, “What do you know about being a Christian?” I want to know his worldview: “What’s Christianity to you?” And they’ll tell me. Their view of Christianity is Hollywood, Clinton, *Baywatch*, drugs, alcohol, and pornography. It’s a license to sin. When I hear that, it’s a great opportunity to share the Gospel with them and say, “You

James Heiser interviews Rev. Elijah Abraham, whose face is not shown to avoid reprisal.



**Nobody told me why I needed to hate. The culture of hate is just a way of life, and not just hatred toward Christians and Jews, but also toward other factions within Islam. There is no peace. There is this constant struggle, on a personal, community, or national level.**

know, I don't know where you get that from, but let me show you Christianity, really true Christianity." I ask them, "Can you read? Read this." And I let them read the Sermon on the Mount. And they ask me a very powerful, legitimate, indicting question: "If this is really true for Christians to live like this, how come I've not seen a Christian live like this?" I turn it around, so it is a witnessing opportunity. I say, "God knows we still have this flesh. We still fall short. We're saved by grace through Christ Jesus. And when we sin, we come to Him directly and say, 'Lord, forgive me. I messed up and I'm sorry.'" And He is faithful and righteous to forgive my sins, 1 John 1:9. It's a promise.

I grew up with hatred: hatred toward Christianity. I had a lot of Christian neighbors and friends and I loved them, but the Christians I could not separate from Christianity because my community and Islam told me I could not separate America from Christianity. England from Christianity. Colonialism from Christianity. So that was the hatred — hatred toward the West, imperialism, capitalism, etc., and hatred toward the Jews, and Israel, and Zionism. Nobody told me why I needed to hate. The culture of hate is just a way of life, and not just hatred toward Christians and Jews, but also toward other factions within Islam. There is no peace. There is this constant struggle, on a personal, community, or national level. That's why it's a really

great opportunity to share the Gospel with Muslims, because as human beings we always want to have peace of mind. We always want to be at rest and ease. That's the void that only God can fill. So it's a great opportunity when I witness to Muslims and give them that option. Yes, they will give me typical Muslim objections to the Gospel, but I'm prepared to answer those questions.

**TNA:** *Was it the hatred and the lack of peace that led you to start having doubts about Islam?*

**Rev. Abraham:** No, it was really something else. It was a personal journey seeking answers from God. And I could not find those answers from the Islamic god. I have an analytical mind. I majored in engineering, so I looked at it as a mathematical equation: Because I'm begging God to help me and He's not answering my prayers, either God does not exist, or the way I'm talking to Him is not the right way. Well, He exists because creation tells me He exists, and I exist, so therefore He exists. So Romans 1 is really real. So the problem is not with God; the

problem is the way I'm talking to Him. The only way I had known was Islam, and I'd been begging Him. By that time I was a very devout Muslim, praying five times a day, doing everything that Allah asks me to do. He's not answering me, so maybe Islam is not the way. So I checked out other religions. I had the boldness to do this because I was outside the Muslim world. I was in the United States. I was free. The Constitution gave me the freedom to check it out, and I loved it. And that's why I'm pretty hostile to those who want to undermine our constitutional freedom — our religious liberty and freedom of speech. I don't care if it's Obama, or Islam, or the liberal media, or whoever it is; if you want to take my liberty, you've got a fight on your hands. Every American should have that attitude.

**TNA:** *How did you become a Christian?*

**Rev. Abraham:** I went through the law of deduction. I said I'm going to try other religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, eastern religions. If I can't find Him, then it's between You and me, God. That's how I saw it. And one day I looked outside my apartment, and there's a cross and a steeple: a church. I knew nothing about denominations. To me, a cross represents Christian-



Muslim worshippers attend Friday prayers in the courtyard of the Kufa Mosque.

AP Images

ity so I went to “check it out.” During the service, the pastor preached out of a text in John, and God really answered my typical Muslim objections.

Muslim objections are really few. If every Christian knows how to answer them, I don’t think there’s really any problem witnessing to Muslims. Of course, that’s the apologetic side — defending Christianity. First, we’ve got to love them. We need to pray for them. We’ve got to love them and reach out to them in a genuine way. The apologetics are just something in your armament for when they give you that objection.



**Beyond religion:** Supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr hold a political demonstration.

AP Images

**TNA:** *There is quite a bit of debate over the size of the Muslim community in the United States. How many do you believe there are at this point?*

**Rev. Abraham:** It depends on whom you talk to. If you talk to the Muslim community, they say there are about nine to ten million. I would say anywhere between four to six million. But we really don’t have any way to measure the population because there are many things to consider. You’ve got migrants, refugees, and then second and third generations descended from them, and then the converts from black, white, and Hispanic communities. Then you have the women who marry Muslims and then later on convert.

**TNA:** *What is the highest legal authority for a Muslim?*

**Rev. Abraham:** You’ve got the Koran, and under it is the Hadith, which are the Islamic traditions of Mohammed’s deeds and sayings. The Islamic Sharia law really comes out from within the schools of thought of the Hadith to interpret what the Koran says. The Koran is a little vague on certain issues, and Mohammed elaborated a lot on what the Koran says, and as a result you’ve got different schools of thought of what the Islamic law is. So Sharia law dictates every aspect of the typical Muslim’s life: how you wash your hands, how you eat, how you sleep, how you have sex with your wife, etc. It’s a mess.

**TNA:** *Can someone be a true Muslim without adherence to Sharia law?*

**Rev. Abraham:** An orthodox Muslim will tell you no. But at this time, they are not going to make a big issue out of it, because they brag about numbers — that Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, and it’s not. It’s the fastest growing religion or ideology in the West. In the rest of the world, Christianity is “kicking butt,” and I like that. In 2001, an Islamic scholar on Al Jazeera television was lamenting the loss of six million Muslims in Africa to Christianity per year.

**TNA:** *Since September 11, 2001, there has been a great deal of talk about “moderate Islam” and “moderate Muslims.” Is there such a thing as a “moderate Islam” that Mohammed would have recognized as genuinely Islamic?*

**Rev. Abraham:** There is no such thing as “moderate Islam.” You mentioned “moderate Muslim” and you need to define what a “moderate Muslim” is. But let’s go back to “moderate Islam”: There is no such thing. Islam is locked on a seventh-century Arabian religion.

Let me redefine Islam: Islam is not really even a religion. That’s a key point. It’s a socio-political system that uses a deity to advance its agenda. Why do you think Islam is doing what it’s doing in the West, and being allowed the freedom to do what it is doing without being con-

fronted? Because Islam passes itself off as a religion and thus, under the Constitution of the United States, has the protection of freedom of religion and therefore the protection of a religion to exist. If the United States finally comes to its senses and acknowledges that Islam is a socio-political system — not a religion, so we need to reclassify what Islam is — then the fight is on. Then we will address Islam just like we addressed Nazism, fascism, communism, and all these ideologies.

