



THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF FREEDOM

- Ludwig von Mises

{Professor Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973), was the outstanding representative of the so-called "Austrian School" of economics. He was world-renowned for his research, writing, and teaching, and long served as a member of the Staff of *The Foundation for Economic Education* (FEE).

Publication of *The Theory of Money and Credit* in 1912 won him early recognition as one of Europe's foremost economists. Among his many other books and articles, one of his most important contributions is his *Socialism*, first published in 1922.

However, he is best known for his work published in the United States, notably *Omnipotent Government* (1944), *Bureaucracy* (1944), *Planned Chaos* (1947), *Human Action* (1949), *Planning For Freedom* (1952), *The Anti-Capitalist Mentality* (1956), *Theory and History* (1957), and *Epistemological Problems of Economics* (1960).

In 1926, Dr. Mises founded the *Austrian Institute of Business Cycle Research*. From then until the *Anschluss* of Austria by Germany in 1938, the Institute was one of the centers of economic and statistical research in Europe. For more than twenty years, Dr. Mises taught economics at the University of Vienna. From 1934 to 1940, he occupied the chair of International Economic Relations at the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva, Switzerland. He lectured as a guest at various universities and institutions in Great Britain, the United States, Italy, the Netherlands, and Mexico.

The following essay first appeared in the April 1960 issue of *The Freeman*, was later reprinted in its May 1996 issue, and appears here again courtesy of FEE and for the benefit of freedom-loving peoples everywhere.}

Animals are driven by instinctive urges. They yield to the impulse which prevails at the moment and peremptorily asks for satisfaction. They are the puppets of their appetites. Man's eminence is to be seen in the fact that he chooses between alternatives. He regulates his behavior deliberately. He can master his impulses and desires; he has the power to suppress wishes the satisfaction of which would force him to renounce the attainment of more important goals. In short: man acts; he purposively aims at ends chosen.

This is what we have in mind in stating that man is a moral person, responsible for his conduct.

make sense only when addressing individuals who are free agents. They are vain when directed to slaves. It is useless to tell a bondsman what is morally good and what is morally bad. He is not free to determine his comportment; he is forced to obey the orders of his master. It is difficult to blame him if he prefers yielding to the commands of his master to the most cruel punishment threatening not only him but also the members of his family.

This is why freedom is not only a political postulate, but no less a postulate of every religious or secular morality.

Freedom as a Postulate of Morality

All the teachings and precepts of ethics, whether based upon a religious creed or whether based upon a secular doctrine like that of the Stoic philosophers, presuppose this moral autonomy of the individual and therefore appeal to the individual's conscience. They presuppose that the individual is free to choose among various modes of conduct and require him to behave in compliance with definite rules, the rules of morality. Do the right things, shun the bad things.

It is obvious that the exhortations and admonishments of morality

The Struggle for Freedom

Yet for thousands of years a considerable part of mankind was either entirely or at least in many regards deprived of the faculty to choose between what is right and what is wrong. In the status society of days gone by, the freedom to act according to their own choice was, for the lower strata of society, the great majority of the population, seriously restricted by a rigid system of controls. An outspoken formulation of this principle was the statute of the Holy Roman Empire that conferred upon the princes and counts of the Reich (Empire) the power and the right to determine the religious allegiance of their subjects.

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To those who consent, no injustice is done

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The Orientals meekly acquiesced in this state of affairs. But the Christian peoples of Europe and their scions that settled in overseas territories never tired in their struggle for liberty. Step by step they abolished all status and caste privileges and disabilities until they finally succeeded in establishing the system that the harbingers of totalitarianism try to smear by calling it the bourgeois system.

The Supremacy of the Consumers

The economic foundation of this bourgeois system is the market economy in which the consumer is sovereign. The consumer, i.e., everybody, determines by his buying or abstention from buying what should be produced, in what quantity, and of what quality. The businessmen are forced by the instrumentality of profit and loss to obey the orders of the consumers. Only those enterprises can flourish that supply in the best possible and cheapest way those commodities and services which the buyers are most anxious to acquire. Those who fail to satisfy the public suffer losses and are finally forced to go out of business.

In the precapitalistic ages the rich were the owners of large landed estates. They or their ancestors had acquired their property as gifts --- feuds or fiefs --- from the sovereign who, with their aid, had conquered the country and subjugated its inhabitants. These aristocratic landowners were real lords as they did not depend on the patronage of buyers. But the rich of a capitalistic industrial society are subject to the supremacy of the market. They acquire their wealth by serving the consumers better than other people do and they forfeit their wealth when other people satisfy the wishes of the consumers better or cheaper than they do. In the free market economy the owners of capital are forced to invest it in those lines in which it best serves the public. Thus ownership of capital goods is continually shifted into the hands of those who have best succeeded in serving the consumers. In the market economy private property is in this sense a public service imposing upon the owners the responsibility of employing it in the best interests of the sovereign consumers. This is what economists mean when they call

the market economy a democracy in which every penny gives a right to vote.

The Political Aspects of Freedom

Representative government is the political corollary of the market economy. The same spiritual movement that created modern capitalism substituted elected office-holders for the authoritarian rule of absolute kings and hereditary aristocracies. It was this much-decried bourgeois liberalism that brought freedom of conscience, of thought, of speech, and of the press and put an end to the intolerant persecution of dissenters.

"All the teachings and precepts of ethics, whether based upon a religious creed or whether based upon a secular doctrine like that of the Stoic philosophers, presuppose this moral autonomy of the individual and therefore appeal to the individual's conscience."

A free country is one in which every citizen is free to fashion his life according to his own plans. He is free to

compete on the market for the most desirable jobs and on the political scene for the highest offices. He does not depend more on other people's favor than these others depend on his favor. If he wants to succeed on the market, he has to satisfy the consumers; if he wants to succeed in public affairs he has to satisfy the voters. This system has brought to the capitalistic countries of Western Europe, America, and Australia an unprecedented increase in population figures and the highest standard of living ever known in history. The much talked-about common man has at his disposal amenities of which the richest men in precapitalistic ages did not even dream. He is in a position to enjoy the spiritual and intellectual achievements of science, poetry, and art that in earlier days were accessible only to a small elite of well-to-do people. And he is free to worship as his conscience tells him.

