

APATHY OR ACTION

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
KANSAS VETERANS REPUBLICAN CLUB MEETING
JAYHAWK HOTEL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1966
TOPEKA, KANSAS

IT IS CERTAINLY A PLEASURE AS A PAST OFFICER OF THIS NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION TO HAVE THE HONOR OF APPEARING HERE WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND REPUBLICAN FRIENDS FOR A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS. I KNOW MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB NOT ONLY APPRECIATE BUT EXPECT SHORT SPEECHES. WITH THIS IN MIND, LET ME VISIT BRIEFLY ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN KANSAS AND THE NATION.

ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT KANSAS TODAY IS THE ONLY "ALL" REPUBLICAN STATE IN THE NATION. THE ONLY STATE WITH A REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR, ALL REPUBLICAN STATE OFFICERS, REPUBLICAN CONTROL OF THE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE STATE SENATE AND AN ALL-REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. THIS IS AN HONOR, YES, BUT ONE I'M CERTAIN EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WILL BE HAPPY TO SHARE IN 1966 AND 1968 BECAUSE THE STAKES IN POLITICS ARE VERY HIGH THESE DAYS UNLESS WE ARE TO BECOME A ONE-PARTY NATION UNDER ONE-MAN RULE.

IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS, MANY AMERICANS WILL BE OBSERVING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 157TH ANNIVERSARY. IF LINCOLN IS REMEMBERED FOR ANYTHING BY YOUNG AND OLD, IT IS HIS HONESTY. I WANT TO DISCUSS LINCOLN'S HONESTY WITH YOU TODAY BECAUSE, AS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET DEMONSTRATES, THE WORDS HONESTY AND TRUTH ARE NOT NEARLY AS HALLOWED AS THEY WERE IN LINCOLN'S DAY. THE MENTION OF LINCOLN AND LBJ'S BUDGET MANIPULATIONS REMINDS ME OF A STORY ATTRIBUTED TO LINCOLN:

"OF A MENDACIOUS VISITOR LINCOLN SAID, "HE REMINDS ME OF AN OLD FISHERMAN I USED TO KNOW WHO GOT SUCH A REPUTATION FOR STRETCHING THE TRUTH THAT HE BOUGHT A PAIR OF SCALES AND INSITED ON WEIGHING EVERY FISH IN THE PRESENCE OF WITNESSES. ONE DAY A BABY WAS BORN NEXT DOOR AND

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THE DOCTOR BORROWED THE FISHERMAN'S SCALES. THE BABY WEIGHED FORTY-SEVEN POUNDS."

I BELIEVE IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER BE GIVEN THE TRUTH -- THE FACTS -- ABOUT THE COSTS OF SOME OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS LUMPED TOGETHER UNDER THE GALMOROUS TITLE, "THE GREAT SOCIETY". THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR BUREAUCRATIC FINANCIAL WIZARDS TO PRACTICE THEIR MUMBO-JUMBO MANIPULATIONS. THIS IS NO TIME TO PROVE THAT THE COMPUTER IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE -- NOT WITH THE COSTLY WAR GOING ON IN VIET NAM.

THE BUDGET PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS LAST MONDAY WAS A BAG OF FISCAL TRICKS. THERE ARE ALWAYS MANY UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING ANY BUDGET SUBMISSION MADE BY ANY PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE CLOUDS OF UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THIS "LBJ" BUDGET ARE INDEED VERY BLACK. THE UNDERESTIMATION OF THE DEFENSE NEED IS VISIBLE ON THE SURFACE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF GIMMICKS USED TO SHOW EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES IN AN UNREALISTIC LIGHT. DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS THE DEFICITS OF THE KENNEDY AND JOHNSON ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE EXCEEDED 31.5 BILLION DOLLARS. THIS DEFICIT, AND THE END IS BY NO MEANS IN SIGHT, IS GREATER THAN THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF THE NEW DEAL DURING THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1933 TO 1938. THIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DEFICIT WHICH IS EXPECTED AND PROJECTED FOR JUNE 30 THIS YEAR. THIS AMOUNT IS EQUIVALENT TO 6 BILLION A YEAR MORE THAN IS TAKEN IN. IT REPRESENTS 500 MILLION DOLLARS EVERY MONTH BEYOND OUR INCOME.