**TNA:** *Is there such a thing as a “moderate Muslim”?*

**Rev. Abraham:** There are two types of moderate Muslims. First, let us talk about an American. You’ve got a moderate Muslim who really doesn’t know anything about Islam. All he’s doing are the five pillars of Islam the best he can. He prays five times a day. It’s a memorized, repetitive prayer. When I was four years old, my father prayed, and I heard his prayer. We brought him to the United States, and I heard him pray and it was exactly, word for word, what I remembered from when I was a child. All he’s doing is the five pillars of Islam to appease Allah. He’s doing his duty. Now, if he decides to be faithful, and be serious about Islam, and really dig deeper into Islamic theology and history and the life of Mohammed, then he’s got two choices to make. He either becomes

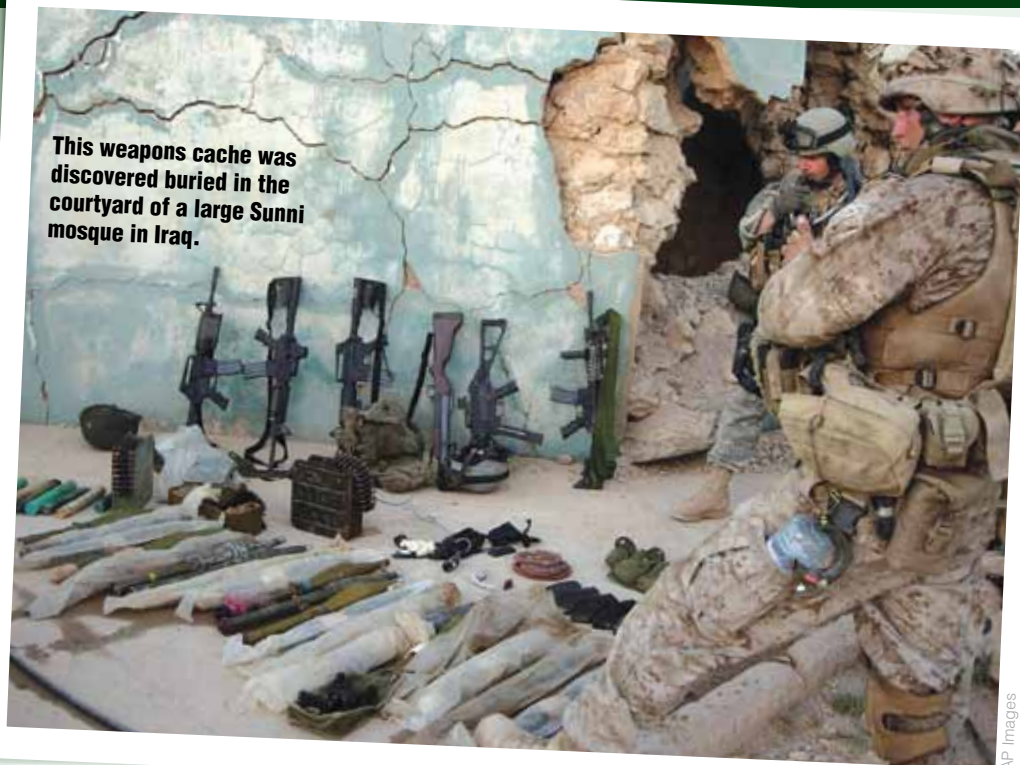
“Osama bin Laden,” or leaves Islam for another religion or becomes agnostic. I have some friends who are former jihadists. They used to work for PLO, Hezbollah, Hamas, and so on. The deeper they dug into Islam, they realized there was something wrong, and they started looking into really spiritual things. They left Islam and became Christians.

So you’ve got that side of the moderates, who are just doing their thing, just as we have a lot of Christians in our churches who know nothing about the Bible. You see somebody who comes to church, does his thing, but then something happens in his life and he says, “You know, I need to seek God. I need to be more serious about Christianity.”

And he starts reading the Bible and God starts speaking to him, convicting him, and he becomes excited about what God is saying and he starts talking about how God is taking care of him and his family. So he becomes a more active Christian and more faithful to God. He’s no longer just a nominal Christian sitting in the pew keeping that seat warm. It’s the same thing with Islam. So you’ve got that one side of the nominal Muslim.

Then you’ve got the other side, the second kind of moderate Muslim. People like Dr. [M. Zuhdi] Jasser from Arizona, who was featured in a documentary, *The Third Jihad*. He is a Muslim medical doctor of Syrian heritage who is speaking out against the jihad and the violent side of Islam. He wants to reform Islam, but he can’t. He’s a reformed Muslim, as a human being. He likes the Constitution, and he was in the Navy for about four years. He served this country faithfully.

**So Sharia law dictates every aspect of the typical Muslim’s life: how you wash your hands, how you eat, how you sleep, how you have sex with your wife, etc. It’s a mess.**



**This weapons cache was discovered buried in the courtyard of a large Sunni mosque in Iraq.**

AP Images

I like him. He’s a reformed Muslim, but he cannot reform the religion, or the ideology. The ideology is locked.

**TNA:** *Cannot a Muslim simply relegate Sharia law to his personal or private life while he adheres to the law of the land?*

**Rev. Abraham:** Because we adhere to the Constitution, we want to give the Muslims their rights, as well, so they can keep their Sharia law, as long as it is pertaining to spiritual things. You step out of bounds to the socio-political — “honor killings,” for example — then it’s against the law. So can it be merely private? No, as far as Islam is concerned.

**TNA:** *How should Americans view the mosques that are springing up all over our country?*

**Rev. Abraham:** When you look at a mosque, and let’s define what a mosque is, please don’t look at it as you would look at a church or a synagogue or Buddhist temple. This is not just a house of worship. You need to go back in history and look at the first mosque (which Mohammed established in Medina) and look at its function. Yes, they prayed, but it was also a base of politi-

cal operation where Mohammed issued a lot of rulings and launched jihads and launched wars and administered Sharia law in every aspect. But it was also a storage place for weapons. The best example I could give you is from the battle for Fallujah in April 2004 when the Marines went into a mosque and killed everyone in the mosque. The liberal media and the Muslim community in the West cried out and even our politicians, like John Kerry and others, said, “How dare they? This is what Americans do, they go and kill the worshipers. They were just worshipping there.” If those are honest worshipers, what are they doing with bazookas and other weapons? And they and the Marines were shooting at each other. Nobody talks about that.

Let’s look in the United States. Every mosque, every Islamic center, school, library, whatever, is a missionary training center to convert Americans to Islam.

**TNA:** *Would you contend that most mosques in the United States are also serving as weapons repositories?*

**Rev. Abraham:** Sure! Now, are there any weapons right now if I go to the mosque down the street? Do they have them? Maybe, maybe not. But that does not mean they would not have them.



**TNA:** And, of course, the question would be absurd if we were talking about a synagogue or a church?

**Rev. Abraham:** Right. The best example is why the FBI is allowing 30 to 34 terrorist training camps in the United States. I mean, if I'm the average guy and I go to YouTube and find videos of Islamberg in upstate New York, which is a training camp, why hasn't the FBI shut it down? I do not understand how the American government allowed this to happen and to go this far with the military actions of the jihadists in America. Just imagine if during the Second World War the United States government allowed Nazi training camps and Fascist Italian camps and Imperial Japan training camps within the continental U.S.A. to practice how to kill Americans.

Perhaps the government is allowing this to know who are the terrorists and you want to chase after them. I sure hope that's the case. But if that's the case, why are most of these guys ending up in Pakistan and Afghanistan fighting our own army?

**TNA:** Please define the difference between a "terrorist" and a "jihadist."

**Rev. Abraham:** A terrorist will put a gun to your head in the middle of the night, threaten your life, and steal your possessions. He's not willing to die for what he wants to accomplish. That's why we have Saddam Hussein, bin Laden, Chavez, Stalin, and others. They did not kill themselves. They gained their power at the cost of the people they were willing to kill or massacre, by the millions, if they had to. That's a terrorist.

A jihadist is willing to die for his ideology in order to advance that ideology. That's a jihadist. That's why, in America, we don't know who we are fighting. We don't know who the enemy is. First, we have not identified that Islam is really an enemy. We have given it the status of a religion. Second, as soldiers of that religion or ideology, if we call them jihadists, our own government, thanks to Obama, has redef-

ined the terms so that we don't use the term "Islamic terrorist" in our vocabulary anymore. So, Mr. President, what do you want to call them? Attention Deficit Disorder with a gun?