"A man who criticizes the conduct of business affairs and pretends to know better methods for the provision of the consumers is just an idle babbling."

The Socialist Misrepresentation of the Market Economy

All the facts about the operation of the capitalistic system are misrepresented and distorted by the politicians and writers who arrogated to themselves the label of liberalism, the school of thought that in the nineteenth

century crushed the arbitrary rule of monarchs and aristocrats and paved the way for free trade and enterprise. As these advocates of a return to despotism see it, all the evils that plague mankind are due to sinister machinations on the part of big business. What is needed to bring about wealth and happiness for all decent people is to put the corporations under strict government control. They admit, although only obliquely, that this means the adoption of socialism, the system of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. But they protest that socialism will be something entirely different in the countries of Western civilization from what it is in Russia. And anyway, they say, there is no other method to deprive the mammoth corporations of the enormous power they have acquired and to prevent them from further damaging the interests of the people.

Against all this fanatical propaganda there is need to emphasize again and again the truth that it is big business that brought about the unprecedented improvement of the masses' standard of living. Luxury goods for a comparatively small number of well-to-do can be produced by small-size enterprises. But the fundamental principle of capitalism is to produce for the satisfaction of the wants of the many. The same people who are employed by the big corporations are the main consumers of the goods turned out. If you look around in the household of an average American wage-earner, you will see for whom the wheels of the machines are turning. It is big business that makes all the achievements of modern technology accessible to the common man. Everybody is benefited by the high productivity of big-scale production.

It is silly to speak of the "power" of big business. The very mark of capitalism is that supreme power in all economic matters is vested in the consumers. All big enterprises grew from

modest beginnings into bigness because the patronage of the consumers made them grow. It would be impossible for small or medium-size firms to turn out those products which no present-day American would like to do without. The bigger a corporation is, the more does it depend on the consumers' readiness to buy its wares. It was the wishes --- or, as some say, the folly --- of the consumers that drove the automobile industry into the production of ever bigger cars and force it today to manufacture smaller cars. Chain stores and department

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"Socialism is not a movement of the people. It is a movement of the intellectuals, originated, led and controlled by the intellectuals" - Ayn Rand

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stores are under the necessity to adjust their operations daily anew to the satisfaction of the changing wants of their customers. The fundamental law of the market is: the customer is always right.

A man who criticizes the conduct of business affairs and pretends to know better methods for the provision of the consumers is just an idle babbler. If he thinks that his own designs are better, why does he not try them himself? There are in this country always capitalists in search of a profitable investment of their funds who are ready to provide the capital required for any reasonable innovations. The public is always eager to buy what is better or cheaper, or better and cheaper. What counts in the market is not fantastic reveries, but doing. It was not *talking* that made the "tycoons" rich, but service to the customers.

Capital Accumulation Benefits All of the People

It is fashionable nowadays to pass over in silence the fact that all economic betterment depends on saving and the accumulation of capital. None of the marvelous achievements of science and technology could have been practically utilized if the capital required had not previously been made available. What prevents the economically backward nations from taking full advantage of all the Western methods of production, and thereby keeps their masses poor, is not unfamiliarity with the teachings of technology but the insufficiency of their capital. One badly misjudges the problems facing the underdeveloped countries if one asserts that what they lack is technical knowledge, the "know-how." Their business-

men and their engineers, most of them graduates of the best schools of Europe and America, are well acquainted with the state of contemporary applied science. What ties their hands is a shortage of capital.

A hundred years ago America was even poorer than these backward nations. What made the United States become the most affluent country of the world was the fact that the "rugged individualism" of the years before the New Deal did not place too serious obstacles in the way of enterprising men. Businessmen became rich because they consumed only a small part of their profits and plowed the much greater part back into their businesses. Thus they enriched themselves and all of the people. For it was this accumulation of capital that raised the marginal productivity of labor and thereby wage rates.

"In fact the prices of the market reflect not only 'material concerns' --- like getting food, shelter, and other amenities --- but no less those concerns which are commonly called spiritual or higher or nobler."

Under capitalism the acquisitiveness of the individual businessman benefits not only himself but also all other people. There is a reciprocal relation between his acquiring wealth by serving the consumers and accumulating capital and the improvement of the standard of living of the wage-earners who form the majority of the consumers. The masses are in their capacity both as wage-earners and as consumers interested in the flowering of business. This is what the old liberals had in mind when they declared that in the market economy there prevails a harmony of the true interests of all groups of the population.

It is in the moral and mental atmosphere of this capitalistic system that the American citizen lives and works. There are still in some parts of the United States conditions left which appear highly unsatisfactory to the prosperous inhabitants of the advanced districts which form the greater part of the country. But the rapid progress of industrialization would have long since wiped out these pockets of backwardness if the unfortunate policies of the New Deal had not slowed down the accumulation of capital, the irreplaceable tool of economic betterment. Used to the conditions of a capitalistic environment, the average American takes it for granted that every year business makes

something new and better accessible to him.

