

Social Spying • Now, More Than Ever, Time to Audit the Fed • Going Green: Hungry for Power

February 20, 2012

The New American

www.TheNewAmerican.com

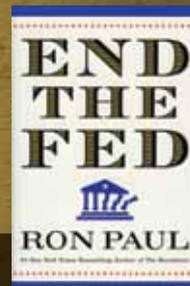
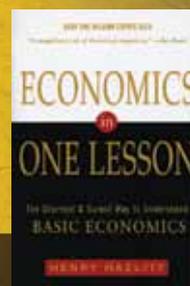
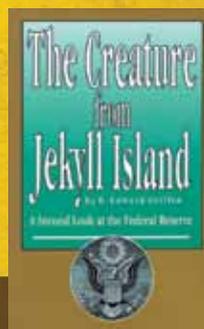
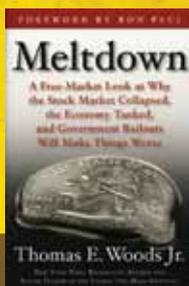
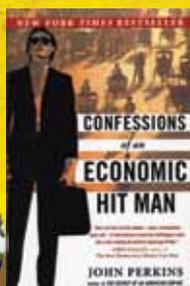
THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

\$2.95



Is It Nuts to Let Iran **GO NUCLEAR?**

RESTORE SOUND MONEY



Dollars & Sense

Dollars & Sense, by John F. McManus, is an excellent tool for teaching Americans about the nature of money and how to solve inflation. Given the current economic crisis, it is a must-see! (2009, 40pp, pb, booklet, 1/\$2.95ea; 10/\$2.00ea; 25/\$1.50ea; 50/\$1.00ea; 100+/\$0.75ea) **BKLTAS** (2008, 48min, sleeved DVD, 1/\$1.00; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea) **DVDDAS** (2008, 48min, cased DVD, 1/\$5.95; 10-24/\$4.95ea; 25-49/\$3.95ea; 50-99/\$2.95ea; 100-249/\$2.25ea; 25+/\$1.75ea) **DVDDASC**

Confessions of an Economic Hitman

Does the American government hire "economic hitmen" to engineer international loans that increase the debt burdens on Third World nations while funneling huge sums of money back to favored American companies? (2006, 303pp, pb, \$14.95) **BKCEHM**

Meltdown

A free-market look at why the stock market collapsed, the economy tanked, and government bailouts will make things worse. (2009, 194pp, hb, \$25.95) **BKMD**

The Creature From Jekyll Island

G. Edward Griffin unmasks the secrets behind the manipulation of our nation's money supply by providing an insider's look at how the Federal Reserve came into being and how it controls the value of the dollar. (2010, 5th ed, 608pp, pb, \$22.95) **BKCFJI**

Economics in One Lesson

The shortest and surest way to understand basic economics. (1979ed, 218pp, pb, \$13.95) **BKEIOL**

End The Fed

Ron Paul shows how and why we must end the Fed. (2009, 212pp, hb, \$21.95) **BKETF**

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL

WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX

SHIPPING/HANDLING
(SEE CHART BELOW)

TOTAL

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$4.95	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

Standard: 4-14 business days.
Rush: 3-7 business days, no P.O. Boxes, HI/AK add \$10.00

The Official Store of The John Birch Society

ShopJBS.org

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org

Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:

ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Check VISA Discover
 Money Order MasterCard American Express



Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**

_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

120220



***See Dean Sellers Ford
for your new
Freedom Machine***



**2600 Maple W. Road
Troy, Michigan
(248) 643-7500
www.deansellersford.com**



ULINE

SHIPPING SUPPLY SPECIALISTS

ORDER BY 6 PM FOR SAME DAY SHIPPING

CORRUGATED BOXES
STRETCH WRAP
LABELS
JANITORIAL

CARTON SEALING TAPE
BUBBLE CUSHIONING
MATERIAL HANDLING
RETAIL

OVER 1,100 BOX SIZES
ALWAYS IN STOCK

CALL FOR YOUR FREE 506-PAGE CATALOG

1-800-295-5510 uline.com

CHICAGO • ATLANTA • DALLAS • LOS ANGELES • MINNEAPOLIS • NYC/PHILA • SEATTLE

The gift of **TRUTH**
for the ones you love



To Order: (800) 727-8783 • www.TheNewAmerican.com

The New American

COVER STORY

WORLD

10 Is It Nuts to Let Iran Go Nuclear?

by Charles Scaliger — Iran is often characterized as a rogue regime that is on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon. But Iran is likely not close at all to having deployable nuclear bombs.

FEATURES

TERRORISM

17 Arizona Bomb Trial — Ties to OKC Bombing

by William F. Jasper — Racist and hater Dennis Mahon is on trial for hurting two people in a Phoenix, Arizona, bombing, but he should also be charged in the Oklahoma City bombing.

PRIVACY

21 Social Spying

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D. — The U.S. government has given itself permission to spy on citizens via social networking sites, such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

ECONOMY

25 Now, More Than Ever, Time to Audit the Fed

by William F. Jasper — The Federal Reserve has again initiated “quantitative easing” — inflating the money supply.

BOOK REVIEW

29 Hungry for Power

by Ed Hiserodt — The claims made to support the supposed need to “go green” are often erroneous.

HISTORY — PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

35 Bullied by the Bull Moose

by Jack Kenny — William Howard Taft was elected President because he was a protégé of President Theodore Roosevelt. But Roosevelt soon wanted the presidency back.

THE LAST WORD

44 Tim Thomas Wouldn't Go to the White House

by John F. McManus

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 Letters to the Editor
- 7 Inside Track
- 9 QuickQuotes
- 33 The Goodness of America
- 40 Exercising the Right
- 41 Correction, Please!

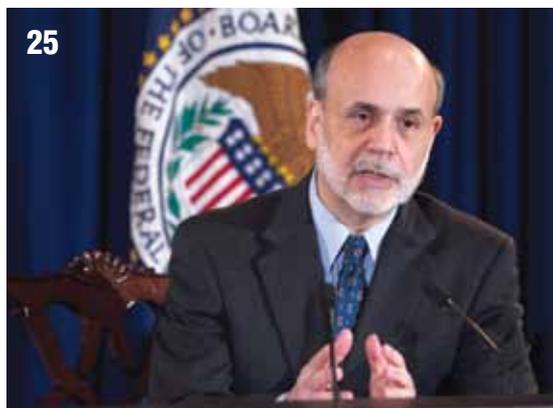


Design by Joseph W. Kelly

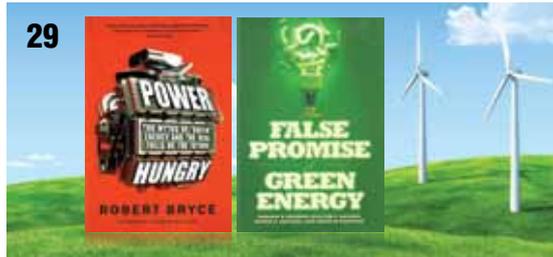


AP Images

AP Images



AP Images



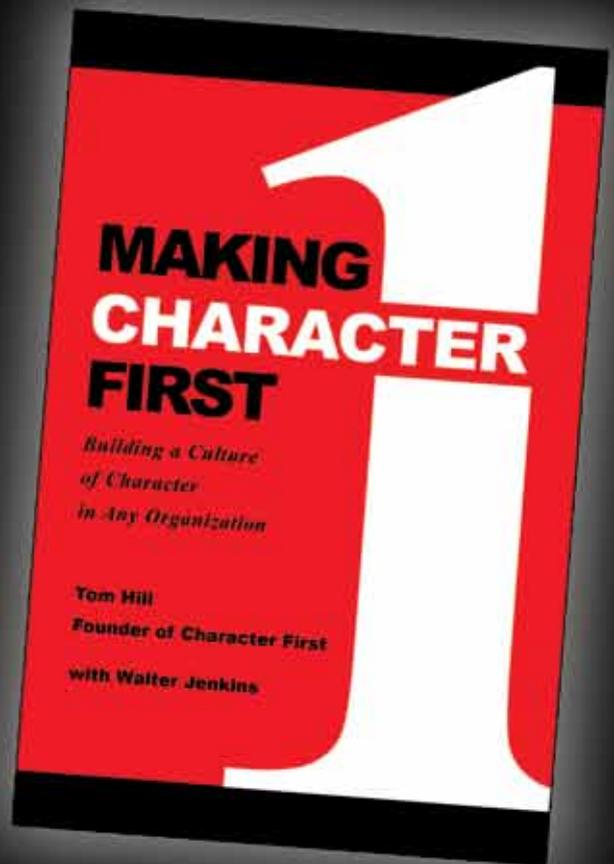
Library of Congress

Answering Today's Character Crisis



Tom Hill, founder of Character First, shares practical advice for character-based leadership. A must read for any executive or manager – it will change your life!

\$19.99
(\$14.99 Paperback)



www.makingcharacterfirst.com

Making Character First is available at special quantity discounts for corporate promotions, training programs, gifts, fundraising, book clubs, schools, & universities. Licensing is also available for translating or duplicating in print and electronic format. Contact info@characterfirst.com | 877.357.0001

Publisher
John F. McManus

Editor
Gary Benoit

Senior Editor
William F. Jasper

Associate Editor
Kurt Williamsen

Web Editor
Warren Mass

Contributors
Bob Adelman
Dave Bohon
Raven Clabough
Selwyn Duke
Thomas R. Eddlem
Christian Gomez
Larry Greenley
Gregory A. Hession, J.D.
Ed Hiserodt
William P. Hoar
Jack Kenny
R. Cort Kirkwood
Patrick Krey, J.D.
Alex Newman
Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
Fr. James Thornton
Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Art Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Graphic Design Intern
Katie Carder

Research
Bonnie M. Gillis

PR/Marketing Manager
Bill Hahn

Advertising/Circulation
Julie DuFrane

The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 920-749-3785 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$39 per year (Hawaii and Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) or \$22 for six months (Hawaii and Canada, add \$4.50; foreign, add \$13.50). Copyright ©2012 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

JBS.org THE NEW AMERICAN is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

Issues of Moral Relativism

Duke Pesta's article "Moral Relativism and the Crisis of Contemporary Education" (December 5, 2011 issue) — about the collapse of moral virtues and truths in the schools — really resonated.