**TNA:** You are involved with the organization Veterans Against Jihadism. What is its work?

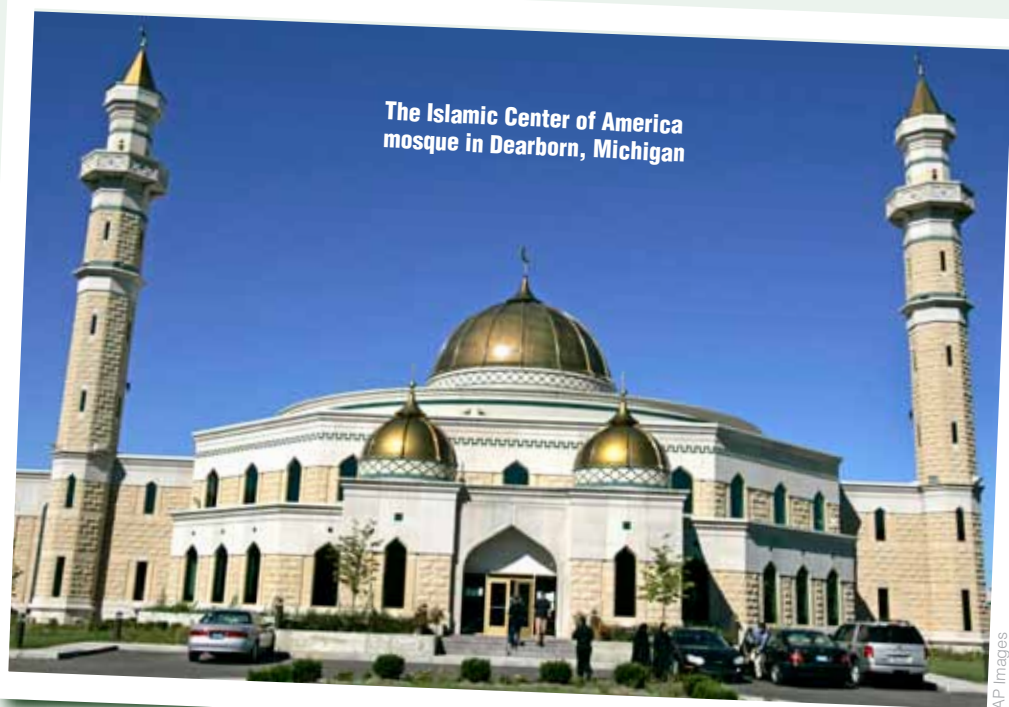
**Rev. Abraham:** I was approached by a friend of mine, a former Marine Colonel — a wonderful, godly man — and we started talking about it at the end of last year. In February, he invited me to a meeting in the Bronx, New York, to make a presentation about the threat of Islam to the United States. That was the birth of Veterans Against jihadism. Actually, they wanted to call it "Veterans Against Terrorism." I said, "No, it's jihadism we are dealing with here." That's why I believe George W. Bush did an incredible disservice to the United States when he said that Islam is peaceful and that 19 people hijacked Islam. That drove me nuts when I first heard that.

We launched the Veterans Against jihadism website in April 2010. The purpose is to educate veterans, and the American public in general, about the threat and give documentation about this

concern. The emphasis is on being factual, not emotional. The goal is to mobilize veterans — 29 million strong in the United States — to vote this November, to get rid of big government, to get America back and to fight for America, because when the veterans took an oath to protect the Constitution from domestic and foreign enemies, that did not end when they were retired. A veteran is a veteran. Veterans Against Jihadism's goal is basically to protect the Constitution of the United States, and to protect America from foreign and domestic enemies, and they see jihad and jihadism as a clear and present danger.

**TNA:** What do you believe would be the three most important books for a Christian to read about Islam, its history, and "peaceful jihad"?

**Rev. Abraham:** There's a book called *The Mosque Exposed* by Solomon and Almaqdisi. It's very good because it explains what the purpose of the mosque is, and every American needs to read that. Also the book *Modern Day Trojan Horse* — it's very powerful. There's a good website to go to for history and apologetics: [www.answering-islam.org](http://www.answering-islam.org). There's also [jihadwatch.org](http://jihadwatch.org) and, of course, VA-Online.org. ■



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## Achievement Awards

Four people were recently awarded Achievement Awards for Good Samaritan Acts from the Calaveras County, California, Sheriff's Office. Rodney and Carol Greener noticed smoke in the vicinity of their Valley Springs home on Sunday, September 5. Investigating, they found a tree and the deck of a home in their neighborhood aflame. The couple was soon joined by passersby Glenn Waltman and Paul Lewis. After calling 911, the quartet first worked together to ensure no one was in the house in danger.

They then searched out and found enough garden hoses to extinguish the fire before it could seriously damage the home. Sheriff's Sergeant Tracy Busby told MyMotherLode.com, a California news site, "It's possible that these citizens saved this home from what could have been a very serious fire." Commending the four for their "selfless concern for others," the Sheriff's Office presented each with an Achievement Award on September 19.

## A Match Made in Heaven?

On Sunday, October 3, a fire apparently caused by an electrical short destroyed the large passenger van belonging to the St. Paul Baptist Church in Denison, Texas. It may not seem like a great loss, but church deacon James Dawson told Denison's KXII 12 News on October 4 that the van was regularly used to transport children to Sunday School and members for church trips all over the state. It had been a part of the church for over 10 years, and Dawson said it would be difficult for the congregation to get along without it.

Before Nancy Bellows' husband passed away two years ago, he frequently used his favorite vehicle — a large passenger van — when he went on fishing trips. After his death, she just couldn't get rid of it and held on to it for sentimental reasons. She told KXII on October 6 that she had been waiting for the right situation to part with the van, "waiting to find a way to sell the van or give it away without it ending up in a junk yard." When she saw the report

of St. Paul's loss on the news and realized her van was "just like the one the church had lost," she knew she had received an answer as to what to do with her husband's treasured vehicle.

The deal was done on October 5, and the way Bellows described the situation to the news station, she made it sound like the church did *her* a favor, saying that the church was "nice enough to take care of it for me."

The church was grateful for the van, and Bellows was blessed. "I figured it would be in good memory of [my husband]," she said. A St. Paul church member thanked Bellows for her kindness, surmising that Mr. Bellows was "rejoicing in heaven" for her good deed. Who knows? Maybe it was a match made in heaven.

## Making a House Call

When Bill Briggs of Callahan, Florida, saw Calvin Poole's house on Jacksonville's First Coast News, he knew he had to help. On September 27, a storm downed a huge tree from Poole's neighbor's yard. The tree fell on Poole's home, causing severe damage, collapsing a bedroom roof and the rear wall of the house, among other things. Fortunately for the Pooles, there was a local doctor willing to make a house call.

Briggs is a tree doctor, and when he saw the Poole home on the news, without even being asked he knew immediately he needed to help. "God put it on my heart to go. I got out there as quick as I could," he told the news on October 2.

He removed the tree for the Pooles, hauled it away, and covered the home with a tarp to protect it until it could be repaired.

This house call was nothing unusual for Briggs, who frequently volunteers through his church when disasters like this strike. The Poole family helped to make this particular job a little easier. "The whole family, even the grandmother, was out there hauling limbs as we got them cut up so everybody was helping," said Briggs. Calvin Poole was very thankful for Briggs' help, telling First

Coast News, "He did such a wonderful job. He did not ask for anything.... There are still people out in the world that don't want anything, just want to help people." And there is still at least one doctor who makes house calls.

## Do Unto Others...

Chances are, if you are in the courthouse, you have fallen on bad times in one way or another, and frequently finances are an issue. Victoria Beatty of Nashville, Tennessee, understands this, as that's the situation in which she lately found herself. However, for Beatty at least, times are never bad enough to not help others.