Looking backward upon the years of his own life, he realizes that many implements that were totally unknown in the days of his youth and many others which at that

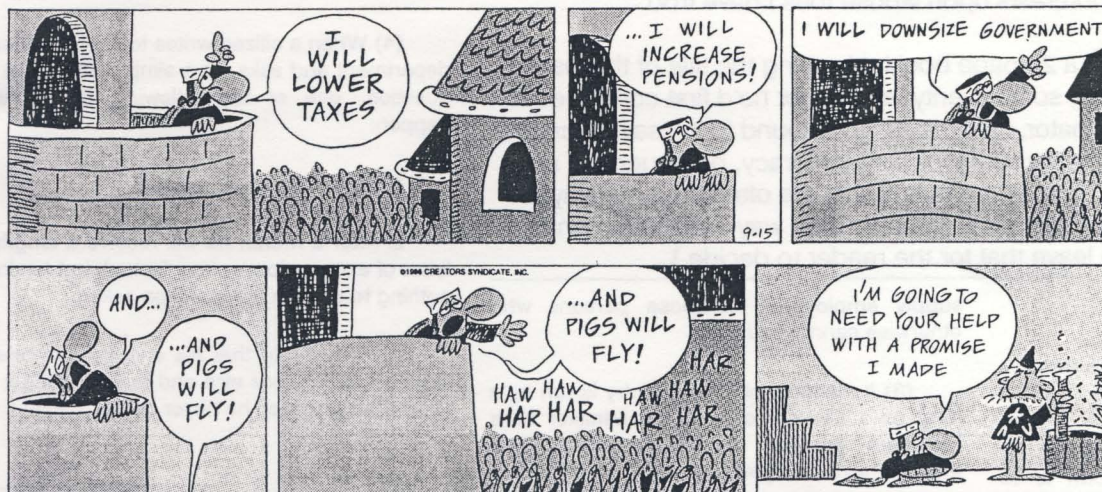
time could be enjoyed only by a small minority are now standard equipment of almost every household. He is fully confident that this trend will prevail also in the future. He simply calls it the "American way of life" and does not give serious thought to the question of what made this continuous improvement in the supply of material goods possible. He is not earnestly disturbed by the operation of factors that are bound not only to stop further accumulation of capital but may very soon bring about capital decumulation. He does not oppose the forces that --- by frivolously increasing public expenditure, by cutting down capital accumulation, and even making for consumption of parts of the capital invested in business, and, finally, by inflation --- are sapping the very foundations of his material well-being. He is not concerned about the growth of statism that wherever it has been tried resulted in producing and preserving conditions which in his eyes are shockingly wretched.

No Personal Freedom Without Economic Freedom

Unfortunately many of our contemporaries fail to realize what a radical change in the moral conditions of man, the rise

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"Government by force is a contradiction in terms and an impossibility in physics. Force is what is governed. Government originates in the moral faculty." - Isabel Paterson

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of statism, the substitution of government omnipotence for the market economy, is bound to bring about. They are deluded by the idea that there prevails a clear-cut dualism in the affairs of man, that there is on the one side a sphere of economic activities and on the other side a field of activities that are considered as noneconomic. Between these two fields there is, they think, no close connection. The freedom that socialism abolishes is "only" the economic freedom, while freedom in all other matters remains unimpaired.

However, these two spheres are not independent of each other as this doctrine assumes. Human beings do not float in ethereal regions. Everything that a man does must necessarily in some way or other affect the economic or material sphere and requires his power to interfere with this sphere. In order

to subsist, he must toil and have the opportunity to deal with some material tangible goods.

The confusion manifests itself in the popular idea that what is going on in the market refers merely to the economic side of human life and action. But in fact the prices of the market reflect not only "material concerns" --- like getting food, shelter, and other amenities --- but no less those concerns which are commonly called spiritual or higher or nobler. The observance or nonobservance of religious commandments --- to abstain from certain activities altogether or on specific days, to assist those in need, to build and to maintain houses of worship, and many others --- is one of the factors that determines the supply of, and the demand for, various consumers' goods and thereby prices and the conduct of business. The freedom that the market economy grants to the individual is not merely "economic" as distinguished from some other

kind of freedom. It implies the freedom to determine also all those issues which are considered as moral, spiritual, and intellectual.

The simple truth is that individuals can be free to choose between what they consider as right or wrong only where they are economically independent of the government.

What makes many people blind to the essential features of any totalitarian system is the illusion that this system will be operated precisely in the way which they themselves consider as desirable. In supporting socialism, they take it for granted that the "state" will always do what they themselves want it to do.

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{FEE is a non-political, educational champion of private property, the free market, and limited government. You can contact FEE at: The Foundation for Economic Education Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533.}

MANNELL'S LAWS

or

How To Survive In A Bureaucracy

- L.S. Mannell

{A newspaper columnist for over 40 years, an elected politician for seven years on Oakville's town council and five years on Halton Region council, Laurie Mannell has come away from his experience with the earned cynicism that these two professions so often inflict upon their practitioners. Says the author: "While millions of people complain about taxes, privileges, corruption, and patronage, I have never had one person say or write 'We have to do something about this!' There have been lots of wonderful comments from the public --- but not once in 40 years has anyone ever called me and said: 'Is there something I can do to help?' However, I HAVE had calls --- and even threats of lawsuits --- from those with sacred, vested interests upon whose toes I have trod."}

The following are excerpts from a 24-page booklet bearing the title of this essay, published by the author in 1996, some twenty years after he'd first conceived it. "Because I am a great procrastinator, I just never got around to it," says Mannell, who promotes his booklet as "a satirical look at democracy, bureaucracy, and education in the 20th century." We agree that humour is often the best way to bear the pain of a given truth. Perhaps it can also be a way to broaden one's perceptions. We leave that for the reader to decide.}

On Democracy:

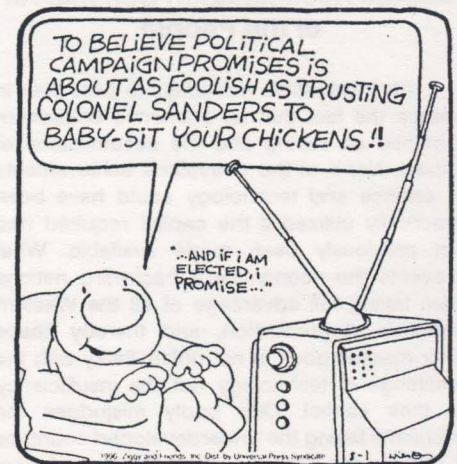
supply employment to those persons who otherwise cannot find work.

(1) The only truth in the word democracy is 'mocracy'.

(3) It matters not if the country is run by a King or a Dictator or a Prime Minister or a President (elected or self-appointed). The masses have no rights, but must do what they

(2) In a democracy, the only reason for "government" in any shape or form is to

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are told.