Our seven children attended local Catholic grade school and high school in the '70s and '80s, yet they are caught up into the moral relativism philosophy. They have completed college, and all are married but one and lead respectable lives, but I worry about some of the grandchildren, who don't seem to have a moral compass.

I think I have been given a clue after many years as to how the abrupt change took place! Last weekend we were babysitting our grandchildren, and we watched together the Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. The girls are in third and fifth grades. A question came up about angels, and they responded, "Fact or Opinion?"

A bell rang in my head! When a group of us were into the battle over "Outcome-based Education," from 1992 until 2000, I actually led a monthly group meeting on education issues. I went to my old files and pulled out a test given to second graders on endangered species. Instead of a True/False answer, the choices were "Fact or Opinion." One of the questions was, "People are more important than animals." The correct answer was "Opinion." This affects a young person who was previously taught that "we have been made in the image of God." It changes the worldview of creation.

LAVERNE SOBER
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

One quick comment on Duke Pesta's "Moral Relativism" article in TNA: His opinion that almost all the Republican or Libertarian presidential candidates would at least consider eliminating the Department of Education is overly optimistic at best and sadly naive at worst. Only Ron Paul is really serious about this. Otherwise, his article was well written and right on target.

Likewise, I have one technical disagreement in the same issue of TNA with Jacob Hornberger's position in the "Lauding Libertarianism" interview, regarding immediately repealing immoral and unconstitutional programs such as Medicare and Social Security. He really overly simplifies repealing those programs with his analogy to stopping an embezzler, claiming that when something

is morally wrong, it must be ended immediately. Unlike in his analogy, millions of innocent people have been forced to contribute to these programs, and are now at a stage of life where they are getting back some of their forced contributions.

Phase these programs out without cutting off the legs of those who are now getting some of their money back, and allow the younger generation to opt out.

PAT SELLERS
Glenmoore, Pennsylvania

The Religiousness of the Founders

The article "Faith of the Founding Fathers" by Joe Wolverton, J.D., in the December 19, 2011 issue, is good, but misses an important point. This point is not how atheists or non-atheists view the Founding Fathers, but how the Founders wished to be remembered.

Jefferson, for example, did not want to be remembered for having been President. His epitaph, which he wrote for his tombstone, says, "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author ... of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom."

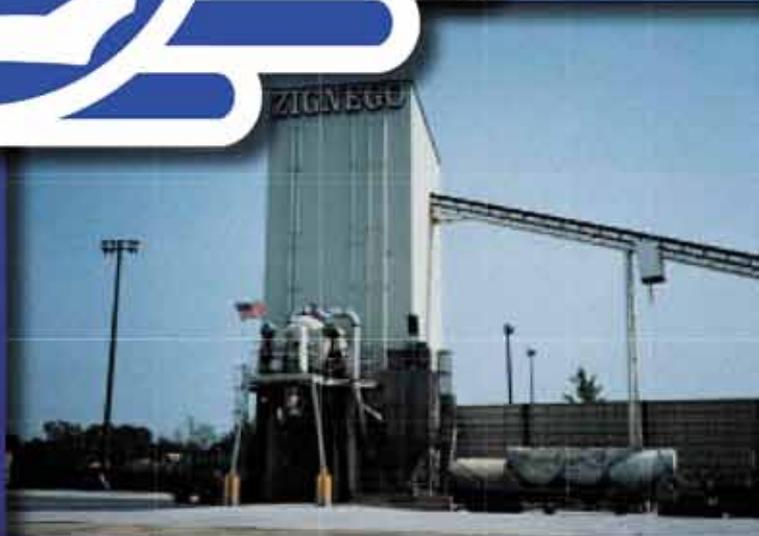
Jefferson wanted the world to remember him as the author of the statute that provided the basis for the constitutional guarantee as found in the First Amendment.

STAN VAUGHAN
Sent via e-mail

I enjoyed the Joe Wolverton II, J.D., article on the faith of our Founding Fathers. However, when he got to Thomas Jefferson, he made no reference to Jefferson's Sunday habit of worshipping weekly at the services held in our nation's capitol building, no mention of his establishing the printing of Bibles for the Indians and others and his evangelical zeal for the spread of the Gospel to the Indians.

It appeared to me that the author was attempting to mount Jefferson as close as he could to being a Deist without being one. The author quotes Jefferson flatly stating that he supports every doctrine of Jesus Christ. Just because the author quotes that Jefferson was not a member of any church does not establish anything regarding Jefferson's faith, only his church membership.

BERT NIEMAN
Sent via e-mail



ZIGNEGO READY MIX, INC.

W226 N2940 DUPLAINVILLE ROAD

WAUKESHA, WI 53186

262-542-0333

Obama's Solution to High College Costs



Barack Obama
at University of
Michigan

AP Images

“We are putting colleges on notice,” declared President Barack Obama. “You can’t assume that you’ll just jack up tuition every single year. If you can’t stop tuition from going up, then the funding you get from taxpayers each year will go down.”

Obama, speaking at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on January 27, sketched out a plan for bringing the cost of college tuition down. The President said he considers it an urgent need because “tuition is going up faster than inflation, faster than even health care is going up.” At that rate, he explained, “no matter how much we subsidize it, sooner or later, we’re going to run out of money.”

A more observant (and less opportunistic) individual might, at this point in his speech, have asked the obvious question: If the costs of two of the most heavily subsidized sectors of the

economy are growing at a clip far outpacing inflation, are the subsidies, perhaps, at the root of the price hikes?

Obama, apparently, has never bothered to ask himself that question, or else has decided that the reverse — that high prices cause subsidies — is the case. As a result, his solution to rising college tuition is exactly the same as his solution to increasing healthcare costs: Subsidize those costs some more, then order everyone on the receiving end of the subsidies to behave in ways that run counter to their own interests. The results are predictable: Prices will continue to rise rapidly, in turn bringing calls for greater subsidies and stricter mandates.

There is little doubt that federal student aid is the underlying cause of spiraling higher-education costs. Neal McCluskey, associate director of the Center for Education Freedom at the Cato Institute, told CNSNews.com: “The root problem isn’t that colleges charge too much. The root problem is the federal government gives too much money to too many people to pursue an education that perhaps they’re not ready for, that they’re not motivated to succeed in. And that money allows colleges to raise their prices at will. To deal with the real problem, you have got to cut student aid. There is simply no other way around it.”

In his speech, Obama emphasized the need for a college diploma, noting that “in the coming decade, 60 percent of new jobs will require more than a high school diploma.” “Higher education,” he said, “is not a luxury. It’s an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford.” However, as McCluskey pointed out, if everyone has a college degree, the value of each degree will be greatly reduced.

UN Seeking Global “Mental Health” Plan

A coordinated effort to increase the United Nations’ role in the fields of mental health and substance abuse is now under way, with experts, national governments, and global bureaucracies lobbying for the UN World Health Organization (WHO) to get more involved.

On January 20, the WHO executive board released a resolution entitled “Global Burden of Mental Disorders and the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response at the country level.” The document calls for, among other measures, collaboration between national governments and the global health body in developing a “comprehensive mental health action plan” for the world.

The resolution asks the WHO director-general to draft a “comprehensive” plan that includes model legislation and policy measures for member states. The program would encompass everything from education and human rights to healthcare delivery and employment, with the WHO boss instructed to integrate all relevant sectors of society and government into the “comprehensive” scheme.

Just a few days before the WHO released its controversial resolution, a team of academics published a peer-reviewed paper in the journal *PLoS Medicine* calling for exactly what the global health body envisions: an international regime to deal with mental

health. Led by Vikram Patel of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Judith Bass from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, the authors even called for a world “People’s Charter for Mental Health.”

“The time has come for recognition at the highest levels of global development, namely the U.N. General Assembly, of the urgent need for a global strategy to address the global burden of MNS [mental, neurological, and substance-abuse] disorders,” the authors wrote, citing data on global mental-health trends. “The fact that MNS disorders affect people in all countries should offer considerable incentive for investments by both public and private sectors in this initiative.”

Meanwhile, the government of India was among the busiest promoters of the global scheme. It was joined by the Obama administration and other governments around the world in helping to advance the WHO’s resolution, according to Indian media reports.



ObamaCare Mandate Elicits Defiance From Catholic Bishops

A battle appears to be brewing between the Obama administration and the Catholic Church over the President's insistence that religious employers provide free contraception coverage in their insurance plans, including pharmaceuticals that result in abortion. The administration rejected an appeal from religious organizations, led by the Catholic Church, for an exemption on insurance provided to employees of religious institutions such as hospitals, colleges, and charities.

In response, Archbishop (and Cardinal designate) Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, declared that the President was trying to force Catholics to violate clear Church teachings on contraception, sterilization, and even abortion. "To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable," he said in a statement. "It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom."

At least three Catholic bishops have announced that their dioceses will not comply with the Obama "contraception mandate." In a column posted on his diocesan website, Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh went as far as to write that, in making its ruling through Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, the Obama administration was, in effect, saying: "'To Hell with You' to the Catholic faithful of the United States. 'To Hell with your religious beliefs. To Hell with your religious liberty. To Hell with your freedom of conscience.'"