Beatty was in the Nashville courthouse on September 23 when she came upon an envelope containing \$3,120 in cash. Being in financial straits, she certainly could have used the money herself, but keeping the cash was simply not an option for this honest woman. "I thought about my situation and how desperate I am for money, and I thought someone needs this just as bad as me," she told the September 25 *Tennessean*. Also, she told Nashville's NewsChannel5, "Your character is what you do when people aren't looking, and nobody was looking. I was alone when I picked it up and I knew what I had to do and that was it." She turned the money in to security.

It was only about 30 minutes before the cash's owner, Susan Star Lynn-Bryant, came rushing to security to see if someone had turned it in. Lynn-Bryant's husband has pancreatic cancer, and the couple did indeed need the money as much as Beatty. "I just felt total relief," Lynn-Bryant told the *Tennessean*. "All I could do was thank God over and over again for honest people." Beatty was even more excited than Lynn-Bryant, telling the paper, "I felt like I won the lottery. I was so glad to help her."

Coincidentally — or not so coincidentally — the mug that Beatty grabbed from the cupboard for her coffee that morning read, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Without even thinking about it, Beatty did. ■

— LIANA STANLEY



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# Bipartisan Warfare State

America's wars of the 20th century were started by Democrats, and the wars of the 21st century were begun by Republicans. As of now, both parties want to police the world.



AP Images

by Jack Kenny

**D**uring the 1976 vice presidential debate between Senators Robert Dole, Republican of Kansas, and Democrat Walter Mondale of Minnesota, Dole outraged Democrats when he said: “All the wars of the 20th century have been Democrat (sic) wars.”

That remark came barely 18 months after the fall of Saigon and may have reminded the nation that the Vietnam War, like Korea and both World Wars, began with Democrats in the White House and in the majority in Congress. Dole, born in 1923, began his congressional career in 1961, when Republicans were still boasting of their ability to keep America out of wars, rather than their readiness to start one. Today few in either party show any noticeable appreciation of the wise counsel of our first and greatest President in his Farewell Address:

Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European Ambition, Rivalship, Interest, Humour or Caprice?

’Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.

Historians may debate just when our nation began to ignore Washington’s sage advice, but we were clearly creating some long-term entanglements with several parts of the “foreign world” in 1898, when America went to war with Spain over Cuba and, in the process, captured Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Theodore Roosevelt — the “progressive” Republican beloved by today’s neoconservatives — was a hero of that “splendid little war” and was vice president when the assassination of McKinley

“He kept us out of war” was the slogan of Woodrow Wilson’s reelection campaign. In April of the following year, America was at war.

propelled the popular Rough Rider into the White House. Though he seldom walked softly, he often waved the “big stick” at nations standing in the way of American ambition. When the Senate of Colombia in 1903 unanimously rejected the terms of a treaty granting the United States rights to build a canal in Panama, Roosevelt announced “the blackmailers of Bogota” would not be permitted to “permanently bar one of the future highways of civilization.” When Panamanians staged an uprising against the Colombian government, U.S. forces seized the Panama railroad and prevented the landing of Colombian troops within 50 miles. Roosevelt quickly recognized the new Republic of Panama and concluded a treaty, giving Panama \$10 million and \$250,000 a year for the Canal Zone.\*



**Theodore Roosevelt in Panama:** Roosevelt would not allow the nation of Colombia to stand in the way of “one of the future highways of civilization.”

asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany.

Yet during the period of American “neutrality,” billions in cash and credit from the United States had fueled the Allies’ war efforts, and U.S. banks had a strong interest in assuring that the Allies would emerge victorious and able to demand reparations from their defeated foes. Between 1915 and April 1917, loans from U.S. banks to Germany totaled \$27 million, while Britain and its allies received loans of \$2.3 billion in the same period. John Pierpont Morgan, Jr.’s inherited fortune of \$13 million doubled during the war, as he became the purchasing agent for the British. Morgan also was head of the United States Steel Corporation, the leading company in an industry whose profits during the war averaged \$20 million a year.<sup>†</sup>

Not surprisingly, America’s munitions manufacturers profited handsomely during the war. Du Pont, the largest of them, increased its number of employees from 5,000 before the war to more than 100,000 at its end, while amassing profits of \$266 million during that period. In the 1930s, a special committee of the Senate, chaired by Gerald P. Nye, a North Dakota Republican, investigated the role of the munitions industry during World War I and charged that America had entered the war to make the world safe for bankers’ loans and munitions makers’ profits.

When President Franklin Roosevelt and the Democrats came into office in 1933, they were as opposed as the Republicans had been to joining the League of Nations, which would have entangled America in the wars and internal affairs of member nations. Roosevelt himself was defending a policy that a few years later he would excoriate as isolationism and worse. “We shun political commitments which might entangle us in foreign wars,” FDR pro-

Ohio Sen. Robert A. Taft, the “Mr. Republican” of his era, took mild exception to Roosevelt’s intervention in Panama in his 1951 book, *A Foreign Policy for Americans*. “I do not believe history will defend as lawful the action of President Theodore Roosevelt in seizing Panama,” Taft wrote. “On the other hand, that action was certainly not the making of war.” Taft’s father, William Howard Taft, who succeeded Roosevelt as President, was less restrained in describing his predecessor’s zeal for military adventure. Theodore Roosevelt, said the elder Taft, was “obsessed with his love of war and the glory of it.... He would think it a real injury to mankind if we would not have a war.” Roosevelt himself, in a speech to students at the Naval War College in 1897, said: “No triumph of peace is quite so great as the supreme triumphs of war.”

But as war raged through Europe in 1914, the American people were determined to remain apart from “the toils of European Ambition” and the wars that sprang endlessly from them. American neutrality, however, was sorely tested, as England’s blockade of Germany was designed, in the words of Lord Admiral Winston Churchill, to “starve the whole population — men, women, and children, old and young, wounded and sound — into submission.” U.S. ships were intercepted even when bound for neutral nations with

land access to Germany. President Woodrow Wilson protested to no avail. Yet he continued to insist on the right of Americans to continue shipping goods to England and to travel on British ships, despite the danger of attack by German U-boats.

Thus, Americans in 1915 went unheeding onto the *Lusitania*, a British ship secretly loaded with munitions of war and bound for the British Isles. The German Embassy in Washington had filed a complaint with our government, and a warning that ships entering the war zone were subject to destruction appeared in the *New York Times* and other American newspapers on the day the ship sailed. Yet the German attack on the *Lusitania* and the death of 1,198 passengers, including 128 Americans, contributed to rising anti-German sentiment and brought America closer to war.

A desperate Germany’s later policy of unrestricted submarine warfare moved the United States still closer to the brink of war. The final push came with the discovery of a telegram sent by German Foreign Minister Alfred Zimmerman to his ambassador in Mexico, proposing a German-Mexican alliance if the U.S. entered the war that would help Mexico recover “her lost territories in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.” On April 2, 1917, barely five months after winning reelection on the slogan, “He kept us out of war,” Wilson

\* *The United States: The History of a Republic* by Richard Hofstadter, William Miller, and Daniel Aaron (Prentice-Hall, Inc., second edition, 1967).

† *Encyclopedia of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, edited by Lawrence Salinger (Sage Publications, 2004, page 869).

claimed. “We are not isolationists except insofar as we seek to isolate ourselves completely from war.”

Yet Roosevelt neglected to build America’s defenses during the 1930s, even as he pursued a diplomatic policy of containment against Japanese expansion in the Pacific and would soon be plotting with Churchill to bring America into the European war. By executive agreement, Roosevelt traded 50 old but still effective destroyers to England for British naval stations in Newfoundland and Bermuda and rent-free leases on six sites in the Caribbean — a move Germany might reasonably have considered an act of war. Roosevelt’s lend-lease program authorized the transfer of arms to Britain and her allies, to be returned or replaced after the war. Non-interventionist members of Roosevelt’s own party were as emphatic as any Republican in opposing the plan. In the Senate debate over the Lend-Lease Act, Burton Wheeler (D-Mont.) likened it to Roosevelt’s Agriculture Adjustment Act that paid farmers to kill livestock and plow under crops, in order to boost farm prices by reducing the food supply. Wheeler enraged Roosevelt by warning of “the New Deal’s AAA for-

eign policy,” whereby “every fourth American boy will be plowed underneath.”