AS THE GREAT SENATOR FROM DELAWARE, JOHN J. WILLIAMS, STATED JUST LAST WEEK ----- THAT WHILE PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKED FOR LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE "TRUTH IN PACKAGING" AND "TRUTH IN LENDING" IN THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, IT WOULD BE COMMENDABLE TO HAVE "TRUTH IN GOVERNMENT" AND "TRUTH IN BUDGETING".

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THE PRESIDENT SAID NEXT YEAR'S DEFICIT, IF CONGRESS APPROVES ALL OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS, WILL BE ONLY 1.8 BILLION, "THE LOWEST IN MANY YEARS". SENATOR WILLIAMS SAYS A MORE CORRECT ESTIMATE OF THE DEFICIT -- (AND THIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A PROBABLE ACCOUNT FOR A LARGER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE WAR IN VIET NAM) -- WOULD BE 9.2 BILLION -- NOT 1.8 BILLION.

HOW DOES THE PRESIDENT ACHIEVE THIS FISCAL SLEIGHT OF HAND -- WELL IT'S SIMPLE. PRESIDENT JOHNSON ACCOMPLISHES THIS BY TREATING AS REGULAR INCOME SUCH ITEMS AS ACCELERATED TAX PAYMENTS, THE PROFIT FROM LOWERING THE CONTENT OF SILVER COINS, SALE OF COPPER FROM THE STOCKPILE, AND SIMILAR ITEMS. JOHNSON DOES NOT INCLUDE IN THIS CALCULATION THE REQUEST THAT THE REDUCTION IN TELEPHONE AND AUTOMOBILE TAXES BE RESTORED.

TAX ACCELERATION AND THE PROFIT ON THE NEW SILVER COINS ALONE WILL AMOUNT TO 7.44 BILLION IN FISCAL 1967.

NOW IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT AS REPUBLICANS WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY NOT JUST TO OTHER REPUBLICANS BUT TO ALL AMERICANS TO EXPOSE THE FISCAL SLEIGHT OF HAND EMPLOYED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION. THE ONLY WAY THESE DEFICITS CAN BE FINANCED IS BY BORROWING MONEY AND CHARGING IT UP TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN. IT'S ABOUT TIME THE REPUBLICANS AROUND THE COUNTRY "TOOK OFF THE GLOVES". THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION SHEDS MANY CROCODILE TEARS ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE AGED, BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY HAVE BEEN DOING MORE TO PAUPERIZE THE AGED IN THIS COUNTRY THAN ANY ADMINISTRATION IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA. THROUGH ITS INFLATIONARY POLICIES, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DESTROYED THE LIFE SAVINGS OF THE RETIRED PEOPLE BY DESTROYING THE PURCHASING POWER OF THEIR PENSIONS, THEIR LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES, AND OTHER SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, AND THEIR SAVINGS BONDS. PEOPLE ARE FINDING TODAY THAT THEY CANNOT MAKE BOTH ENDS MEET BECAUSE OF INFLATION, THOUGH THIS IS A PLANNED INFLATION OF

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THE "LBJ" ADMINISTRATION. THIS ADMINISTRATION SEES VIRTUE IN DEFICITS, THOUGH YOU WILL NOTICE THAT NOW WHEN INFLATION APPEARS TO BE GETTING NEARER AND NEARER, ADMINISTRATION BUREAUCRATS ARE BEGINNING TO PANIC AND ARE SUGGESTING NUMEROUS ONE-SHOT REMEDIES TO CORRECT THE DEFICITS. WHY IS IT THEY DO NOT DEMONSTRATE COURAGE AND ADVOCATE A PROGRAM OF REDUCING EXPENDITURES OR RAISING TAXES? DO THEY REALLY BELIEVE THEY CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS?