Zubik noted that if followed, the mandate "would apply in virtually every instance where the Catholic Church serves as an employer. The mandate would require the Catholic Church as an employer to violate its fundamental beliefs concerning human life and human dignity by forcing Catholic entities to provide contraceptive[s], sterilization coverage, and even pharmaceuticals that result in abortion."

He added that the ruling amounted to "government by fiat that attacks the rights of everyone — not only Catholics, [but] people of all religion[s]. At no other time in memory or history has there been such a governmental intrusion on freedom not only with regard to religion, but even across-the-board with all citizens."



AP Images

Financial Arsonists Demand Bigger "Firewall"

"We need a larger firewall," declared Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), during a speech in Berlin on January 23, in which she called on taxpayers of the world to chip in \$1 trillion to the IMF to stave off a global crisis. "We need to act quickly or else we could easily slide into a 1930s moment," Lagarde warned, in an obvious reference to the Great Depression.

Suddenly, talk of "firewalls" was everywhere. Australian Treasurer Wayne Swan backed Lagarde, saying without "larger firewalls" to protect embattled European nations the global economy was at risk. On January 27, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, speaking at the annual billionaire confab known as the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland, said that "building a stronger, more credible firewall," is key to resolving the euro-zone sovereign debt crisis. But the IMF is not the only institution calling for expensive new fire protection. On January 30 CNN reported that European leaders meeting in Brussels had just concluded an agreement "to strengthen a financial firewall and most members of the 27-nation group will sign a new fiscal compact." The centerpiece of that pact is 500 billion euros (\$650 billion) to implement the European Stability Mechanism, or ESM, for bailing out Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and other troubled economies.

European Council president Herman Van Rompuy declared: "The early entry into force of this permanent firewall will prevent

contagion in the euro area and further restore confidence."

The German audience that IMF chief Lagarde picked to pitch the new \$1 trillion firewall was carefully chosen: the German Council on Foreign Relations, or GCFR (in German, it is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, or DGAP). Like its interlocking counterparts in the United States (the Council on Foreign Relations, CFR), Britain (the Royal Institute of International Affairs, RIIA), and other countries, the GCFR represents the globalist elites of corporate, banking, political, and academic circles that are promoting convergence toward world government. Selling the German public on the massive new funding for the ESM and IMF "firewalls" will be critical, and the influential voices represented by the GCFR will be key to accomplishing that.

Secretary Geithner, a CFR member, was only too happy to assist his fellow arsonists in throwing more gasoline on the global "liquidity" and "stimulus" fire. He was interviewed on the main stage at the World Economic Forum palaver by Fareed Zakaria, editor-at-large of *Time* magazine, host and commentator at CNN, and member and director of the Council on Foreign Relations. ■



AP Images

Arizona Governor Wags a Finger While Greeting President Obama

“I asked him if he had read the book *Scorpions for Breakfast*. He said he had read the excerpt . . . that he didn’t feel that I had treated him cordially. I said I was sorry he felt that way, but I didn’t get my sentence finished. Anyway, we’re glad he’s here.”

In her book, Republican Governor Jan Brewer accused the President of turning a blind eye to the immigration problem because the migrants will register as Democrats.



Jan Brewer

AP Images

Should Driver’s Licenses Be Given to Illegal Immigrants?

“The policy of giving driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants, which nearly every other state has repealed or opposed, leads to fraud, human trafficking, organized crime, and significant security concerns. The issue has been debated long enough.”

After New Mexico’s Republican Governor Suzanne Martinez announced her support for repealing the decade-old law that allows illegals to gain this form of legitimacy in her state, spokesman Scott Darnell gave reasons for her position.



Dan Burton

AP Images

House Debt-ceiling Rejection a Virtually Meaningless Gesture

“The whole process amuses me. We gave the president carte blanche and it’s dead wrong.”

Last August’s debt deal not only authorized an immediate \$400 billion increase in the national debt limit, it also empowered the President to raise the ceiling by the additional amounts of \$500 billion (this occurred last year) and \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion subject to congressional resolutions of disapproval that the President could veto. So even though the House voted 239-176 in January 2012 against raising the ceiling by \$1.2 trillion, the increase will still occur. Rep. Dan Burton, (R-Ind.) is only one of many in Congress who believe the measure passed last August was a bad mistake.

Widespread Sadness Over Kodak’s Bankruptcy

“Kodak played a role in pretty much everyone’s life in the 20th Century because it was the company we entrusted our most precious possession to — our memories. One of the interesting things about this bankruptcy story is that everyone’s saddened by it.”

Competition from Japan and the seismic shift to digital technology brought terrific problems to the familiar film producer. In Toronto, Ryerson University professor Robert Burley spoke for many with hopes that company can survive as a much smaller entity.

President Rejects Religious Exemptions; Insurers Must Cover Birth Control

“In effect, the president is saying that we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences.”

Archbishop Timothy Dolan, the president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, disagreed with the Obama administration’s ruling because the Catholic Church contends that birth control is sinful. The ruling will take effect for religious groups in August 2013.

Hockey Star Refuses to Attend White House Ceremony

“I believe the Federal government has grown out of control, threatening the Rights, Liberties and Property of the People.... This is in direct opposition to the Constitution and the Founding Fathers vision for the Federal government.”

The MVP of last year’s Stanley Cup final won by his Boston Bruins team, goalie Tim Thomas, one of only two U.S. citizens on the team, stayed away from attending the White House reception and gave his reasons for doing so.



Tim Thomas

AP Images

Resistance to Agenda 21 Growing

“Agenda 21 is one of those creepy intrusive government programs that sort of seeps across America little by little until one day we all wake up knee deep in Agenda 21 slime.”

In his January 26 newsletter, Glenn Beck aired his feelings about the UN’s stealth program to control our country and the rest of mankind. ■

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. MCMANUS



Is It Nuts to Let Iran GO NUCLEAR?

Iran is often characterized as a rogue regime that is on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon. But Iran is likely not close at all to having deployable nuclear bombs.

by Charles Scaliger

On the morning of January 11, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, a 32-year-old chemist from Sharif University in Tehran, was riding in a Peugeot 405 along Shahid Golnabi Street in eastern Tehran. As his car inched through the morning rush-hour traffic, two men on

motorcycles approached Roshan's vehicle, attached a magnetic bomb to the side of the car, and raced off just before the Peugeot and its prominent passenger were blown to bits. Roshan — who was also deputy director for commercial affairs at Iran's Natanz nuclear reactor — had just become the latest victim of an apparent covert campaign of assassination targeting

high-profile Iranian scientists allegedly involved in the Islamic republic's controversial nuclear program.

Tehran, already furious at the latest attempt by the United States and her allies to impose sanctions on Iranian oil exports, immediately accused the CIA and Israel of being behind the killing. Against a backdrop of economic sanctions and Iranian



AP Images

Casualty of war: Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, an Iranian professor of chemistry alleged to have been involved with Iran's nuclear program, was assassinated January 11 by two assailants on motorcycles, who attached a bomb to his car. A number of prominent Iranian scientists and military officials have been assassinated or died in suspicious accidents over the past several years.

threats to close the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian-U.S. relations have probably reached a low not seen since the 1979-1981 hostage crisis. Suddenly a war between Iran and the West, long threatened but not seriously contemplated, is looking more and more likely.

Low-level conflict with the Iranians is certainly nothing new. During the 1980s, while Iran was locked in a protracted struggle with Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the Reagan administration provided military escorts for oil tankers to protect them from the Iranian navy. In a number of skirmishes, Iranian boats were sunk and oil rigs destroyed by the American military. In one tragic accident, the American guided missile cruiser *USS Vincennes* shot down Iran Air flight 655 on July 3, 1988, killing all 290 civilians aboard.

More recently, Iran has been plagued by assassinations and other suspect incidents that have taken the lives of a number of prominent scientists. Two years to the day before Roshan's death, Masoud Ali Mohammadi, an Iranian nuclear scientist, was killed outside his home by a remotely controlled bomb hidden on a parked motorcycle. Four months later another nuclear scientist, Majid Shahriari, was killed by an attacker on a motorcycle using a magnetic bomb. Another prominent Iranian nuclear scientist, Feyreduon Abbasi-Davani, narrowly escaped the same fate in a separate attack that day. Still another, Darioush Rezaeinejad, was gunned down last July

as he and his wife waited to pick up their child from kindergarten. In addition, two separate blasts last year inflicted heavy damage on two Iranian missile sites, one of them also killing the architect of Iran's missile program, Major General Hassan Moghaddam, along with 16 other men.

Less lethal but still damaging was the computer worm Stuxnet, which infected the Natanz facility in late 2010, forcing a temporary shutdown. The worm is widely regarded to be a deliberate cyber attack carried out by the United States and/or Israel.

And the more than 30-year war of words between the United States and Iran continues apace, with U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warning on January 8 that any attempt by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz — through which roughly 20 percent of the world's oil supply passes — would be tantamount to crossing a "red line." Another "red line" that Iran would not be permitted to cross, Panetta added, was developing nuclear weapons. American policy toward Iran — with which we have had no diplomatic relations since 1979 — has become a prominent issue during the 2012 presidential campaign, with most candidates (Ron Paul excepted) advocating some type of military action.

Rights, Wrongs, and Reasoning

But how much of a threat does Iran pose to the United States? Is there any justification for yet another "pre-emptive war" in the Middle East?