(4) When a citizen writes to a government department and asks for a simple answer to a question, one of the following things will happen:

1. He will be totally ignored.
2. After a month he will receive a lengthy letter of explanation --- very factual, but having nothing to do with the question asked.
3. He will be told that his enquiry has been referred some place else and that he will get a reply shortly (which he never does).

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"Private property has been the object of attack ever since the first non-producer enviously viewed the fruit of the labors of the first producer." - The Incredible Bread Machine

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4. He will be advised that the subject is confidential and no reply can be given.

(5) The only items placed on the agenda of any elected government for approval are those which have already been approved and implemented by the bureaucracy.

(6) The average citizen thinks that the person he elects to office is the person who makes the decisions and laws. Nothing could be further from the truth. 80% of all laws and rules are made by appointed bureaucrats.

(7) Most dictators are self-appointed and backed up by the military and the rich. Democracy is the only form of government in which its dictators are elected.

(8) A public meeting to discuss what "should be done" is usually a meeting which is held after the decision has been made, and in most cases, already implemented.

(9) Some people actually believe that everybody is equal. However, a person is truly equal to others only twice: once on the day he is born and again on the day he dies.

(10) A person needs no experience or training to become a politician. You need a degree to teach and a license to operate a lift-truck --- but you can be elected to a position that makes laws and runs the country without any qualifications whatsoever!

(11) In a four-year term of office, a politician (who spent two years getting elected) will spend the first year learning the job, the second year trying to do something worthwhile, the third year making excuses for not getting any results, and the last year campaigning for re-election.

(12) A politician never uses one word where 12 will suffice.

(13) When a politician says we must have tax reform, he is simply trying to justify a tax increase.

(14) For every dollar collected in taxes, 50 cents is spent on things which have nothing whatsoever to do with the running of the country.

(15) Every budget of every government since Confederation has always contained an increase in taxes --- with 85% of the increase going to the rich and powerful.

(16) When a politician or bureaucrat says emphatically that a certain program will NEVER be implemented, or conversely, that an existing program will NEVER be cut off, rest assured that within three months, the first will be implemented and the second scrapped.

(17) If every politically appointed bureaucrat were to be fired tomorrow, within one month nobody would remember who he was or what he was supposed to do.

On Justice:

(1) I firmly believe that if we had no laws other than the 10 commandments, we would need no politicians, no bureaucrats, no army, no police, and everyone would live a happy life.

(2) We are led to believe that in law everyone has equal rights and representation and that, in court, the evidence is all that matters. The truth is that the chance of winning any case is in direct proportion to the reputation and cost of the lawyer.

(3) When someone says "They can't do this to me", chances are that "they" already have and whoever "they" are will continue to do it to others as well.

(4) The chance of a citizen winning a lawsuit against a government agency is about one in 100. Even if the verdict in the first court is favourable, the crown can keep on appealing right up to the Supreme Court --- before which time the citizen either goes broke or dies.

(5) Everyone is worried about the high cost of crime, yet as a nation we do absolutely nothing to stop criminals from other countries immigrating to our country.

On Economics:

(1) There is no service supplied by any government to the public which cannot be supplied by private enterprise in half the time and at half the cost.

(2) After years of fighting and arguing, millions of dollars in studies, and hundreds of laws being passed to give women equal pay with men, women are still getting the same ration of pay to men as they got 40 years ago. The same applies to visible minorities and the disabled.

(3) In Canada, people go to work to make enough money to buy a car to drive to work.

(4) Retraining the jobless for other occupations can be a complete waste of time and money. For example, training an unemployed widget-maker to turn him into a plumber --- when there are thousands of plumbers also out of work --- simply means that you'll have 10,000 unemployed plumbers instead of 5,000 unemployed widget makers and 5,000 unemployed plumbers.

(5) When a government awards a contract not to the best or lowest bidder, ask whose relative owns the company given the contract.

(6) Foreign embassies and trade commissions do not help businessmen arriving in the country looking for business, but are there to supply luxury accommodation to the politicians and bureaucrats who gave them their jobs. Of course, a fringe benefit is the opulent lifestyle, far beyond anything they could get at home.

On Bureaucracy:

(1) Parkinson's Law states that in business, people rise to the level of their incompetence. 'Mannell's Law' says that in a bureaucracy, every person starts at this level and advances upward from there.

(2) Since Confederation few bureaucrats have ever been fired for being incompetent. (Promoted, yes. Fired, no!)

(3) When a bureaucrat says that something being done is in the "public interest", rest assured the only interests being served are that of the bureaucrat and his friends. The only interest the taxpaying public has is in paying the bill.

(4) If items are found to be missing in a government contract, the person who drew up the specs will not only get paid for making corrections, but will get his percentage fee on the mistakes.

(5) When a serious problem arises, instead of doing something about it, politicians and bureaucrats will:

1. Appoint a committee of their friends --- who have no knowledge of the problem --- to do a study.

2. When the study is completed, appoint a committee to check the recommendations and report.

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3. Completely reject the recommendations as too costly and unworkable.

4. Forget the whole thing while the problem gets worse.

(6) No employee working for a government department which is supposed to eliminate a problem will do a thing to solve the problem. Because, if he does solve the problem, he loses his job!

(7) If a program is working well, with minimum effort, someone will insist that it be placed under a committee. It is then only a matter of time until the program becomes useless.

(8) No bureaucrat will ever hire a competent person to be his assistant. He is afraid that someone will find out how incompetent he is and will promote the assistant to his job.

(9) When two municipalities or two government departments amalgamate, no employee is ever laid off. At the top, where there were two jobs and now only one is needed, one person gets the top job (with 20% more pay due to the increased responsibility) and the other gets the deputy-job at the same pay, complete with a new office, secretary, and furniture. The final outcome is that instead of a cost-saving, more efficient operation, there is a 15% increase in staff and a 20% increase in cost. Efficiency falls by 10%.

(10) When a bureaucrat fouls up and is caught, the amount of time and money spent trying to cover up the mistake is the square of the time and money it would take to correct the error.