While America was still ostensibly a “non-belligerent,” Roosevelt had U.S. ships trailing German submarines and radioing their positions to British torpedo planes nearby, leading to incidents of American ships being fired on by the Germans. When Roosevelt ordered U.S. naval vessels to shoot German submarines on sight, Senator Robert Taft called the order “contrary to the law and to the Constitution.”

Despite the provocations, Germany refused to take the bait. Having conquered France, Hitler had failed in his effort to bomb England into submission and dared not risk the perils of a cross-channel invasion against a superior British navy. Instead, he turned east and pursued his long-held goal of conquering Russia. Most Americans wished to stay out of the conflict and leave the Nazi and communist armies at each other’s throats. The America First Committee led the opposi-

Roosevelt himself was defending a policy that a few years later he would excoriate as isolationism and worse. “We shun political commitments which might entangle us in foreign wars,” FDR proclaimed. “We are not isolationists except insofar as we seek to isolate ourselves completely from war.”

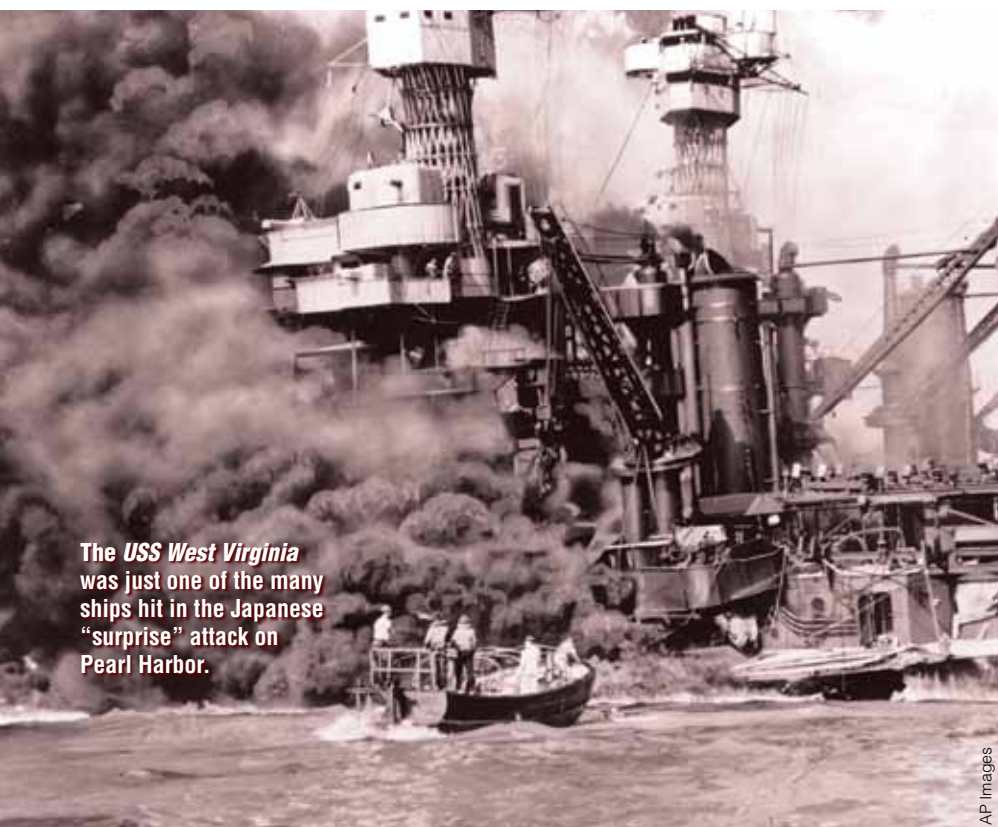
tion to war with large rallies and speaking tours, featuring aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, the first to fly solo across the Atlantic. The Lone Eagle became, in the words of Roosevelt’s speechwriter, Robert Sherwood, “FDR’s most formidable competitor on the radio.”

America First Committee members included Brigadier General Hugh Johnson, who led the New Deal’s National Recovery Act; Democratic Party activist and future ambassador Chester Bowles; World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker; and Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of Theodore. Former President Herbert Hoover was a supporter. John F. Kennedy, son of the ambassador to Great Britain, sent a \$100 check to the America First Committee, along with a note: “What you are doing is vital.”<sup>‡</sup> Future Republican President Gerald Ford was an energetic recruiter for America First while at Yale Law School.

As late as April 1941, Gallup’s polling found 83 percent of Americans against entering the war. Yet Roosevelt unleashed a verbal barrage against “appeaser fifth columnists,” and had Lindbergh put under surveillance by the FBI. The bureau shadowed the aviator for months and tapped his phone, but could find no evidence of “subversive activities.”

While running for an unprecedented third term in 1940, Roosevelt had promised “again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” The response from his Republican opponent, Wendell Willkie, was both clever and prophetic: “If his promise to keep our boys out of foreign wars is no better

<sup>‡</sup> *A Republic, Not an Empire: Reclaiming America’s Destiny* by Patrick J. Buchanan (Regnery Publishing, Inc., 1999, page 273).



The *USS West Virginia* was just one of the many ships hit in the Japanese “surprise” attack on Pearl Harbor.

AP Images

J.P. Morgan also was head of the United States Steel Corporation, the leading company in an industry whose profits during the war averaged \$20 million a year. Not surprisingly, America's munitions manufacturers profited handsomely during WWI.

than his promise to balance the budget, they're already almost on the transports."

Roosevelt found what is often called his "back door to war" through a series of trade and diplomatic confrontations with Japan, leading to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. In his famous "date of infamy" speech to Congress the next day, Roosevelt expressed all proper indignation and horror at the "sneak attack" that, in fact, his administration anticipated and even welcomed. As Secretary of War Harry Stimson had noted in his diary on November 26, 1941: "The question was how we should maneuver them into firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves." The United States had broken the Japanese code and many historians have since concluded that Roosevelt knew the attack on Pearl Harbor was coming. Yet the commanders at the base were never warned of the aerial assault that left more than 2,400 Americans dead and nearly 1,200 wounded.

Once the United States declared war on Japan, Hitler declared war on the United States in solidarity with his Asian ally. Germany and Japan would be crushed in the next four years, but the Soviet Union came out of the war as the dominant power in Europe and became a major force behind the communist conquest of China. Harry Truman, becoming President upon the death of FDR, initially enjoyed bipartisan support in the building of the post-war world, including the establishment of the United Nations and economic aid for the recovery of Europe. But the conservative wing of the Republican Party,

**Americans in Vietnam**, where Lyndon Johnson said he would not send "American boys" to fight an Asian war.

led by Robert Taft, remained wary of those "permanent alliances" of Washington's admonition. Even the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was presented as a temporary shield for our war-ravaged European allies. General Eisenhower, the first NATO commander, said the whole project would be a failure if American troops were not withdrawn from Europe

within 10 years. Yet 65 years after the end of World War II, the United States still maintains armed forces in Europe, apparently to continue protecting allies from a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

"Think of the tremendous power which this proposal gives to the President to involve us in any war throughout the world, including civil wars where we may favor one faction against the other," Senator Taft wrote in opposition to the North Atlantic treaty. His prophecy was borne out when President Truman, in June of 1950, took the nation into war in Korea without a declaration of war or any other authorization by the Congress of the United States. The

only authorization Truman sought and received was from the Security Council of the United Nations. The armistice in 1953, ending three years of fighting, left Korea still divided in two armed camps and more than 40,000 Americans killed or missing in the undeclared war.