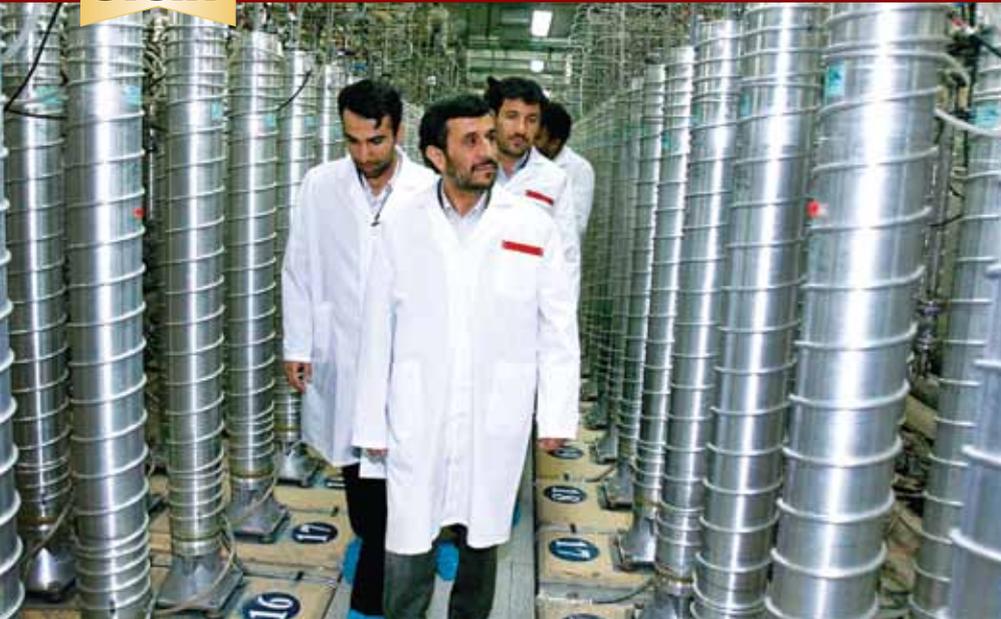
While the former chief of the United States Central Command in the Middle East, General John Abizaid, characterized Iran's military as the strongest in the region, it is important to put his claim in context. In absolute numbers, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with roughly 545,000 active personnel, are indeed without peer in the region.

But size doesn't always matter in modern military affairs. There was, for example, widespread trepidation in the United States, including Congress, in the run-up to the Gulf War, on account of Saddam Hussein's massive "million-man army." But Hussein's legions, supposedly battle-hardened from years of war with Iran and rendered invincible by religious fanaticism, were easily vanquished by vastly superior American military machinery.

A more reliable measure of military strength is cost. The United States, the world's dominant military power, also spends a lion's share of total annual global military expenditures (roughly 43 percent as of 2010, or nearly three times as much as China, the U.K., and France *combined*).

In the Middle East, Iran is far behind many of her neighbors in military spending. In 2010, Iran spent just over \$7 billion on her military — half what the United Arab Emirates spent that year, and only one-sixth what Saudi Arabia spent. Israel spent twice as much as Iran — 6.3 percent of Israel's GDP, as contrasted with only 1.8 percent of Iran's (and 4.7 percent for the United States). Globally, Iran's military expenditures rank it about 25th — hardly a first-rank military power.

Masoud Ali Mohammadi, an Iranian nuclear scientist, was killed outside his home by a remotely controlled bomb hidden on a parked motorcycle. Four months later another nuclear scientist, Majid Shahriari, was killed by an attacker on a motorcycle using a magnetic bomb.



AP Images

The road to enrichment: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inspects the nuclear facility at Natanz in 2007. Five years later, thousands of centrifuges at the plant are allegedly enriching uranium for fuel, prompting Western leaders like Leon Panetta to warn that Iran may be only a year from having “the bomb.”

In recent years, Iran has made significant strides in domestic arms manufacturing. Her air force, once dependent on aging U.S. planes acquired before the Iranian Revolution, is now bolstered by indigenous products like the Saegheh fighter jet. Iran manufactures tanks (the Zulfiqar, modeled after the American-made M-60), miniature submarines (the Ghadir and the Nahang), and even a full-sized submarine (the Qaaem class, not yet in service). Iran also possesses three Kilo-class Russian submarines that patrol the Persian Gulf (and would, presumably, be instrumental in any attempt to blockade the Strait of Hormuz).

Iran has garnered much press recently for the progress of her domestic missile program. No longer reliant on the import of obsolete ballistic missiles like the Soviet Scuds used in the war with Iraq, Iran now manufactures and regularly tests a variety

of modern short- and medium-range missiles, including the Shahab-3 with a range of 800-1,200 miles. Iran — like Saddam Hussein’s Iraq of yesteryear — certainly has the capability of striking enemies like Israel and Saudi Arabia with missiles.

The battlefield utility of ballistic missiles, however, is limited at best, as both the Gulf War and the war between Iran and Iraq amply demonstrated. Saddam Hussein rained Scud missiles on Israel and on coalition forces during the Gulf War, but inflicted very few casualties, except for one missile that struck a tent filled with U.S. military personnel — and that one, aimed at a different target, had been shot down. During the Iran-Iraq War, each side lobbed ballistic missiles at the other’s cities, inflicting civilian casualties and sowing terror, but having little effect on combatants. And even were such missiles a force to be reckoned with locally, Iran is very far away from having any ability to strike the United States or her allies in Western Europe with missiles.

In fact, Iran’s military development would probably attract no more notice than Saudi Arabia’s were it not for her alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons. Since the completion of Iran’s nuclear enrichment facility at Natanz, the Islamic Republic

has begun enriching uranium, although not to anywhere near the 90-percent levels required for weapons-grade uranium. But with centrifuge cascades whirring nonstop day and night, it is at least theoretically possible for Iran to eventually stockpile enough enriched uranium to allow them to begin building nuclear weapons. Iran, the most dire warnings predict, could conceivably be only months away from having “the Bomb.” There is no way to ensure, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last November, that Iran will not in fact go nuclear, since the Iranians are believed to be working on nuclear trigger technology (another tricky part of building nuclear weapons that actually work) and on modifying their missiles to accommodate nuclear warheads. One think tank, the Institute for Science and International Security, now estimates that Iran could build a nuclear weapon within six months of deciding to do so.

But are such claims credible? The evidence from other countries’ efforts to develop nuclear weapons is anything but clear. Developing nuclear weapons requires mastery of a number of intricate technologies, among them engineering centrifuge cascades that can run for months and even years without stopping, the manufacture of intricate, high-speed switches known as krytons that — properly placed and synchronized — can create the implosion that will condense fissionable nuclear material to a critical mass, and the miniaturization of warheads so that they can be delivered by plane or (preferably) by missile. Such technology is enormously expensive and difficult to develop, as the experiences of China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea all attest. China detonated its first nuclear device in 1964 and its first hydrogen bomb test three years later. Yet as of the mid-1990s, China was not believed to have the capacity to deliver nukes, either by missile or long-range bomber, to any U.S. targets. All of that changed, of course, during the Clinton administration, when American missile technology found its way into Chinese hands (thanks, it was alleged at the time, to crooked campaign deals brokered by Bill Clinton in exchange for reelection campaign monies from China). Yet even today, with China openly pursuing offensive military technology like

China detonated its first nuclear device in 1964 and its first hydrogen bomb test three years later. Yet as of the mid-1990s, China was not believed to have the capacity to deliver nukes, either by missile or long-range bomber, to any U.S. targets.

aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines, China still lags far, far behind the United States in military development.

India tested its first nuclear device in 1974, and conducted no further tests until May of 1998, when it claimed to have successfully detonated five nuclear weapons, including both fission and thermonuclear devices. In other words, it took India nearly a quarter century to go from its first nuclear test to the actual production of nuclear weapons — and this in a country rich in scientific and mathematical talent.

Following India's 1974 test, Pakistan's Premier famously announced that the people of Pakistan might have to "eat grass," but Pakistan would acquire nuclear weapons of their own. True to their word, the impoverished Pakistanis conducted nuclear tests of their own in 1998 — the fruits of 26 years of work and untold economic hardship.

The decades-old North Korean nuclear program finally bore fruit in October 2006 with the detonation of a small, probably flawed nuclear device that appeared to be significantly weaker than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A second, marginally stronger device — but

still far from the "city-busting" strength of thermonuclear weapons wielded by major nuclear powers — was conducted by the North Koreans in May 2009. Despite belligerent claims by the North Koreans to have a functional nuclear arsenal, it is far from clear whether they actually have working nuclear weapons.

For as the experience of every nuclear power from the United States onward shows, there is a very big difference between having a nuclear "device" and having nuclear weapons. The United States in the early 1940s enjoyed an extraordinary talent base — greatly enhanced by brilliant European immigrants who had fled Nazism and Fascism, such as Hans Bethe, Wolfgang Pauli, Niels Bohr, and Enrico Fermi — and very deep financial resources on which to draw. France and Great Britain, both of whom developed nuclear weapons after the war, reaped the benefit of prior U.S. experience, while the Soviet Union was able to steal nuclear technology from the West. It is unclear the extent to which Israel has been able to rely on Western technology in developing her own nuclear forces, but even today, the size and effectiveness of Israel's nuclear deterrent

are unclear, since Israel has neither declared itself a nuclear weapons state nor conducted a single atomic test.

Of today's nuclear states, only Russia, China, France, and Britain appear to have the capability to deliver a nuclear weapon to a U.S. target, and only the former two can be realistically considered potential belligerents.