(11) In the formation of a bureaucratic committee, "Illoff's Law of Building Septic Tanks" states that "The big chunks rise to the top."

On Education:

(1) Education is the only business which blames the poor performance of the finished product on the quality of the raw material.

(2) Citizens actually think that the school boards they elect hire the teachers, build and run the schools and set the curriculum. School boards, who are elected and meet on a regular basis, have no say whatsoever in what goes on in the schools. The bureaucrats run the entire system from start to finish. Parents, teachers, and pupils have no say in how the

system works either!

(3) In our schools, far more time and effort is spent trying to correct social problems than in teaching.

(4) If, at a public meeting to discuss education, a parent asks why Johnny (in Grade 12) cannot read, he or she is told that Johnny is dysfunctional and it is not the school's fault but the environment at home which causes the problem.

(5) The only reason for schools is to supply someplace where parents can get rid of their children for six hours a day.

(6) The only reason for a married woman with school-age children to go to work is so the family can earn enough to pay the taxes for the education system.

(7) In school, the "history" that is taught is not exactly what happened in the past, but what the system wants students to believe happened.

(8) Students who drop out of school before graduating are not the dumb ones, but perhaps the smart ones who realize that they are not learning anything useful.

(9) The only reason bureaucrats tell children that they must stay in school if they want to get good jobs is to create and keep more jobs for themselves.

Final Words:

(1) A country which maintains a huge military force, keeps these forces not to protect the country from an invasion from without, but to protect its government from an uprising from within, in case the public becomes completely disillusioned by the corruption and privileges of those in power.

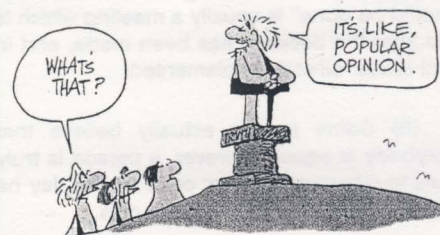
(2) A notice of a "change and improvement in bus schedules" simply means cuts in service and higher fares.

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{Copies of Laurie Mannell's booklet, Mannell's Laws, are available for \$5 each through Freedom Party. See the green box on back page for details of how to get in touch with us.}



B.C.
BY JOHNNY HART



ISN'T 'CHILD POVERTY' AN OXYMORON?

- Robert Smink

{A London-area businessman, Robert Smink is a founding member of Freedom Party, and has been an Fp provincial candidate in the ridings of London North and Perth. The following essay, minimally edited, also appeared in the *St. Marys Journal Argus* on January 13, 1999.}

Despite our punishing 54% AVERAGE total tax rate on productive working people, it still doesn't seem to be enough for 'share the wealth' income distribution believers. The latest stretch in credulity is their campaign for our sympathy and dollars which centers around the oxymoronic concept of 'child' poverty which is constantly referred to in Ontario newspapers. '548,000 Ontario kids poor' read the front-page *London Free Press* headline on January 7, 1999.

At the risk of being labeled cold-hearted, insensitive or uncaring, allow me to speak in defense of the over-burdened taxpayer who is tired and disgusted with the constant barrage of headlines in the Ontario press concerning the plight of the supposed poor in our society. News headlines and editorials imply that it is *our* collective fault that all people do not find themselves in at least the comfortable middle class. No responsibility is ever laid at the feet of the poor themselves, who have been encouraged to view themselves as victims of either governments, the rich, their background, society, or just plain bad luck.

After more than 30 years of socialism and literally hundreds of programs to alleviate poverty and stress, our collectivists seem to be running out of causes. Their last bastion of complaints center around day care and 'child' poverty, an inventive term used to describe something that does not and cannot exist.

I am not child bashing and I wouldn't suggest that there aren't too many children in poor families, but since children aren't wage earners or taxpayers, they cannot by definition be 'rich' or 'poor'. The whole concept of 'child' poverty is a misnomer, a red herring in search of more money for adults. The 'anti-poverty' groups currently define poverty as any family that earns \$20,000 or less, or anyone who spends more than 55% of their income on food, shelter and clothing. (This definition is flexible and has changed over the years, to ensure that there are always a growing number of 'poor' in need of our help.)

It has been my observation that most middle class families spend much more than 55% of their incomes on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing. However, because they gross more income, they are not considered to be poor. Enough is never enough for groups like Campaign 2000, the 'non-partisan' group that sponsors the Campaign Against Child Poverty and issues its dubious annual report-card which now blames stingy cost-cutting governments for creating 250,000 new poor child victims. It's as if they were fathered by the politicians themselves.

Let us look at the reality of what federal provincial and local

governments and communities like London are already doing for the poor. You decide if you think that there really are that many living in abject poverty without adequate assistance as claimed, or if the bureaucrats whose administrative jobs depend on the poverty industry are merely protecting their turf and justifying their well-paid jobs with their plethora of programs.

In the London area alone, we have the following programs and services that benefit mainly the poor: free education with a nutritional program and a free public library system, free health care with prescriptions and dental care if required, free welfare cheques, mother's allowance, family benefits, unemployment cheques, workers compensation and pension cheques, the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill Industries, the Ark Aid Mission and the London and Area Food Banks, as well as the Churches who offer rotating meals and accommodation, Family Service London and Ways which includes Life Spin, Information London, London & District Distress Center, London Unemployment Help Center, Help Yourself in Hard Times Handbook, Southdale Tenants Association, Glen Cairn Community Resource Center and the YMYWCA Sponsor Membership Program.

For families we have: Family Services, London, John Howard Society, Changing Ways, Child Abuse Stops Here, Mutual Aid Parenting Program, London Battered Woman's Advocacy Center, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, London International Health Center, Sexual Assault Center, and the Woman's Rural Resource Center.

For the Disabled and Health Concerned we have: Access Awareness Community, Canadian Hearing Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, City Arts Center, Community Living London, Epilepsy London & Area, Hospice of London, Independent Living Center, Learning Disabilities Association, London Coffee House Program, London Occupational Safety and Health Program, Ontario March of Dimes, Self Abuse Finally Ends, Sign Language Interpretation, Sari Writing for the Disabled and The Women's H.I.V. Network.