ONE OF THE BIG POLITICAL MYTHS IS THAT THE DEMOCRAT PARTY IS THE PARTY OF THE "LITTLE PEOPLE". AS THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER DEMOCRAT POLITICIANS REAP THE REWARDS OF THE "PRESIDENT'S CLUB", (AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP WITH DUES AT \$1000 PER PERSON), THIS MYTH IS EVEN HARDER TO BELIEVE. WHY NOT "TAKE OFF THE GLOVES" AND GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH? IF HISTORY OF INFLATION IN ANY COUNTRY IS STUDIED, YOU WILL FIND THAT INFLATION DOES NOT HURT THE BIG MEN. MOST OF THE INVESTMENTS OWNED BY SUCH PEOPLE CONSIST OF FIXED ASSETS, STOCKS, SECURITIES. IT IS THE WORKING MAN OR WORKING WOMAN TRYING TO LIVE ON A FIXED SALARY OR ON FIXED PENSIONS WHO REALLY SUFFER UNDER INFLATION, AND HE IS THE MAN WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD IT.

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT -- THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION IS LEADING US DOWN THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC ABSOLUTISM. EASY MONEY IS POLITICALLY POPULAR. EASY CREDIT IS POLITICALLY POPULAR. BIG FEDERAL SPENDING PROGRAMS ARE POLITICALLY POPULAR. TAX CUTS TO STIMULATE THE BOOM ARE POLITICALLY POPULAR. BIG WAGE INCREASES ARE POLITICALLY POPULAR. SO THE WHITE HOUSE SUPPORTED OR PERMITTED ALL OF THAT.

BUT THERE IS A HITCH. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE POLICIES ARE NOT POLITICALLY POPULAR. THEY ARE DISASTROUS -- POLITICALLY AS WELL AS ECONOMICALLY -- BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES EVENTUALLY ARE HIGHER PRICES, REDUCED PURCHASING POWER, AND GALLOPING INFLATION FOLLOWED BY A CRISIS. THE ADMINISTRATION ISN'T POLITICALLY STUPID, JUST SHORT SIGHTED. IT HAS HIT ON A GIMMICK IT

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THINKS WILL AVERT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS IRRESPONSIBILITY AND PERPETUATE ITS POWER. IT IS A SIMPLE GIMMICK -- THROW AWAY PROVEN PRINCIPLES AND ADOPT A NEW RULE BOOK CALLED "THE NEW ECONOMICS". IN ESSENCE, IT IS THIS. GOVERNMENT CAN GO MERRILY ALONG WITH ITS POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT INFLATIONARY ECONOMIC POLICIES -- BUT PRICES WILL NEVER GO UP. WE CAN HAVE BIG SPENDING AND TAX CUTS, SOFT MONEY AND EASY CREDIT, WAGE INCREASES AND MONOPOLY POWER CONCENTRATIONS -- BUT THE CHICKENS WILL NEVER COME HOME TO ROOST. WHY NOT? BECAUSE, WHEN ANY MAJOR INDUSTRY NEEDS A PRICE RISE TO EXPAND AND PRODUCE IN THE FACE OF RISING COSTS, GOVERNMENT SAYS "NO". GOVERNMENT CLUBS INDUSTRY --- NOT LABOR --- WITH A GUIDEPOST. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

THE ECONOMICS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION ARE PHONY. THE END RESULT IS A CONTROLLED ECONOMY, DOMINATED BY GIANT GOVERNMENT CONTROLLING GIANT COMPANIES AND GIANT UNIONS, AND YES, EVEN KANSAS AGRICULTURE. WILL IT LAST FOREVER -- OF COURSE NOT. AND WHEN THE DAY OF RECKONING COMES AS BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY, THE PEOPLE WILL PAY, AND ALREADY THE PRICE RISE IS ON.

THE BATTLE LINES ARE FIXED. ~~THIS IS NOT AN ADMINISTRATION~~ ONE CAN TREAT WITH KID GLOVES. IT IS A BARE KNUCKLES CROWD, AND REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO RIP IT APART, OR REMAIN A FEEBLE MINORITY.