All of which helps to bring the nuclear debate on Iran into perspective. Even if Iran's mullahs managed to touch off a tiny nuclear device (and it would be tiny, given how long it takes to produce enough weapons-grade material for even one small warhead) in a year or so, they would still be many years away from creating a deliverable nuclear weapon that could threaten Saudi Arabia or Israel, and probably decades away from creating an ICBM or submarine-launched missile that could menace the American mainland. And by that time, military technology in the United States would be far advanced over what it is now. In sum, like Iran's underfunded, backward conventional forces, any Iranian nuclear device would have little near-term military value except (as with North Korea) as a deterrent.

Nuclear club: One of India's nuclear-capable Agni IV missiles on parade. Although both India and Pakistan, longtime bitter enemies, have had nuclear arsenals since the late 1990s, and India has been hit by several devastating terror attacks carried out by Pakistani extremists, nuclear war has not broken out on the subcontinent.



In more than 40 years of independence, Israel has more than demonstrated her ability to take care of herself. In 1981, the Israeli Air Force destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction at Osirak, and did the same with a clandestine Syrian nuclear facility in 2007.

Seeing a Substantial Threat

And it is this, rather than some bona fide threat to the West, that has American power elites in a lather of apprehension. *Foreign Affairs*, the flagship journal for American foreign policy, made its recommendations very clear in the January/February issue of this year. Matthew Kroenig, an assistant professor of government at Georgetown University and a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (the elite New York-based group that publishes *Foreign Affairs*), in an article entitled “Time to Attack Iran,” argues unapologetically that the time has come for the United States to launch a war against Iran, in order to prevent Tehran from acquiring nukes:

With the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq winding down and the United States facing economic hardship at home, Americans have little appetite for further strife. Yet Iran’s rapid nuclear development will ultimately force the United States to choose between a conventional conflict and a possible nuclear war. Faced with that decision, the United States should conduct a surgical strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities, absorb an inevitable round of retaliation, and then seek to quickly de-escalate the crisis. Addressing the threat now will spare the United States from confronting a far more dangerous situation in the future.

Kroenig, speaking for a vocal clique of self-anointed foreign policy elites, believes that the long-term costs of containing an eventual nuclear Iran far outweigh the risks and costs of near-term military action:

A nuclear-armed Iran would immediately limit U.S. freedom of

action in the Middle East. With atomic power behind it, Iran could threaten any U.S. political or military initiative in the Middle East with nuclear war, forcing Washington to think twice before acting in the region. Iran’s regional rivals, such as Saudi Arabia, would likely decide to acquire their own nuclear arsenals, sparking an arms race. To constrain its geopolitical rivals, Iran could choose to spur proliferation by transferring nuclear technology to its allies — other countries and terrorist groups alike. Having the bomb would give Iran greater cover for conventional aggression and coercive diplomacy, and the battles between its terrorist proxies and Israel, for example, could escalate....

These security threats would require Washington to contain Tehran. Yet deterrence would come at a heavy price. To keep the Iranian threat at bay, the United States would need to deploy naval and ground units and potentially nuclear weapons across the Middle East, keeping a large force in the area for decades to come. Alongside those troops, the United States would have to permanently deploy significant intelligence assets to monitor any attempts by Iran to transfer its nuclear technology. And it would also need to devote perhaps billions of dollars to improving its allies’ capability to defend themselves. This might include helping Israel construct submarine-launched ballistic missiles and hardened ballistic missile silos to ensure that it can maintain a secure second-strike capability. Most of all, to make containment credible, the United States would need to extend its nuclear umbrella to its partners in the region, pledging to defend them with military force should Iran launch an attack.

We’ve heard all these arguments before (*mutatis mutandis*) regarding Iraq’s Saddam Hussein and his non-existent stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. Kroenig’s premise — that the United States ought to enjoy essentially unlimited “freedom of action” in the Middle East — is pure imperial hubris. Since the Per-



AP Images

Chokepoint: An Iranian soldier drills alongside the Sea of Oman. Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz leading into the Persian Gulf, in response to Western sanctions against Iranian oil.

sian Gulf War, we have chosen to inject ourselves militarily into the unending broils of the Middle East, at extraordinary cost in both lives and treasure. In occupying Iraq and overthrowing its dictator, former U.S. ally Saddam Hussein, we managed to create a power vacuum into which Iran has obligingly stepped. The entire region is now convulsed by revolution whose outcome, so far, is decidedly mixed, despite energetic involvement by the United States and other Western powers. Egypt has managed to replace one military dictatorship with another, Yemen has done nothing to dislodge its odious ruler, and Syria continues to hemorrhage under the iron fist of the monstrous Bashar el-Assad, a mild mannered former ophthalmologist intending to maintain his family's brutal rule at any cost. Libya is well-rid of Moammar Gadhafi, but it remains to be seen whether that country can avoid sliding into civil war along tribal lines. Bahrain's peaceful protesters were brutally crushed with the help of Saudi troops.

And oil is more expensive than ever, despite our "freedom of action" in the Middle East. The latest threat to global oil supplies comes from unrest not in the sands of Libya or Iraq, but from Nigeria, a country we have not yet garrisoned.

All of this has come about in the first place because of the insistence of U.S. elites on trying to micromanage a part of the world that we understand very little, and in whose millennia-old quarrels we have no stake. Our "interests" in the Middle East supposedly boil down to two things: oil and Israel.

The first is hard to accept at face value, given that U.S. government policy elites have done everything they can to prevent the development of domestic petroleum reserves. Most of Alaska's North Slope and the east and west coasts of the United States are off-limits to oil drilling (this despite the fact that the Canadians have discovered and are exploiting substantial oil reserves off their Atlantic coast). The Athabasca tar sands of northern Alberta — the world's second largest oil reserves — are on the verge of supplying the United States with a lion's share of needed crude oil, but the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would convey vast amounts of oil from Alberta down to Texas refiner-



AP Images

Sea of contention: One-sixth of the world's oil passes through the Persian Gulf. In the 1980s, Iran and Iraq took turns attacking each other's oil tankers as part of a bitter war between Baghdad and Tehran. With the rise in hostilities over Iran's nuclear program, oil tankers could again become pawns in a Middle Eastern conflict.

ies, is now being delayed by a coalition of left-wing environmentalist interests with whom President Obama has all but thrown his full support. Yet America's political leadership apparently prefers the added costs (political and military as well as economic) of continuing to ship in our oil from hostile countries on the other side of the world.

The other justification for American meddling in the Middle East (and withal for starting a war with Iran) is the protection of our ally, Israel. Yet no military treaty of any kind exists between the United States and Israel — unlike U.S. allies such as Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and the members of NATO, all of whom we are treaty-bound to defend in the event they are attacked.

In more than 40 years of independence, Israel has more than demonstrated her ability to take care of herself. In 1981, the Israeli Air Force destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction at Osirak, and did the same with a clandestine Syrian nuclear facility in 2007. In three major wars fought against large enemy coalitions (in 1948, 1967, and 1973), Israel has emerged the victor. In any engagement with Iran, limited or unlimited, there can be little doubt what the outcome would be.

Yet American foreign policy agenda-setters appear to believe that Israel is un-

able to deal with the Iranian threat. According to Kroenig, a U.S. attack on Iran would pre-empt an Israeli attack, which, "given Israel's limited capability to mitigate a potential battle and inflict lasting damage, would likely result in far more devastating consequences and carry a far lower probability of success than a U.S. attack." But Israel managed to blunt Saddam Hussein's nuclear capability with a single air strike, and has repeatedly fended off attacks by numerically superior forces on their own borders — something the U.S. military has not had to face in two centuries.

To the United States, however, Kroenig ascribes a near-divine ability to attack Iran, destroy or seriously degrade its nuclear capabilities, and manage the outcome to avoid another years-long quagmire:

To make sure it doesn't and to reassure the Iranian regime, the United States could first make clear that it is interested only in destroying Iran's nuclear program, not in overthrowing the government. It could then identify certain forms of retaliation to which it would respond with devastating military action, such as attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz, conducting massive and sustained attacks on Gulf states and



AP Images

Disagreement among friends: Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, (left) with Israeli President Shimon Peres in January 2012. Israel reportedly has long been in favor of direct military action against Iran. Whatever action Israel chooses to take, history suggests that the Israelis are more than capable of taking care of themselves without U.S. military support.

U.S. troops or ships, or launching terrorist attacks in the United States itself. Washington would then need to clearly articulate these “redlines” to Tehran during and after the attack to ensure that the message was not lost in battle. And it would need to accept the fact that it would have to absorb Iranian responses that fell short of these redlines without escalating the conflict....

Even if Tehran did cross Washington’s redlines, the United States could still manage the confrontation. At the outset of any such violation, it could target the Iranian weapons that it finds most threatening to prevent Tehran from deploying them. To de-escalate the situation quickly and prevent a wider regional war, the United States could also secure the agreement of its allies to avoid responding to an Iranian attack. This would keep other armies, particularly the Israel Defense Forces, out of the fray....

Finally, the U.S. government could blunt the economic consequences of a strike. For example, it could offset any disruption of oil supplies by opening its Strategic Petroleum Reserve and quietly encouraging some Gulf states to increase their production in the run-up to the attack. Given that many oil-producing nations in the region, especially Saudi Arabia, have urged the United States to attack Iran, they would likely cooperate.

All of this is a warmed-over think tank version of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld assistant Ken Adelman’s notorious *Washington Post* prediction of a “cakewalk” in Iraq back in 2003. As the United States seemingly has to learn over and over again, once the dogs of war are unleashed, no one can predict the outcome.