For Seniors we have: Meals on Wheels, the Horton Street Senior Center, and discounts and promotions from many retailers and agencies.

With well over 60 organizations, the total cost for the London United Way programs alone is about \$4.5 million and this doesn't include education or health care or the cost of entitlement programs

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"It is the nature of our species to be free." - Captain James T. Kirk

(...cont'd from prev. pg)

which cost many billions more.

Yet all this, not to mention private charities (Rotary Clubs, Shriners, Kinsmen, etc.) and government 'subsidized housing', is still not enough for groups like Campaign 2000 or even for local politicians who are tripping over themselves to be politically correct and show their 'concern' for the poor. The mayor of London's anti-poverty task force MAPAC now wants taxpayers to pay the gas and hydro bills for delinquents. Watch this modest \$10,000 program escalate into the stratosphere as people learn how to milk it. [ED: In its first month of operation, the program had already exhausted its \$50,000 budget, and as of this publication, organizers have already gone hat in hand to London city hall to ask for more money.] Just last week, Anne Golden of the Toronto United Way started calling for an additional half a billion taxpayer dollars for more generous programs of housing, etc., for the poor.

All of this certainly illustrates that there is no lack of compassion, agencies, or money for the poor. What puzzles me is how the poor remain so, and indeed grow in numbers despite over 30 years of profligate socialistic programs and spending designed to help them up and out of poverty!

It has been said from time to time but sometimes it needs to be said again: "If all the wealth in the world was divided equally among all the people, within a short period of time most of the former Haves would be rich again and most of the former Have-Nots would be poor again. Success is what you make of life's opportunities, not what is handed to you as a gift." Until we learn this maxim, it seems that the poor will be with us forever and at ever increasing expense.

Making it easy for people, as any parent will tell you, is hardly the medicine required to teach people the hard lessons in life that foster prosperity. Why can't politicians and newspaper editors see that being an 'enabler' helps no one, least of all the poor?

{END}

THE JOKE'S ON US!

{A humorous dictionary of the words and phrases which shape politics.}

A is A: Eh?

Art: This word has no definition.

Academic Freedom: The freedom to be academic.

Assure: To cause to feel uncertain.

Actually: Perhaps; possibly.

Austerity: Higher taxes and more government spending and regulation (austerity for the people, freedom for government).

Administer: To inflict, as a medicine, a sacrament, justice, or a government.

B-1: A vitamin essential to the health of the military industrial complex.

Affirmative Action: The White Man's new burden.

Balanced Budget: After the government takes enough to balance the budget, the citizen has to budget the balance.

Agnostic: A Godfearing atheist.

Behaviourist: A psychologist who wants to make people behave.

Altruism: Concern with the selfishness of others.

Anarchist: One who advocates the separation of Existence and the State.

Big: Bad (if it's a business); Good (if it's government).

Anarchy: An unavoidable consequence of cutting back the size of government, namely, the utter chaos caused by hordes of former government employees running amok, rioting, looting, raping and pillaging.

Bigot: One zealously attached to an opinion that differs with one's own.

Animal Rights: Proof that egalitarianism is for the birds.

Bilingual: Able to utter doubletalk in two languages.

Anti-Racist: One who is prejudiced against the prejudiced and intolerant of the intolerant; One who hates the haters and discriminates against the discriminators.

Black Market: The under-the-counter economy.

Appeal: In law, to put the dice back in the box for another throw.

Book Burning: Censorship in the 451st degree.

April Fool: The March fool with another month added to his folly.

Budget Cut: Formerly, a decrease in government spending. Now, a decrease in the rate of increase in government spending.

Bureaucracy: A perpetual inertia machine.

Bureaucrat: A red tapeworm.

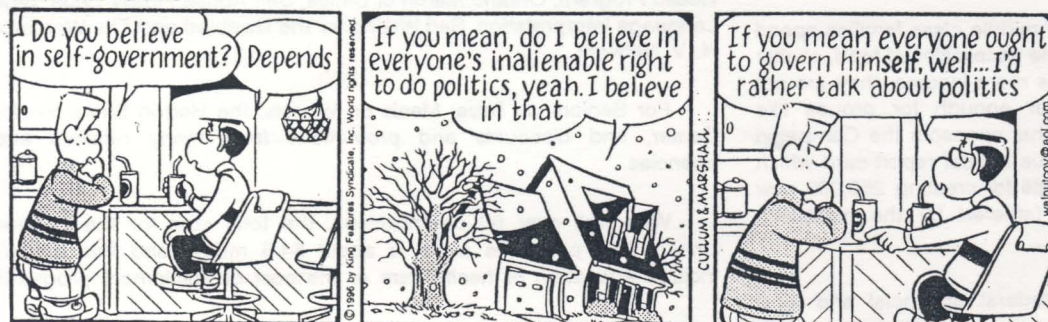
Candidate: Someone who stands for what he thinks voters will fall for.

Cannibal: One who loves his fellow man --- with gravy.

Capitalism: The cause of every socialist failure.

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Walnut Cove



"An election year is when a lot of politicians get free speech mixed up with cheap talk." - Saying

(...cont'd from prev. pg)

Censor: One who enlightens the world by burning books.

Civilization: The question is not where civilization began, but when will it?

Collective Security: A diplomatic arrangement for the maintenance of world peace through war.

Commitment: A politician's solemn pledge that somebody else will do something --- and that you will pay dearly for it.

Common Good: Individual bad; or, for the good of those who use the expression, "the common good".

Common Knowledge: Something generally known among the ignorant; proof that what we know can hurt us.

Communism: Rugged collectivism; dog-eat-dog socialism.

Competition: The rivalry between lobbyists striving for the same political patronage.

Confession: An admission of wrongdoing, often obtained by wrongdoing.

Conscript: One forced to fight for freedom.

Conservative: Someone who doesn't belong to any organized political movement.

Considerate: Thoughtful of others and of what they can do for you.