REPUBLICANS ARE RECOVERING STRONGLY FROM THE SHOCK OF THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE FULL REALIZATION THAT UNLESS THE HEALTH OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND THE AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS IS RESTORED, ALL ELSE IS NOTHING. REPUBLICANS REJECT THE PRESIDENT'S IMPLICATION IN THE STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE THAT THOSE WHO DON'T VOTE FOR ALL OF HIS GREAT SOCIETY PROGRAMS -- EVEN IN A TIME OF WAR -- ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE POOR. REPUBLICANS HAVE BEEN BEATEN WITH THIS KIND OF DEMAGOGIC STICK SINCE THE DAYS OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL. IT IS TIME REPUBLICANS, INDEPENDENTS,

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AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, CONCERNED DEMOCRATS RIGHTLY POINT OUT THAT TRAGICALLY FEW OF THE POOR HAVE RECEIVED ANY OF THE MILLIONS OF TAXPAYER'S DOLLARS THAT HAVE BEEN POURED OUT SO FAR IN THE NAME OF THE WAR ON POVERTY. THE MONEY HASN'T REACHED THE POOR, AND WHETHER IT HAS PURCHASED POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION ALSO IS QUESTIONABLE IN VIEW OF WHAT I BELIEVE IS A REAL REPUBLICAN RESURGENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

WHAT IS NECESSARY TO BE DONE WILL BE DONE, FOR ALL GROUPS OF OUR CITIZENS, BUT REPUBLICANS ARE NOT GOING TO APPROVE TAX INCREASES MERELY TO SUPPORT EVER GREATER EFFORTS TO CONVERT THE COUNTRY IN A STATE OF DEPENDENCY ON WASHINGTON -- A WELFARE STATE.

WE CAN'T GO WITHOUT GUNS, BUT THE BUTTER WILL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE THINNER -- OR PERHAPS THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD USE OLEO.

THE FACT IS THAT SINCE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LEFT OFFICE WITH A SURPLUS IN JANUARY, 1961, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN THE RED EVERY YEAR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- ANY MORE THAN THE HOUSEWIFE -- CANNOT SPEND MORE THAN IS TAKEN IN WITHOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. (IT'S HIGH TIME TO GET SOME TRUTH IN GOVERNMENT, TO RETURN TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF HONESTY, PARTICULARLY ON FEDERAL INCOME OUTGO. IT'S TIME THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DEMANDED OF EVERYONE IN CONGRESS, REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, THAT THE BRAKES BE APPLIED. IT'S TIME TO STOP THE DEMAGOGUE DEAD IN HIS TRACKS -- WHETHER HE BE A REPUBLICAN OR A DEMOCRAT. IT'S TIME TO STOP THE HYPOCRISY OF THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE WHETHER THEY BE REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS. IT'S TIME THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BOTH REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, AND INDEPENDENTS, NOT ONLY LOOK AT, BUT ANALYZE, THE VOTING RECORDS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHETHER THEY BE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT. THIS IS NO TIME FOR DOUBLE TALK. THIS IS NO TIME FOR POLITICS. THIS IS NO TIME TO JUSTIFY "FEDERAL AID" BECAUSE YOU OR YOUR COMMUNITY MAY BENEFIT BECAUSE IT MAY MEAN VOTES FOR THE POLITICIAN.))

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I SAY IT IS TIME TO STOP, TO THINK, AND TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER TO SHAKE OFF THE "FEDERAL ADDICTION" TO ONE AID PROGRAM OR ANOTHER. IT'S TIME TO SHELVE THE LABELS. IT'S TIME WE AS REPUBLICANS UNITE AND TELL THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA OUR STORY -- THE TRUE STORY AND OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE TREND CONTINUES.