But what about that ultimate bugbear, nuclear terrorism? Two regimes that actively sponsor terrorism, Pakistan and North Korea, already possess nuclear capability. North Korean agents have blown passenger liners out of the sky, set off bombs at Seoul’s Kimpo International Airport, and generally sown terrorist mayhem for decades. Pakistan-based terrorists have carried out atrocity after atrocity against Indian civilians, including a three-day spree of terror in November 2008 in Mumbai by Pakistani gunmen that left hundreds of civilians dead and wounded. Yet neither of these regimes has resorted to nuclear terrorism.

Despite the Soviet Union’s long sponsorship of international terrorism, not once did it give a single terrorist cell or Marxist guerrilla army a single nuke. Nuclear weapons, after all, are extremely difficult and expensive to build, but easy to trace. Tom Clancy-esque imaginings aside, the likelihood of an act of nuclear terrorism against the United States (or, for that matter, against

India or South Korea) is slight, given the likelihood of immediate annihilation of any regime sponsoring an act of nuclear terrorism.

A war against Iran would likely cost many thousands of lives (since, in the end, as with Iraq, we would end up having to occupy the country to fully impose our will) and trillions of dollars we cannot afford. While Iran arguably poses a threat to Israel, that country is more than capable of taking care of itself.

Nothing about the history of nuclear weapons suggests any likelihood of a nuclear Iran using such weapons for anything but a deterrent. Nothing about the history of U.S. involvement in the Middle East suggests that another pre-emptive war in that region would be anything other than an unmitigated catastrophe. No one forces the United States to spend blood and treasure garrisoning the Middle East; we would be under no obligation to “contain” a nuclear armed Iran other than that imposed by imperial hubris. With the end of the Iraq War and the drawdown in Afghanistan, it is well past time for America to mind her own business and allow the nations of the Middle East — including Iran — to mind theirs. ■



EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

◆ Additional copies of this issue of THE NEW AMERICAN are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org or see the card between pages 34-35.

Dennis Mahon, a white supremacist from Tulsa, Oklahoma, talks to journalists before appearing before the Oklahoma County Grand Jury investigating the Oklahoma City bombing on July 16, 1997.

10, has been something of a sensational sexual sideshow, with the Mahons' defense team declaring the government's actions "outrageous" in using a voluptuous "trailer park Mata Hari" informant to provoke and entrap the Mahons. The defense has shown the jury two provocative photos of Rebecca Williams, an informant for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), that Williams gave to Dennis Mahon. The photos of Williams, a 41-year-old former exotic dancer, and a video of her massaging a naked Dennis Mahon (who was covered only by a towel), are central to the defense argument of entrapment. One of the photos, reported the Associated Press, "showed her in a leather jacket, fishnet stockings and a thong that completely exposed her buttocks, along with a note that said, 'Thought you'd love the butt shot.' The other showed her in a bikini top with a grenade hanging between her breasts as Williams posed in front of a pickup and a swastika."

Williams said that the ATF paid her \$100 for in-person contact with the brothers, on top of \$300 every month for their phone conversations. Over the course of nearly five years, she received a total of \$45,000 from the ATF, including reimbursements for her expenses. She says the ATF promised her \$100,000 upon the Mahons' convictions.

Williams made audio recordings of a number of in-person and telephone conversations with Dennis Mahon, some of which were played for the jury. He reportedly "showed her how to make bombs and bragged about bombing a Jewish community center, an Internal Revenue Service building, an immigration facility, and an abortion clinic."

Mahon also talked to her about the Scottsdale bombing of Don Logan. He told her that he didn't do it but convinced white police officers to do it.

Mahon's defense attorney argued that Mahon "often makes exaggerated self-aggrandizing claims" that aren't true and that his claims of criminal activity were simply

Arizona Bomb Trial — Ties to OKC Bombing

Racist and hatermonger Dennis Mahon is on trial for hurting two people in a Phoenix, Arizona, bombing, but he should also be charged in the Oklahoma City bombing.

by William F. Jasper

For nearly three decades, Dennis Mahon has served as one of the premier poster boys for violent racism in America. He has held top leadership positions in the Oklahoma Ku Klux Klan and White Aryan Resistance (WAR), and has hobnobbed with many of the most notorious neo-Nazis and hate mongers in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. He has led cross-burning rallies, operated a "Dial-a-Racist" hotline in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and twice run for Mayor of Tulsa as an avowed racist. He has publicly called for violent revolution and overthrow of the U.S. government, and advocated violence against Jews, blacks, and other "non-Aryans."

Dennis Mahon and his identical twin brother, Daniel, are now on trial in Phoenix, Arizona, for a 2004 bombing that injured a black city official and his secretary in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale. The 61-year-old white supremacist twins were arrested at their parents' home near Rockford, Illinois, in June 2009.

The federal grand jury indictment charges that "Dennis Mahon and Daniel Mahon did knowingly and unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate and agree together to maliciously damage and destroy by means of fire and explosives, buildings and other real property used in interstate and foreign commerce." The indictment states further:

Dennis Mahon participated in the construction of a bomb, disguised in a cardboard box made to appear as a parcel package, that was delivered to the City of Scottsdale Civic Center Library. The label on the box was addressed to Donald Logan, Office of Diversity & Dialogue. The bomb did in fact explode on February 26, 2004 when Donald Logan opened the box. Donald Logan and Renita Linyard suffered personal injuries as result of the explosion.

The Mahon brothers pled not guilty to the charges. Their trial, which began in Phoenix in federal court on January

The same report notes that Mahon and Strassmeir had taken “three trips to Oklahoma City in November, 1994, December, 1994, and February, 1995.”

the braggadocio of an alcoholic aimed at impressing a woman with whom he was infatuated.

Prosecutors said Williams never kissed or had sex with either brother and that her flirtations did not constitute entrapment. The trial is expected to extend into February and, possibly, March.

Good Chance He’s Guilty

If the Mahon brothers end up being convicted for the Scottsdale bombing, it will constitute a triumph something akin to convicting Charles Manson for jaywalking.

In the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, federal investigators early on considered Mahon a top suspect as one of the “John Doe” accomplices to Timothy McVeigh in that attack, which killed nearly 170 persons and injured hundreds of others. THE NEW AMERICAN magazine’s own extensive investigation amassed convincing evidence that Mahon was one of the “others unknown” mentioned as co-conspirators in the federal indictment against Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. However, very soon

after the bombing, it became clear that the Clinton administration’s Justice Department was directing the FBI and other federal investigators away from Mahon and his close friend, Andreas “Andy” Strassmeir, a German army officer who was in

the United States illegally on an expired visa and was serving as the “security officer” at a rural Aryan encampment near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border known as “Elohim City.”

FBI and ATF records show that federal authorities were aware prior to the bombing that Strassmeir was training the residents of Elohim City in the use of firearms, explosives, insurrection, and guerrilla warfare. They were sufficiently alarmed by activities at the rural settlement that they conducted aerial video and photographic reconnaissance of Elohim City and recruited a young Tulsa woman, Carol Howe, for the dangerous task of infiltrating the enclave as an undercover confidential informant. Federal officials also were well aware that precisely 10 years previously, on April 19, 1985, FBI and ATF agents raided an Elohim City-related compound nearby in Arkansas to foil an earlier plot to blow up the same Oklahoma City federal building. The leader of that plot was polygamist James Ellison, who is married to one of the granddaughters of the “Reverend” Robert

Millar, the founder, patriarch, and spiritual leader of Elohim City.

Dennis Mahon was a frequent visitor to Elohim City and had set up a travel trailer there for his extended stays. In addition to Strassmeir, Mahon also was close friends with members of the Aryan Republican Army (ARA), also known as the Midwest Bank Robbers. The federal indictment of several of the ARA robbers says: “In or about November 1994, the defendants MARK WILLIAM THOMAS and SCOTT ANTHONY STEDEFORD met with defendant KEVIN MCCARTHY in Elohim City, Oklahoma.” Indeed, many of the robbers lived there for extended periods.

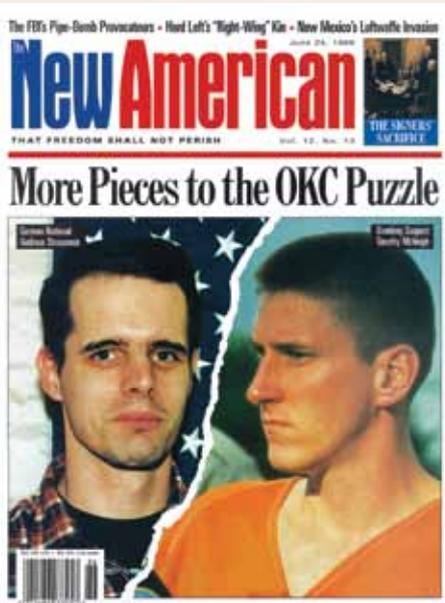
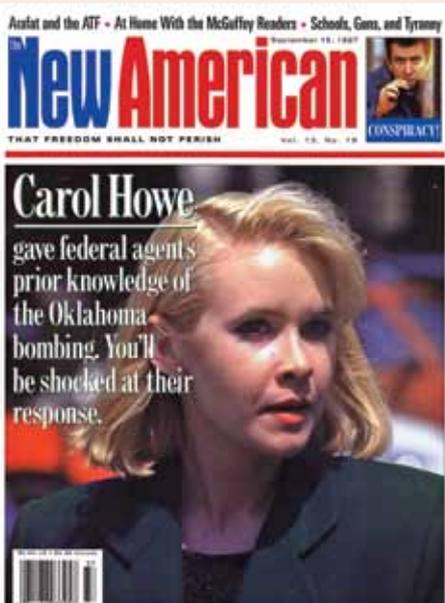
A signature of the ARA robbers was to leave a fake bomb at the banks they robbed, thus the FBI task force set up to capture them was designated BOMBROB. At Elohim City the robbers had access to at least two experienced bomb makers who could teach them how to make real bombs: Dennis Mahon and Andy Strassmeir. The ARA declared in their own propaganda video that “Federal buildings may have to be bombed, and civilian loss of life is regrettable but expected.”