"War, undertaken even for justifiable purposes, such as to punish aggression in Korea, has often had the principal results of wrecking the country intended to be saved and spreading death and destruction among an innocent civilian population," Taft said. "Even more than Sherman knew in 1864, 'war is hell.' War should never be undertaken or seriously risked except to protect American liberty."

Yet a decade later, America was digging herself into another war hole, as the 600 military advisors Eisenhower left in Vietnam grew to 16,000 under Kennedy. A dubious allegation of an attack on U.S. ships off the coast of North Vietnam prompted President Lyndon Johnson to launch a retaliatory air attack. Congress immediately passed a resolution authorizing the President to take whatever steps he deemed necessary to protect American personnel in South Vietnam. But Johnson, following





the path of Wilson and FDR, campaigned for election in 1964 promising that America would not bear the brunt of the fighting.

"We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves," LBJ assured the American people en route to a landslide victory over Republican Barry Goldwater. But the following year, Johnson sent combat units to Vietnam, and by 1968 the U.S. presence there had grown to more than half a million men under arms. The Vietnam Resolution was retroactively declared by the Johnson administration to be the "functional equivalent" of a declaration of war.

"In this writer's opinion we should never have become involved in Vietnam at all," wrote John Birch Society founder Robert Welch in the summer of 1965. But once American troops were engaged in the war, the thing to do, he insisted, was "not to prolong, not to muddle through, but to win it." Yet despite the investment of more than \$100 billion and some 58,000 American lives in a decade-long war, ostensibly to stop the advance of communism in the former Indo-China, South Vietnam fell

to Hanoi in the spring of 1975. A decade earlier, Welch was raising probing questions about America's approach to the containment of communism.

"Why fight 'em in Vietnam and help 'em everywhere else?" Welch asked. "In fact, the administration is right now moving heaven and earth to bring about more so-called trade with Soviet Russia and all of its satellites. Putting it more concisely, our boys in Vietnam are being killed by Russian bullets fired from Russian guns, while the Johnson administration sends the Soviets wheat to feed those who are making the guns and bullets.... And in one recent year, the Communist regime in Poland gave to our enemy Ho chi Minh, in North Vietnam, thirteen

million dollars taken directly out of the much larger sum which Washington had given to Warsaw. What kind of insanity (or worse) is this anyway?"

"The capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them," is a saying commonly attributed to Lenin. Antony Sutton, historian and research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, spent much of his career documenting the sale of technology and parts by American companies to Nazi Germany as well as the Soviet Union. Sales to the Soviets included miniature ball bearings used in missile construction and auto manufacturing facilities readily adaptable to the production of military vehicles. In 1972, Sutton testified before the Platform Committee at the Republican National Convention.

"In a few words, there is no such thing as Soviet technology," he said. "Almost all — perhaps 90 to 95 percent — came directly from the United States and its allies. In effect, the United States and NATO countries have built the Soviet Union."

It is a pattern oft repeated. The "freedom fighters" we armed and equipped to fight the Soviet Union in Afghanistan are the terrorists fighting Americans there now. After years of selling weapons and deadly material to Saddam Hussein, we invaded Iraq over its alleged "weapons of mass destruction." America's global interventionists are no longer content to merely ignore the dictum of John Quincy Adams that America goes not "abroad in search of monsters to destroy." We are now in the business of creating the monsters we must arm ourselves to destroy.

While the Democrats steered America into the wars of the 20th century, Republicans are doing their part in the 21st, having nominated and elected President George W. Bush and having stood by him as he called for a "global democratic revolution." The party that once boasted of its ability to keep the peace now appears committed to an endless series of wars, enduring intervals of peace only as a last resort. It is today more the party of Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt than the party of Robert Taft. Or perhaps it is, once again, the party of that glorious Rough Rider, Teddy Roosevelt, who, in President Taft's words, "would think it a real injury to mankind if we would not have a war." ■



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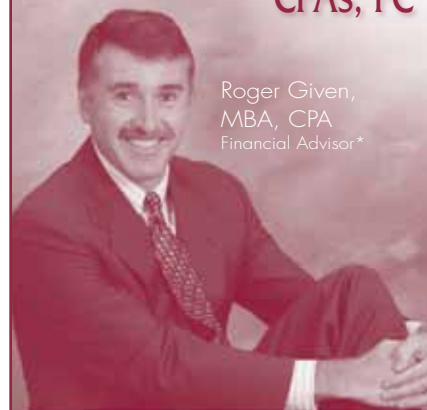
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## Armed Celebrities

*People* magazine reports that prominent New Yorkers from the entertainment industry are packing heat. Marc Anthony, Robert De Niro, Howard Stern, and Donald Trump are among the rich and famous who have the special permit required to own and carry a pistol in the city that never sleeps.

New York City's strict regulations prevent the majority of residents from ever owning pistols. Lawyer John Skylar Chambers told the *New York Daily News* that, even though many of these celebrities have their own body guards, they still want the added protection in the information age where enough online snooping can lead an obsessed fan to their doorsteps. “They can get their own security, but with the Internet, it is much easier to find people.... They don't want to find someone on their lawn at five in the morning.” It would appear that even liberal entertainers personally understand and appreciate the importance of armed self-defense, even though they don't publicly share those sentiments.

## Obama Sends Anti-gun Ex-mayor to the UN

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) issued a press release on September 16 warning about an appointment to the United Nations by the Obama administration. The President appointed former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels as an alternate representative to the UN. Nickels is a founding member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and is infamous in gun-rights circles for his strident anti-gun views. CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said that this move by Obama just reveals his future intentions regarding global schemes to gut the Second Amendment:

Putting an extremist gun banner in any position to represent this country at the United Nations amounts to renting a billboard for advertising against the Second Amendment.... Nickels is a gun ban proponent ...

so his appointment as an alternate to the UN is a clear signal of Barack Obama's intention to rubber stamp the UN's global gun ban agenda. We had to sue Nickels while he was still Seattle's mayor to overturn his illegal city parks gun ban. Now he gets to push his anti-gun philosophy on a world scale. It hardly seems a coincidence that Nickels has been appointed by the Obama administration at a time when the UN is considering treaties and initiatives that pose a serious threat to the Second Amendment.... By naming Greg Nickels as an alternate representative at the UN, President Obama has essentially told America's 85 million gun owners that their firearm civil rights are in jeopardy. Nickels cannot be counted on to defend the Second Amendment because he would like to see it erased from the Constitution.

## As Predicted, the Firearms Freedom Act Fails in Federal Court

The Associated Press reported that on September 29 a U.S. District Court dismissed a lawsuit brought by proponents of state sovereignty legislation that “nullified” federal gun laws in states that passed the Firearm Freedom Act (FFA). The lawsuit involved Montana, Utah, Alabama, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Wyoming, and West Virginia.

As reported in *THE NEW AMERICAN*, the FFA was written to exempt guns that were manufactured in-state for use in-state from federal gun-control laws because they are not within the parameters of “interstate commerce,” since the Interstate Commerce Clause is used as the rationale for empowering the federal government to control guns in states. As many observers of what passes as “constitutional law” (basically a series of judicial opinions barely related to the original document) predicted, the federal courts would not be open to such an argument. Federal courts have

been pretty consistent in their 200-year march to broaden federal power and limit state power. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy sided with the U.S. Department of Justice and agreed that Congress does have the authority to regulate firearms and that this “had long ago been decided in [the] courts.”