WHEN PEOPLE MARVEL AT OUR CONSTITUTION AND OUR FINELY-BALANCED MECHANISM OF SELF GOVERNMENT, THEY OFTEN FEEL THE FRAMERS OF OUR CONSTITUTION WERE MEN SET APART FROM OTHERS WHO HAD TRIED SO MANY TIMES BEFORE AND FAILED. IN ANY LOOK AT THE BACKGROUND TO OUR CONSTITUTION, THE QUESTION ARISES, WHY AND HOW DID THE PEOPLE, -- OUR FOREFATHERS -- WITH ONLY THEMSELVES AS A SOURCE OF ALL POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL POWER DESIGN THIS FINELY-BALANCED MECHANISM OF SELF-GOVERNMENT? WHY WERE THE STATES PRESERVED AND ASSIGNED THEIR VITAL ROLES? WHY WERE POWERS DIVIDED BETWEEN SEVERAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND WHY WERE THE CHECKS AND BALANCES WRITTEN IN? WHAT, IN SHORT, WAS THE REASONING BEHIND IT ALL?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND PROBABLY THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE, THE FOUNDING FATHERS FEARED THE CENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWER. THEY FEARED IT FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, ARCHITECT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND AN INTELLECTUAL AS WELL AS A POLITICAL LEADER OF THE TIMES, HELPED FASHION THIS THINKING. IN HIS NOTES "IN VIRGINIA", JEFFERSON NOTED SIGNIFICANTLY:

"ALL THE AUTHORITY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE" -- AND IT WAS JEFFERSON'S INFLUENCE, PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BEGINNING THE CONSTITUTION WITH THE PHRASE: "WE THE PEOPLE" AND FOR THE WORDS IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS RESERVING THE POWER: "TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE".

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IN ADDITION TO ATTEMPTED SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SUCCESSIVE CENTRAL POWER, THE FOUNDING FATHERS FORGED, OR THOUGHT THAT THEY FORGED, A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN THE THREE MAIN BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I NEED NOT TELL YOU SOMETHING HAS APPARENTLY HAPPENED TO THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. EVEN THOSE WHO ARE PRIVATELY PLEASED WITH THE DETERIORATION OF OUR CHECKS AND BALANCES CANNOT DENY THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DETERIORATION.

THE LOSERS IN THIS STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE CHECKS AND BALANCES IN BALANCE HAVE BEEN THE LEGISLATURES, THE CONGRESS, AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS. THE WINNERS, IF ANY THERE BE, ARE THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIARY. THOUGH EVERY CITIZEN WILL BE THE LOSER IF A GOOD CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS NOT STARTED SOON TO HALT THIS EROSION.

AS THE POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE IS DRAINED FROM THE CONGRESS AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, IT IS TAKEN FROM THE VERY BODIES CLOSEST AND MOST RESPONSIVE TO THE REAL PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE.

THOSE WHO ARE CRYING OUT TODAY IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS THAT THE CONSTITUTION MUST BE ALTERED IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE VERY PROGRESS WITH WHICH THEY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONSTITUTION. THEY SEEM TO FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONSTITUTION, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS TO WHICH THEY CLAIM WE MUST NOW ADJUST.

THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM DOES NOT COME FROM THOSE WHO ATTACK IT DIRECTLY, HOWEVER, BUT FROM THOSE WHO ARE CHANGING OUR SYSTEM LITTLE BY LITTLE AND FROM THOSE WHO FAIL TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THIS EROSION.

WHEN THE CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED SOME 178 YEARS AGO, ITS AUTHORS

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PLEGGED TO DEFEND IT WITH THEIR "LIVES, FORTUNES, AND SACRED HONOR".
SHOULD WE WHO HAVE BENEFITED SO MUCH FROM THEIR GIFT DO LESS?

THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES ON BATTLEFIELDS
AROUND THE WORLD AND ARE DOING THE SAME TODAY TO PROTECT OUR PROUD HERITAGE.
BUT NOW, AS DANIEL WEBSTER ONCE WARNED, THE CONSTITUTION IS BEING ATTACKED
IN A "SUBTLER FASHION".