Federal documents show that Carol Howe warned prior to the OKC bombing that Strassmeir and Mahon were planning to blow up federal buildings and that she had gone with the two of them on a surveillance run to Oklahoma City. A report by FBI special agent James Blanchard and ATF special agent Angie Finley on April 21, 1995, two days after the bombing states:

MEHAUN [sic] has talked with CAROL about targeting federal installations for destruction through bombings, such as the IRS Federal Building, the Tulsa Federal Building and the Oklahoma Federal Building.

The same report notes that Mahon and Strassmeir had taken “three trips to Oklahoma City in November, 1994, December, 1994, and February, 1995” and that

OKC coverup exposed: In more than 100 articles, THE NEW AMERICAN led a path-breaking effort to expose official coverup and misconduct in the Oklahoma bombing investigation, including these cover stories on Carol Howe and Andreas Strassmeir.





AP Images

Terror in the heartland: 168 people were killed and hundreds more injured in the terrorist bombing that devastated the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, on April 19, 1995.

Howe had accompanied them on one of the trips. Another ATF lead sheet filed by special agent Finley states, among other things: “Mahon has detonated explosives at E/C”; “E/C is preparing for war against U.S. government”; “Robert Millar stated that he would be wiling [sic] to hide anyone who needed a place to stay at E/C. (Elohim City)”

In an August 30, 1994 report based on informant Carol Howe’s intelligence, ATF agent Angela Finley wrote:

Mahon has made numerous statements regarding the conversion of firearms into fully automatic weapons ... and the manufacture and use of explosive devices.... Mahon and his organization are preparing for a race war and war with the government in the near future and it is believed that they are rapidly stockpiling weapons.

The ATF’s informant Carol Howe report-

ed seeing Timothy McVeigh at Elohim City, as did several former Elohim City residents interviewed by this reporter, including Dennis Mahon. FBI informant John Shults told the FBI he had seen Mahon and McVeigh together at Elohim City. Several other witnesses interviewed by this reporter and other journalists reported seeing, meeting, and conversing with McVeigh and Strassmeir together in Kansas and Oklahoma. McVeigh’s telephone card records, which the prosecution used against him, showed that he called Elohim City at least twice. One of the calls was made only two minutes after McVeigh had placed the call to rent the Ryder truck used for the truck bomb. According to Robert Millar’s daughter-in-law Joan Millar, McVeigh asked her to “Tell Andy I’ll be coming through.” The day before the bombing, McVeigh called Kirk Lyons, Andy Strassmeir’s attorney (and attorney for the KKK and Aryan Nations), asking for Andy.

ATF and FBI records obtained by this

writer, by J.D. Cash of the *McCurtain Gazette*, and by other journalists document that federal agencies were well aware of the Mahon-Strassmeir-ARA-Elohim City connections. “It is suspected that members of Elohim City are involved either directly or indirectly through conspiracy,” federal agents wrote just days after the Murrah Building bombing. THE NEW AMERICAN has reported extensively on these connections.

FBI records show that McVeigh’s sister, Jennifer McVeigh, told the FBI Tim had told her he was involved in bank robberies and showed her money he said was from a bank robbery. In one of his letters to Jennifer, McVeigh justified robbing banks as “sort of a Robin Hood thing.”

The ATF/FBI records show federal agencies were aware that Dennis Mahon had previously detonated a 500-pound ANFO bomb, whereas, on the record, McVeigh and Nichols had only detonated small bottle bombs. Robert Sanders, a retired 24-year veteran of the ATF and former assistant director of the agency, told THE NEW AMERICAN that in view of the extraordinarily detailed high-value intelligence provided by Howe, the failure of the investigation into the OKC bombing — investigators to follow through on her information on such an important matter was beyond extraordinary; he had never seen anything like it.

Noting that according to the ATF files Mahon had blown up a truck with a 500-pound ANFO bomb, Sanders said: “That is a big bomb. How many people in this country have ever done that? Not many, I can guarantee you. The ATF and FBI would definitely want to question him about that, especially after Oklahoma City. But there’s no evidence that they ever did.” This was all the more stunning, Sanders pointed out, since the ATF’s own records showed Howe repeatedly passed polygraph tests and her ATF supervisor had evaluated her as “truthful” and “reliable.”

No Stone Unturned?

President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno vowed to a shocked and grieving nation that they would “leave no stone unturned” in the effort to bring to justice all those involved in the deadly Oklahoma City bombing.

“We believe we conducted an exhaustive investigation that pursued every possible lead and ran it to ground,” said FBI spokesman Mike Kortan in a 2003 Associated Press story. “We are confident that those who committed the crime have been brought to justice and that there are no other accomplices out there.” “Every lead, regardless of its credibility, was thoroughly investigated to its conclusions,” Kortan insisted. “While conspiracy stories continue to circulate, no evidence that other individuals were involved in the bombing was corroborated by the investigation.”

Exhaustive investigation? Pursued every possible lead? No other accomplices? The Clinton administration and its shills in the media repeatedly cited a statistical litany as proof to justify their claims regarding the supposed thoroughness of the OKC investigation: a global search involving more than 2,000 federal agents clocking more than one million investigative hours; more than 20,000 witnesses interviewed; more than a billion documents generated; and over 43,000 tips checked.

It all sounds very impressive — as it is

meant to. And yet, incredibly, amidst all this furious motion and intense “investigation,” Dennis Mahon, Andy Strassmeir, and the Elohim City ARA bank robbers — who should have been top suspects — were not even included among the tens of thousands of leads and witnesses interviewed! Months after the bombing, after this magazine and other alternative media caused an uproar over Strassmeir, he was allowed to flee back to Germany; the FBI then interviewed him briefly by telephone! It became obvious to all who were following the details that Strassmeir and Mahon were being shielded. Why? Why were federal investigators canvassing the globe — and ignoring the prime suspects and witnesses in their backyard?

Some FBI and ATF investigators and officials interviewed by *THE NEW AMERICAN* were outraged at the obstructions and diversions from higher-ups in the administration to prevent making the obvious connections of BOMBROB to OKBOMB. Danny Defenbaugh was the FBI agent in charge of the Oklahoma City Bombing investigation, OKBOMB. In 2003, when

John Solomon of Associated Press showed Defenbaugh, then retired, key documents from the FBI’s BOMBROB files showing the ARA-Elohim City connections to McVeigh, Defenbaugh claimed to have never seen them and said they might have changed the outcome of his OKBOMB probe. In fact, he said, “If I were still in the bureau, the investigation would be reopened.” Defenbaugh said his investigative team “shouldn’t have been cut out. We should have been kept in on all the items of the robbery investigation until it was resolved as connected or not connected to Oklahoma City.”

Perhaps agent Defenbaugh and his OKBOMB team should have been reading *THE NEW AMERICAN* magazine and our website, where many of these BOMBROB documents and other ATF/FBI documents were posted years before — instead of dismissing all such related information as crazy “conspiracy theory.” If he had done so, Dennis Mahon and other criminal co-conspirators connected to the Oklahoma City bombing might have been placed behind bars long ago. ■



A Republic, If You Can Keep It

The John Birch Society

Appleton, WI 54912-8040 • (920) 749-3780 • JBS.org

“Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.”



Social Spying

The U.S. government has given itself permission to spy on citizens via social networking sites, such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. It is especially interested in journalists.

by Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

With so many of our most essential liberties under attack from the oligarchy on the Potomac, it is little wonder that the freedoms of the press and speech are next on the government guillotine. Every day news of the staggering assault on the Constitution is reported in the newspaper and on television. Activists on the Left and the Right spend precious resources investigating the abuses, and journalists committed to spreading the news publish and broadcast such stories through a variety of media, from blogs to broadcast news.

The Department of Homeland Security's National Operations Center (NOC) released its Media Monitoring Initiative late last year, and in that report the intelligence-gathering arm of the DHS, the Office of Operations Coordination and Planning (OPS), gives itself permission to "gather, store, analyze, and disseminate"

data on millions of users of social media (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube) and business networking sites (LinkedIn).

Specifically, the initiative sets out the plan and purpose behind the DHS's collection of personal information from news anchors, journalists, reporters, or anyone else who posts articles, comments, or other information to many popular Web outlets. The report defines the target audience as anyone who may use "traditional and/or social media in real time to keep their audience situationally aware and informed."

Journalists and bloggers need not worry, however. DHS promises that it will not routinely gather and use Personally Identifiable Information (PII). From the abstract of the initiative:

While this Initiative is not designed to actively collect Personally Identifiable Information (PII), OPS is conducting this update to the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) because

Several departments of the federal bureaucracy are authorized by various regulations to conduct warrantless 24-hour surveillance of the online activity of American citizens. New directives make journalists the principal target.

this initiative may now collect and disseminate PII for certain narrowly tailored categories. For example, in the event of an in extremis situation involving potential life and death, OPS will share certain PII with the responding authority in order for them to take the necessary actions to save a life, such as name and location of a person calling for help buried under rubble, or hiding in a hotel room when the hotel is under attack by terrorists.

Promises and Online Posts

In other words, the government promises that all the personal electronic data that it monitors and records will only be used in "narrowly tailored" circumstances, saving a life, for example. There is no requirement that the data only be used in those instances, but there is a promise that it will be.