Consult: To seek another's approval for something already decided upon.

Court: What a man does to win a mate and the place he must go to divorce her. (In these days of frequent divorce, most of the courting is done after marriage.)

Court Fool: The plaintiff.

Courtroom: A place where justice is usually dispensed --- with.

Credibility: Ability to deceive.

Dangerous Drugs: Drugs.

Defeat: Something that is bitter only when swallowed.

Definition: A word that's not a definition.

Democracy: Government of the sheep, by the shepherds, for the wolves. (See also: 'Dictatorship'.)

Dictatorship: Government by force and fraud, as opposed to democracy, government by fraud and force.

Diplomacy: Lying in state; The art of letting someone else have your way; The art of getting something as though you were giving it.

Diplomats: Spies and terrorists. (When a diplomat says yes, he means perhaps; when he says perhaps, he means no; and when he says no, he's no diplomat.)

Doubt: The philosophical device Descartes so cleverly used to prove everything he previously believed.

Draft: An ill wind from which many a young man has caught his death.

Education: Something that never hurt anyone who was willing to learn something afterwards.

Egalitarian: One who cannot see the difference between a hero and a zero, a champ and a chump, a winner and a wiener, or a king and a kong.

Egotist: A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me.

Election: You don't have to fool all of the people all of the time; during elections is sufficient.

Fabian: A creeping socialist.

Fair Wage: What everybody wants to be paid, but on one seems to be getting.

Feminist: A sister who wants to be Big Brother.

Fence: The place where you'll find stolen goods and politicians.

Fine-tuning the Economy: Massive government disruption and ultimate destruction of the economy.

Foreign Aid: Handouts across the sea.

Freedom: The power to do as you

please, as long as you don't offend reformers and as long as you pay racketeers for protection.

Free Thinker: A bachelor or widower.

Friend: One who has the same enemies as you have.

Good Citizen: An obedient slave.

Government Debt: When you think of the government debt the next generation must pay off, no wonder a baby yells when it's born.

Happiness: A wild goose which everyone has an inalienable right to chase; the agreeable sensation arising from contemplating the misery of another.

Hard-Core Pornography: Pornography which makes one's core hard.

Hate Literature: Literature that one hates.

Hats: Political candidates need three hats: one to cover their heads with, one to toss into the ring, and one to talk through.

Helping The Poor: Plundering the productive.

Heresy: Disagreement with the One True Lie.

History: The record of the evil that men do; Something that never happened, written by someone who wasn't there; A series of lies officially agreed upon. (See 'Heresy'.)

Holy War: A war, for God's sake!

Honest Politician: One who, when bought, will stay bought.

Hypocrisy: Rule by hypocrites, the most popular form of government there is.

Hypocrisy: The vaseline of social intercourse.

Hypocrite: One who practices vice while preaching versa.

Idealist: One who hopes to keep the politics out of politics.

Illegitimate Child: One born of illegiti-

(cont'd next page...)

"It is impossible for anyone to begin to learn what he thinks he already knows." - Epictetus

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mate parents.

Impartial: Unable to perceive any personal advantage from either side of a controversy.

Infallible: Incapable of admitting error.

Intellectual Activist: Not active.

Intellectual Ammunition: Verbal bullets for Objectivists who want to shoot their mouths off. (Blank-out cartridges also available.)

Irrefutable Evidence: Evidence that cannot be refuted because it cannot be examined.

Jailer: One who is his brother's keeper.

Just War: Merely war.

Kill: To create a vacancy without nominating a successor.

Label: To libel.

Labour Union: An association of workers organized to advance the interests of the union organizers.

Lawful: Compatible with the will of the judge having jurisdiction.

Law of Gravity: The only law that everybody obeys.

Lawyer: One skilled in the circumvention of the law.

Leader: In politics, one who follows his nose into other people's business.

Liberal: One whose heart bleeds when the Federal budget is cut.

Locke, John: A closing or fastening device used to prevent unauthorized entry into private property.

Logic: The art of thinking and reasoning in strict accordance with the limitations and incapacities of human misunderstanding.

Mad: Afflicted with a high degree of intellectual independence.

Mafia: A nonexistent group of perfectly respectable businessmen who just might

break your legs if you say otherwise.

Marijuana: A substance which can cause deterioration of mental functioning and a tendency toward paranoia in chronic non-users. (Highly recommended for snowboard competition.)

Martyr: One who moves along the line of least reluctance to a desired death.

Me: The objectionable case of I.

Minister: An official with high power and low responsibility.

Minor: Less objectionable.

Monopoly: Any successful business which is able to: (1) undercut its competitors' prices (unfair competition), (2) charge more than its competitors (price gouging), or (3) charge the same price as its competition (collusion).

Moral: Having the quality of general expediency.

Moralist: One who loves morality so much that he will vote for any dictator to maintain it.

Multitude: A crowd in which one finds political wisdom and virtue, based on the theory that a range of mountains is higher than the single mountains composing it.

Nostalgia: The ability to recall the past fondly, despite the facts.

Objectivist: A Randroid programmed to believe that sitting in an Armchair is Activism (A is A). (Also, see 'Intellectual Activist'.)

Opinion Moulder: One who sculpts by using stupidity as a medium.

Otherwise: Some people are wise, some otherwise.

Outlaw: A menace to society, but not as bad as an in-law.

Pacifist: One who, when kicked in the rear, turns the other cheek.

Pain: An uncomfortable frame of mind caused by the good fortune of another.

Parapsychology: Science qua seance.

Philosophy: Many roads leading from nowhere to nothing.

Plan: The best method for accomplishing an accidental result.

Playboy: A hedonist looking for consenting shedonists.

Politeness: a socially acceptable form of hypocrisy.

Political Crisis: Not getting re-elected.

Political Deal: The end of a political ideal.

Political Leader: One whose task is to keep ahead of several crowds, each going in a different direction.

Political Platform: Something not to stand on, but to get in on; What a candidate stands on before election, and falls down on after election; A politician's principle that, since his rival has been robbing the public for years, he should now be given the chance.