WE ARE WITNESSING AN EROSION OF THE ROCK UPON WHICH THIS NATION
WAS FOUNDED, AND I VERY STRONGLY FEEL THAT CONGRESS HAS LOST ITS COEQUAL
PLACE WITH THE OTHER TWO BRANCHES IN OUR SCHEME OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT
THE SUPREME COURT IS CONFUSED IN INTERPRETING THE CONSTITUTION WITH AMENDING
THE CONSTITUTION.

THE POWER TO INTERPRET IS THE POWER TO ASCERTAIN ITS MEANING, WHILE
THE POWER TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IS THE POWER TO CHANGE ITS MEANING.
THE TRUTH IS THAT ON MANY OCCASIONS DURING RECENT YEARS, THE SUPREME COURT
HAS USURPED AND EXERCISED THE POWER OF THE CONGRESS AND THE STATES TO AMEND
THE CONSTITUTION WHILE PROFESSING TO INTERPRET IT. FOR SOLID EXAMPLES,
WE NEED ONLY TO LOOK AT THE COURT'S TREATMENT OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT,
PARTICULARLY THE "EQUAL PROTECTION" AND "DUE PROCESS" CLAUSES, FOR IN MODERN
TIMES THE SUPREME COURT UNDER THE GUISE OF INTERPRETING THE FOURTEENTH
AMENDMENT, PARTICULARLY THESE CLAUSES, HAS PROCEEDED TO APPLY THE BULK OF
THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO STATE AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO REQUIRE THE STATES TO CONFORM
TO FEDERAL STANDARDS. FOR SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, WE CAN LOOK TO THE PRAYER
DECISIONS, THE REAPPORTIONMENT DECISION, AND THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE
INTERSTATE COMMERCE CLAUSE. WE ALSO HAVE SOLID EXAMPLES OF CHIPPING AWAY
AT AMERICA'S GREATEST INVENTION -- OUR CONSTITUTION -- BY THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH. THE QUESTION THEN IS, WHAT ARE WE AS INDIVIDUALS GOING TO DO ABOUT

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KEEPING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS AND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC FOR OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY? THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER IS A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM, AND OUR OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM TODAY SHOULD BE NO LESS INTENSE THAN THOSE OF EARLY DAY PATRIOTS. SOME OBSERVERS OF THE CURRENT SCENE HAVE NOTED WITH A GREAT DEGREE OF APPREHENSION THE GROWTH OF WHAT IS SOMETIMES CALLED "SPECTATORISM".

QUITE SIMPLY, THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE APPARENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPT TO GO THROUGH LIFE AS SPECTATORS -- OBSERVING, WATCHING, SEEING THE COURSE OF HISTORY MOVE ABOUT THEM WITHOUT ACTUALLY BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO PLACE SELF ABOVE SERVICE, ABOVE PARTICIPATION. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO BUSY TO SERVE ON A COMMUNITY BETTERMENT COMMITTEE, TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICS, LARGE OR SMALL, TO HELP WITH THE PTA OR THE CHARITY DRIVE OR THE LITTLE LEAGUE OR THEIR CHURCH OR THEIR BOY AND GIRL SCOUT TROOPS, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

TRAGICALLY, THE SPECTATOR STATISTICS SHOW THAT AT LEAST 38 PERCENT OF THE QUALIFIED AMERICANS DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO GET OUT AND VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION. WITH THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT ENVISIONED BY OUR FOREFATHERS, A GOOD GOVERNMENT ISN'T A SPECTATOR SPORT -- NOT, THAT IS, IF IT IS GOING TO SUCCEED.

FREEDOM, ONCE LOST, IS RARELY WON. THE APATHY, THE INDIFFERENCE, AND THE INACTION OF ANY ONE SINGLE GENERATION COULD DESTROY FREEDOM FOR ALL TIME, SO IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL OF US TO "GET OFF THE BENCH" IN 1966 FOR THOSE CANDIDATES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING AMERICA'S GREATEST INVENTION. YES, IF YOU PLEASE, THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEXT GENERATION -- NOT JUST THE NEXT ELECTION.

WHAT WILL IT BE --- ACTION OR APATHY --- THE CHOICE IS OURS!!!