Still, those who thought taking their fight to federal court was a worthwhile venture were not deterred from what many view as a resounding defeat. Gary Marbut, president of the Montana Shooting Sports Association, vowed that he would fight on despite the ruling. “We've believed all along that the federal District Court cannot grant the relief we request. We seek to overturn a half-century of bad precedent.... Only the U.S. Supreme Court can do that. In that light, the pending dismissal by the District Court means little except that we are now free to move to the next step of the process.”

## Top Gun

The sign over the Dallas police shooting range states “If you ain't hittin', you ain't winnin'.” Twenty-seven-year-old Paul Ford, of the Dallas police force, exemplified that mentality when he took the title of “Top Gun” in an annual daylong competition “which features timed events, accuracy tasks and skills challenges” on September 21. The *Dallas Morning News* reports that Ford was runner-up last year, but his “laser-like focus” led him to the top of the 15th annual contest. The tests are not the typical pistol assessments that usually involve shooting 50 rounds from 25 yards and closer. Some involved shooting targets from 50 yards and another involved hitting targets “while holding a 30-pound briefcase in one hand” or making it through an obstacle course involving terrorist targets and paper “hostages.” As a result of his display of skill, Ford won a new pistol and a flat-screen TV, but he admits he doesn't have any use for either. “I don't need another pistol, and I don't need another TV.... I'm not complaining, but I'm not sure what I'm going to do.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



## Incremental Amnesty

**ITEM:** *The Wall Street Journal* for October 8 reported that President Obama is likely to scale back his legislative plans next year, citing immigration reform as an example. White House officials have indicated “a willingness to push through piecemeal changes to immigration law, instead of a comprehensive bill that combines border controls and immigration law enforcement with a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country.”

*The Journal* continued: “Under the incremental scenario, the White House would embrace Republican proposals to step up immigration law enforcement and border and port security in exchange for measures such as the DREAM Act, which would give illegal immigrant children a path to citizenship through military or public service. White House officials could add an agricultural-workers program to that bill but put off dealing with the bulk of illegal immigrants until later.”

**ITEM:** *The Politico* blog for October 3 reported that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) had introduced an immigration bill right before the congressional “midterm election break so he could get ‘lame-duck movement’ on the legislation after Nov. 2. ‘A lot of senators are retiring and might be willing to look at the issue,’ Menendez said on CNN’s ‘State of the Union.’”

**ITEM:** *The Washington Post* for October 7 reported that the Obama administration had just announced “that in the past year it has deported a record number of unauthorized immigrants — more than 392,000, about half of whom were convicted criminals.”

**CORRECTION:** Led by the White House, the political far Left is not giving up on its desire to grant amnesty to the at least 11 million illegal aliens in the United States, though the Democrats are now being forced to try to implement their plans in a piecemeal fashion. The idea of even considering a move to push through an extremely unpopular amnesty bill in a lame-duck session — with legislators poking their finger in the eyes of the electorate on their way out the door because the de-

**Wayward watchmen:** Though Barack Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano often speak of securing our borders, there is little to suggest that is their objective. On the other hand, there is much to suggest the opposite, such as a vote of no-confidence by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents against the Obama administration.



AP Images

parting lawmakers have nothing to lose — shows how important this move is to them.

Meanwhile, the administration and its echo chamber in the mass media are touting some of the increased deportation numbers without proper context. This use of selective statistics tries to paint the administration as stringent on illegals, which is far from the case.

The Department of Homeland Security, for example, points to how many “criminals” it is deporting, especially compared to the Bush administration, which set the bar very low. But these illegals — and words do have meaning in some quarters — are all law-breakers. It’s just that the administration either ignores outright or chooses only to enforce some of the laws of the land. At the same time, the administration is also suing the state of Arizona to prevent it from enforcing its own laws dealing with illegal-immigration issues that are being ignored by Washington.

The driving motivation is not to *be* tough, but to *appear* tough. So it is that Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano puts on a game face and asserts: “This Administration takes very, very seriously the responsibility to secure the borders and enforce immigration laws.” This from an administration that has been providing work permits to illegals who are detained during all-too-infrequent raids of worksites. This from an administration

that has in effect apologized to the “human rights” pooh-bahs at the United Nations for Arizona’s actions to protect itself. (The State Department acted contrite for this alleged U.S. inadequacy, but explained that the fault “is being addressed in a court action.” Members of the UN Human Rights Council include such paragons of civic virtue as Cuba, China, and Libya.)

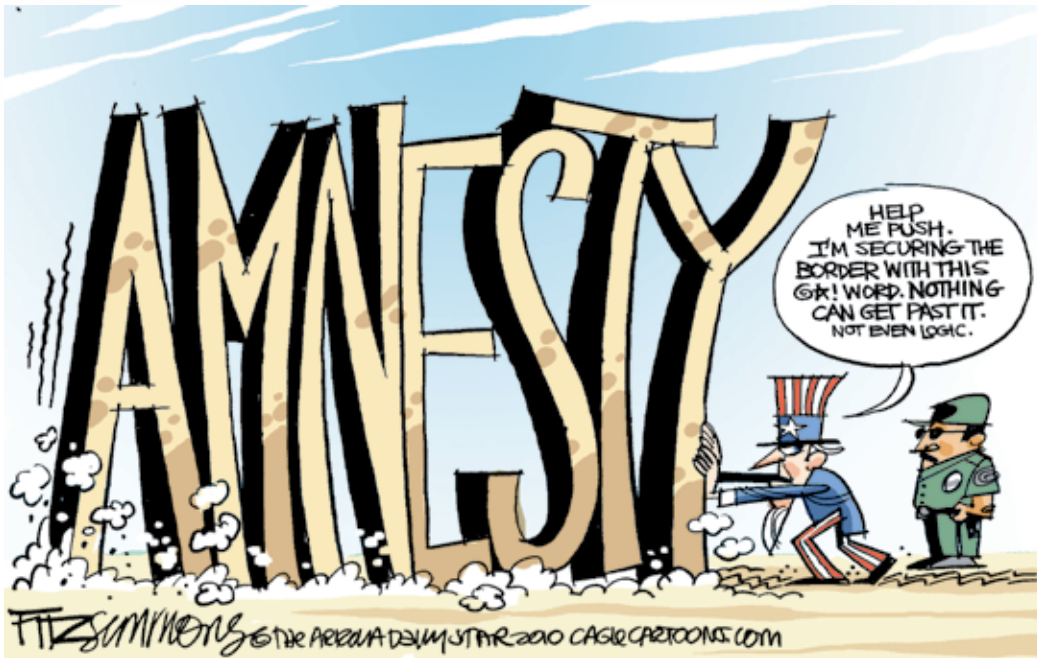
Homeland Security isn’t even enforcing many of its own deportation orders. As a result, only about half of those illegal aliens facing deportation even bother to appear for their court dates, say immigration experts. In its annual report covering the year 2008, Homeland Security disclosed that there were some 558,000 fugitive aliens — people who had fled court or disobeyed orders to leave the country — who had avoided removal from the United States, as was pointed out in an article in late September by a former immigration judge in Miami. Writing in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Mark Metcalf observed:

Under the Obama administration, this number [of fugitive aliens] has grown. Some 715,000 people now reside in the U.S. that DHS refuses to deport. In one year, unenforced deportation orders have climbed 28 percent. And the numbers keep climbing.

“[M]illions of illegal immigrants,”



Correction, Please!



one report states, “may avoid deportation” because DHS declines to enforce valid removal orders, discourages routine police reports and dismisses cases it was prosecuting. This failure of enforcement was underscored in an August no-confidence vote by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents against Obama officials. Appointees, the agents declared, had “abandoned [ICE’s] core mission of enforcing immigration laws.”

There is yet another aspect of the “criminal alien” deportation totals that the Obama administration is omitting — namely, when those arrests were made for the other serious crimes in question.