Politician: The fellow who's got what it takes to take what you've got.

Politics: A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles; the conduct of public affairs for private advantage.

Positive: Mistaken at the top of one's voice.

Positivism: A philosophy that denies knowledge of the Real and affirms ignorance of the Apparent.

Poverty: A trap in which politicians invariably become entangled. The number of plans for its abolition equals that of the number of reformers who suffer from it plus the number of intellectuals who know nothing about it. (Victims are distinguished by their possession of all virtues and by a faith in leaders promising them prosperity.)

Pre-existence: An unnoted factor in creation.

Preference: The erroneous belief that one thing is better than another.

Prescription: A physician's guess at what will best prolong an ailment with least harm to the patient.

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Property Taxes: Rent paid to government for property you own.

Public Opinion: The prevailing idiocies, delusions, and impossible dreams of the people, collectively.

Quotation: Another's words erroneously repeated.

Realism: The art of depicting nature as it is seen by toads.

Reconsider: To seek justification for a decision already made.

Responsibility: A detachable burden easily shifted to the shoulders of God, Fate, Fortune, Luck, or one's neighbour. (In the days of astrology it was customary to unload it upon a star.)

Revolution: An abrupt change in the form of misgovernment.

Rich: One subject to an accounting of his earnings and property by the indolent, the incompetent, the unthrifty, the envious and the luckless.

Right: Legitimate authority to be, do, or have; as the right to be a king, the right to do one's neighbour, the right to have measles, and the like.

School Spirit: Ardent loyalty to the school one is forced to attend.

Security: Freedom from freedom.

Self-evident: Evident to one's self and to nobody else.

Selfish: Devoid of consideration for the selfishness of others.

Sorcery: An ancient prototype and forerunner of political influence.

Statesman: One who tries to solve the grave problems that wouldn't exist if there were no statesmen.

Statistician: One who can go directly from an unwarranted assumption to a preconceived conclusion. (Some statistical truths: Give a statistician some facts, and he will draw his own confusions. If all the statisticians were placed end to end, they'd never reach a conclusion.)

Statutory Holiday: A day set aside for the celebration of getting off work or out of school.

Supreme Court: A court which corrects the errors of the lower courts by perpetuating its own.

Tariff: An import tax designed to protect domestic producers from the greed of their consumers.

Tax: The only thing known to defy the law of gravity.

Theoretical Ideas: Those which a professor of economics has about money.

Transfer Payments: Earnings taken from the people who work for a living and given to people who vote for a living.

Unfair competition: Successful competition.

Utopia: The best of all impossible worlds. A product of myopia.

Vote: The instrument and symbol of a freeman's power to make a fool of himself and wreck his country.

War: A by-product of the arts of peace.

War on Drugs: A war to make the world safe for alcoholism.

Zeal: A certain nervous disorder afflicting the young and inexperienced.

{END}

LIGHT HUMOUR

How many LIBERALS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? 1001. 1000 to take a poll plus one person to hire his friend to do the job.

How many CONSERVATIVES does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Any number. They're really good at screwing up.

How many NEW DEMOCRATS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They use candles because it creates more work.

How many REFORMERS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? It depends on how many Conservatives they can get to help them screw up.

How many LIBERTARIANS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They think the market will take care of it. (You can never find a Libertarian around when you need one.)

How many FAMILY COALITION PARTY supporters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They don't believe in letting anybody screw around.

How many GREENS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? What does it matter? They'd rather be "left" in the dark.

How many COMMUNISTS does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They don't screw lightbulbs in. They force them in.

How many NATURAL LAW supporters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? One, and he doesn't even need a ladder.

How many CONFEDERATION OF REGIONS PARTY supporters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Both of them.

How many UNITED ALTERNATIVE supporters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They can't agree on which direction to turn the bulb.

How many FREEDOM PARTY supporters does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None. They're too bright to need light bulbs.

{END}

THE WIZARD OF ID BY BRANT PARKER and JOHNNY HART



"Discontent is the first step in the progress of a man or a nation." - Saying

FAT CAPITALIST CAT

- Terry Clemens

(A Freedom Party supporter, Terry Clemens is a young publisher of a bi-monthly libertarian flyer, 'Liberty for Today'. The following short essay appeared in one of his 1998 flyers.)

Sitting smugly upon the window sill watching its owner pull his car out of the driveway on his way to work, the fat cat licks its paws, then jumps to the floor. It saunters along the white fluffy carpet, purr-fectly content.

The fat cat is going to sleep upon the newspaper beside the sofa chair. Headlines in that paper mean nothing to the fat cat. Places are mentioned of which the cat knows nothing:

'Famine sweeps the Sudan';

'Heartache in Bangladesh';

'Children starving in Haiti';

Ideas are presented that threaten its lavish lifestyle:

'Western man needs to live with his environment';

'Inequality must end now!';

'Society needs more compassion, less capitalism';

But the fat cat will not worry; it will do what it does best, sleep. For it does not read, write, discuss, or vote; its well-being is a direct result of

our actions. In fact, millions of other cats in the western world are sleeping too. Over 30% of households in North America, and 24% in Europe cater to such felines.

Just think about the unfairness! There are about the same number of cats in the western world as there are human beings in Bangladesh.

Our cats grow fat, their children starve. The inequality of it all! Surely we need "more compassion".

Turn and repent, you proud dwellers of western civilization, and be humble before 'mother earth'!

Why should a fat cat receive so much? --- factory produced food and treats, numerous toys, and even excellent health care!?!?

For that matter, why should a person who is too frail to stand and walk have a wheel chair? --- or a blind person have braille? Why such opportunities for those with special needs? Oh, the inequality, for even our lame and blind have better lives than those who walk and see in Bangladesh.

It is because 'should' is 'can' in a society that is prosperous. If a society is not prosperous, it will have to concentrate upon the primary importance of survival. Love says 'should', prosperity says 'can', and freedom and capitalism bring the two together!

[END]

CONSENT

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"Most people aren't failures. They just started at the bottom and liked it there." - Anonymous