The hyped success of deportations in fiscal 2009, as shown by the Matt Mayer of the Heritage Foundation (which does not take a particularly firm stance on this issue), is “largely due” to the efforts under the Bush administration. “Specifically, the large numbers of arrests made in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 by the Bush Administration made the Obama Administration’s 2009 deportation numbers possible. After all, the Obama Administration’s deportation numbers are largely comprised of illegal immigrants who were arrested

between 2005 and 2008 and, having completed their sentences, were deported in 2009.”

The Obama administration has been purposely looking the other way until it finds itself forced to deal with certain crimes. There has been no crackdown on the initial law-breaking of illegal entry to the United States. As the *Washington Post* admitted (in paragraph 12 of the above-cited 14-paragraph story): “Immigrants who overstay their visas or enter the country without authorization are not considered criminals; unauthorized immigration is an administrative violation. The Obama administration has sought to distinguish such immigrants from those who have committed crimes.”

Some criminals, that is, are more equal than others. Apparently the favored law-breakers are those who tend, in large numbers, to vote for Democrats. A key goal of so-called immigration reform, it should be no surprise, is to recruit voters for the Democratic Party.

Speaking of the November 2008 elections, Eliseo Medina of the Service Employees International Union commented that Latinos “voted overwhelmingly for progressive candidates. Barack Obama got two out of every three voters that showed up.... We reform the immigration laws, it

puts 12 million people on the path to citizenship and eventually voters. Can you imagine if we have even the same ratio, two out of three? If we get 8 million new voters that care about our issues and will be voting, we will create a governing coalition for the long term, not just for an election cycle.”

As it happens, the official statistics reveal that basic enforcement of the law has tanked. According to Representative Lamar Smith of Texas, the ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, administrative arrests of illegal immigrant workers are down 77 percent under President Obama, criminal arrests are down 60 percent, and convictions are off by 68 percent. Moreover, notes Smith: “Worksite enforcement has been all but forgotten by the Obama Administration.”

In other words, the system is not “broken” — it is being ignored. And one doesn’t fix this by making 11 million aliens instantly legal. Following the amnesty of 1986, the number of illegals in the United States tripled over the next two decades. When you prove that the laws of the land mean nothing, the next wave of would-be illegals gets the message.

Often omitted from consideration is the unfairness this represents to the millions of *legal* immigrants who played by the rules. As former immigration judge Metcalf has noted, every single year the United States admits about 1.5 million immigrants, on average, to citizenship or permanent residence — “more than all nations of the world combined.” In some states, legal immigrants can’t get, for example, in-state tuition rates for college. However, the so-called DREAM Act — which still could be considered this year — would grant *illegals* that special tax-subsidized rate.

Turning illegals into “legals” would hardly be a solution. The millions of illegals, as noted by Mark Krikorian on FoxNews.com, come with a significant burden to U.S. taxpayers, in large part because of their low levels of education. He continues:

The majority of families headed by illegal aliens live in or near poverty and are uninsured, which is why fully 40 percent of them use at least one major welfare program. And it's their presence here, not mainly their legal status, which creates these costs; for instance, if they were to be legalized, an estimated 3.1 million would qualify for Medicaid, costing more than \$8 billion each year.

What's more, the 7 million or so illegal aliens who have jobs are competing directly with less-educated and young American workers, whose unemployment rate is twice the national average.

Is there any wonder that a number of states are following the lead of Arizona? They are trying to protect their citizens, while many of the folks in Washington merely see potential votes if only they

can keep the handouts flowing. While no time is a good time to toss away the sovereign right to protect one's borders, in this economy it would be even more costly. Testifying before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, Border Security and International Law in late September, Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies toted up some of the expense:

Census Bureau data indicate that one-third of those without health insurance in the United States are either immigrants (legal or illegal) or U.S.-born children (under 18) of immigrants. One-fourth of children living in poverty in the United States have immigrant fathers. In 2008, 53 percent of immigrant households with children used at least one major welfare program, primarily food assistance and Medicaid. These fiscal

costs are incurred despite immigrants' high rates of labor force participation.

Meanwhile, one of the favorite euphemisms among politicians who want amnesty but don't have the political courage to say that outright, is a desire to put such people on the "pathway to citizenship."

We already have that route. First, you apply for citizenship. Then you spend five years in the country without breaking the law — as opposed to breaking the law to enter the country. After that, there's a fairly simple test. Even a few lawmakers in Washington might pass, although currently all too many appear ignorant of their constitutional responsibilities. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 2)

# The Founding Fathers & Anonymous Political Speech

The word has been handed down, from MSNBC's Rachel Maddow all the way up to President Barack Obama. Political speech that isn't reported to the federal government is a "threat to our democracy," in the words of President Obama. The Democratic National Committee has released a television ad accusing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce of diverting foreign members' dues toward political ads in the United States.

Yet the history of the American Republic reveals that the Founding Fathers not only supported anonymous political writing and speech by enacting the First Amendment, they regularly engaged in anonymous political speech themselves. Anonymous political speech is as American as the anonymously written *Federalist Papers*, which convinced Americans to adopt our Constitution. Or, for that matter, the *Anti-Federalist Papers*, some of which were written by Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee.

Political "progressives" are engaging in a coordinated attack against this constitutionally protected form of free speech. MSNBC commentator Rachel Maddow, interviewing the candidates for Oregon's 4th Congressional District, noted that Concerned Taxpayers of America funded \$150,000 in television commercials supporting the Republican challenger in the race, Dr. Art Robinson. In advance of interviewing the incumbent Democrat Pete DeFazio, Maddow opined that anonymous television advertisements that express political opinions were:

Money-laundering, that's what it is, to take over the Congress of the United States of America. There is no ceiling on what you can spend. This is the way the elections are running right now.... And this, this is the context in which every individual American citizen of average, mediate, moderate or extreme means every American in the country is deciding whether or not it's a good idea to donate 25 bucks to their chosen candidate to try to make a human-sized difference in this year's elections. What do you think your odds are of making a difference, a human-sized difference, as a regular human, a regular citizen if this is the landscape in which our elections get decided now? ... You don't stand a chance.

What Maddow was describing is not elections but free political speech, the kind of speech the First Amendment was spe-



cifically written to protect. The First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." Maddow assumes that the American people are mindless morons who will do the bidding of whatever the anonymous voices on the television tell them, and that an individual with a powerful message can never obtain a large audience through the Internet. Of course, the biggest of all money influences in the political campaign is working against Robinson: federal handouts. Federal transfer

payments to farmers, the poor, retired, union highway workers, state workers, local school officials, all are geared toward the age-old election strategy of "tax, spend, and elect" first perfected during Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal."

Maddow pressed Robinson: "Does the fact that the donations to this group are anonymous, does that bother you at all, just as an American? I mean, if you get elected in part, because this spending and then you find out it's from criminals or foreign interests or communists or something, wouldn't that bother you?"

The only wonder in Maddow's statement is why she left out that they could also be "baby-killers" and "wife-beaters." After all, the anonymous donors are backing a Republican, which in Maddow's worldview is a rough moral equivalent.

Days after the Maddow clash with Robinson, President Obama told the audience at a Philadelphia rally:

Thanks to a Supreme Court decision called *Citizens United*, they are being helped along this year by special interest groups that are spending unlimited amounts of money on attack ads ... just attacking people without ever disclosing who's behind all these attack ads. You don't know. It could be the oil industry. It could be the insurance industry. It could even be foreign-owned corporations. You don't know because they don't have to disclose. Now, that's not just a threat to Democrats — that's a threat to our democracy.

Of course, anonymous political speech is not a threat to our system of government. To the contrary, our political system is a direct by-product of anonymous political speech. Samuel Adams wrote anonymously almost constantly, and his anonymous writings as "Vindex" were a prime cause of the American Revolution. America is an independent nation in large part due to anonymous political speech. ■

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