Constitutionalists need no reminder, however, of the illusory nature of promises to restrain oneself from abusing power. As Thomas Jefferson once warned:

Free government is founded in jealousy, not confidence. It is jealousy and not confidence which prescribes limited constitutions, to bind those we are obliged to trust with power.... In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

Moreover, this noxious provision of the recently expanded regulation governing the DHS's journalists-monitoring scheme, as well as the proffered impetus for the promulgation thereof, reminds one of the prescient words of James Madison: "The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become instruments of tyranny at home."

In light of the chilling effect this unconstitutional, unwarranted search of private information will have on the efforts of journalists to gather and disseminate in-



AP Images

A recent initiative of the Department of Homeland Security instructs agents to monitor and record the Internet search and social media habits of news anchors, journalists, and bloggers.

formation contradicting the government’s official narrative, there is something even more sinister in the fact that this new directive is designed by DHS “to provide situational awareness and establish a common operating picture” of target audiences.

A story in the *New York Times* reports on the specific sites that show up on the DHS radar:

Homeland Security seems to have a real affinity for Twitter. It advises its employees to follow not only Twitter itself but also Twitter search sites like Monitter, Tweetzi and Tweefind and more than 10 Twitter trend sites like TweetStats and Trendistic.

It monitors Facebook and, while it also recommends monitoring MySpace, it notes the once-popular social network has “limited search” capabilities. Homeland Security employees also monitor video sites like YouTube, Vimeo and Hulu — “situational awareness” apparently entails full episodes of “The Bachelor.”

Among the blogs the department follows: Wired’s Threat Level and Danger Room, Krebs on Security and, at The New York Times, The Lede blog. The list also includes more controversial sites like Jihad-Watch, Wikileaks and “Narcotráfico en México.”

Prior to this new initiative, operative guidelines instructed NOC to only collect data “under authorization set forth by the written code,” whereas these new provisions permit agents of the NOC to track the on-line movements and postings of every level of writer or commentator, from Brian Williams to nearly anonymous bloggers.

Is there anyone who would honestly argue that the surveillance and cataloging of the research means and methods of journalists (and other less official reporters of the news) is anything less than an organized and systematic squelching of the right of free speech on an Orwellian level?

Who, other than the legion of petty tyrants occupying the bureaucracies’ glass palaces on the Potomac, would benefit from the assassination of the sentries that stand on guard to sound the warning voice of despotism whenever the national authority acts outside the boundaries erected by the Constitution? Once the guards are eliminated (whether through fear of service or outright detention), there will be no effective system of communicating to the far-flung citizens of this Republic the impending advance of the federal government into the plain of liberty. This silencing of the sentinels is precisely the goal of this revised plan to freeze the exercise of the freedoms of speech and of the press.

Writers aren’t the only group to be watched by the never blinking eye of Homeland Security, however. According to the report, the following individuals may also be spied on and have their “usernames and passwords” recorded for future reference:

- 1) U.S. and foreign individuals in extremis situations involving potential life or death circumstances;
- 2) senior U.S. and foreign government officials who make public statements or provide public updates;
- 3) U.S. and foreign government spokespersons who make public statements or provide public updates;
- 4) U.S. and foreign private sector officials and spokespersons who make public statements or provide public updates;
- 5) names of anchors, newscasters, or on-scene reporters who are known or identified as reporters in their post or article or who use traditional and/or social media in real time to keep their audience situationally aware and informed;
- 6) current and former public officials who are victims of incidents or activities related to Homeland Security; and
- 7) terrorists, drug cartel leaders or other persons known to have been involved in major crimes of Homeland Security interest, (e.g., mass shooters such as those at Virginia Tech or Ft. Hood) who are killed or found dead.

Recent history proves that the federal behemoth will convert a penny of power into a pound of oppression. Consider how many people might be shoe-horned into one of those categories if the federal government decided it wanted to put them under online surveillance. The insidious efforts of the President and much of Congress to destroy the sovereignty of the states and the civil liberties of all citizens confirm that eventually everyone will find himself included within some category of “potential threat” to the security of the United States. Consider, for just one example, the recent enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which is so sweeping that American citizens accused of being terrorists can be arrested and detained indefinitely by the military without habeas corpus or being tried and found guilty in a court of law.

Furthermore, there is little room for doubt that any situation, no matter how slight the true impact on national security, will eventually be classified as “in extremis” and thus justify the constant surveillance of the national government’s never blinking eye.

Given the inhospitable climate created by this latest scheme to enlarge the powers of government and contract the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, RT.com was on target in raising the following question in a recent article: “Why [is] the government ... going out of their way to spend time, money and resources on watching over those that helped bring news to the masses?” While the audacity of the RT.com inquiry must be applauded, sadly the answer is so obvious as to render the question almost ridiculous.

Why the Web Net?

No matter the persuasiveness of the professed pretext, Americans familiar with the habits of the federal government realize that there is but one reason why Washington would devote valuable time and money to monitor every keystroke, every search, and every story read and written by those tasked with broadcasting the news (whether in print or by any other medium): to finally remove one of the “great bulwarks of liberty” and facilitate the eradication of

not only the Constitution, but the timeless principles of liberty distilled therein. Robbed of those who would have otherwise signaled the impending assault on the freedom of the press, Americans will more easily be led down the soft-sloping, gradual decline leading toward absolute subjection to an all-powerful feudal federal authority.

Now that the ends of the Web-watching program are understood, the means are set forth in the official record, as well. In fact, the specific procedure followed by NOC agents is described in the initiative:

To monitor social media, NOC Media Monitoring analysts only use publicly available search engines, content aggregators, and site-specific search tools to find items of potential interest to DHS. Once the analysts determine an item or event is of sufficient value to DHS to be reported, they extract only the pertinent, authorized information and put it into a specific web application (MMC application) to build and format their reports.

Then, once the raw data is collected and

Is there anyone who would honestly argue that the surveillance and cataloging of the research means and methods of journalists (and other less official reporters of the news) is anything less than an organized and systematic squelching of the right of free speech?

collated and a picture of the person’s behavior is compiled, DHS will “disseminate relevant and appropriate information to federal, state, local, and foreign governments, and private sector partners.”

This unholy alliance between government and corporations will spread the sticky web of surveillance across wider and wider expanses of formerly free avenues of investigation and reporting. Not only will the government be able to track the movements of anyone branded as dangerous, but its “private sector partners” undoubtedly will be rewarded for favoring employees, vendors, and independent contractors who are found in the government’s “good books.”

Consequently, there will be the concomitant benefit of marginalizing those courageous enough to challenge the party line, thus exposing themselves to further persecution. Those unfortunate enough to find themselves outside the approved class of communicators will be imprisoned not within physical cells (although that would certainly not be unheard of), but immured behind invisible and soundproof walls of isolation and constant surveillance.

Unsurprisingly, the piece in RT.com reports that some of the government’s commercial co-conspirators have already availed themselves of the critical online information secretly amassed by the DHS:

The development out of the DHS comes at the same time that U.S. District Judge Liam O’Grady denied pleas from supporters of WikiLeaks who had tried to prevent account information pertaining to their Twitter accounts from being provided to federal prosecutors. Jacob Applebaum and other advocates of Julian Assange’s whistleblower site were



Once a journalist, blogger, or television reporter has been identified as a potential threat to national security, what is to prevent the government from arresting and detaining that person in the name of public safety?

fighting to keep the government from subpoenaing information on their personal accounts that were collected from Twitter.

Last month the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk Massachusetts District Attorney subpoenaed Twitter over details pertaining to recent tweets involving the Occupy Boston protests.

Lest anyone believe that reporters can remove themselves from the jurisdiction of the federal government and find refuge overseas, *Fast Company* reports that in addition to federal, state, and local government agencies, DHS is sharing the information gathered under the new guidelines with “international partners.”

It would seem that the unchecked application of these new media-monitoring rules would convert the Department of Homeland Security into the surveillance arm of a fetal global government, with virtual and physical spies keeping an eye on every movement taken by those determined to defend the sovereignty of the United States.

Of course, in order to accomplish such an expansive plan, the language used in the enabling regulations must be very vague so that the true goal of such an agenda may be hidden. For example, nowhere in the 23-page document does the DHS clearly define what it takes to make an “item or event” of “sufficient value,” and that’s how the government wants to keep it.

What the report does make very clear, however, is that every keystroke, whether it be a Google search or Facebook status update, will be recorded and cataloged by DHS snoops who will then rifle through it and see if there is anything that might someday be useful in compiling a profile of activity of a target individual. Then, that profile may reveal activities, interests, or posts that can be presented to another nameless bureaucrat who can authorize a more thorough investigation into that person’s private life.

Finally, there is yet another gap in this brief bureaucratic report on this latest freedom-destroying initiative. There is no mention whatsoever of precisely what means were employed by the federal government in order to bypass the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution and its prohibition on warrantless searches.



AP Images

The Department of Homeland Security’s Media Monitoring Initiative gives federal agents the power to gather, store, analyze, and disseminate data on millions of users of social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

The Fourth Amendment, a crucial element of the Bill of Rights, reads:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

This is no promotion of the issuing of general warrants. To the contrary, it is evident that the Founders intended to require the government to draft very specific, very limited warrants based soundly on an affirmation of probable cause to believe that there is a constitutionally valid reason to disturb the privacy a person reasonably expects in his home, papers, and personal effects.

But the black letter of this amendment is clear: “The right of the people ... shall not be violated.” That is the clearest declaration of a positive restraint on government that can be expressed in words. Undaunted by this plainness, however, the Department of Homeland Security has now granted itself the unquestionable authority to disregard this prohibition and subject the people to constant searches and

covert seizures with no other cause than a suspicion by some agent of the federal government that the subject may now or someday be a part of some group or movement that might pose some purported threat to the peaceful perpetuation of the new world order.

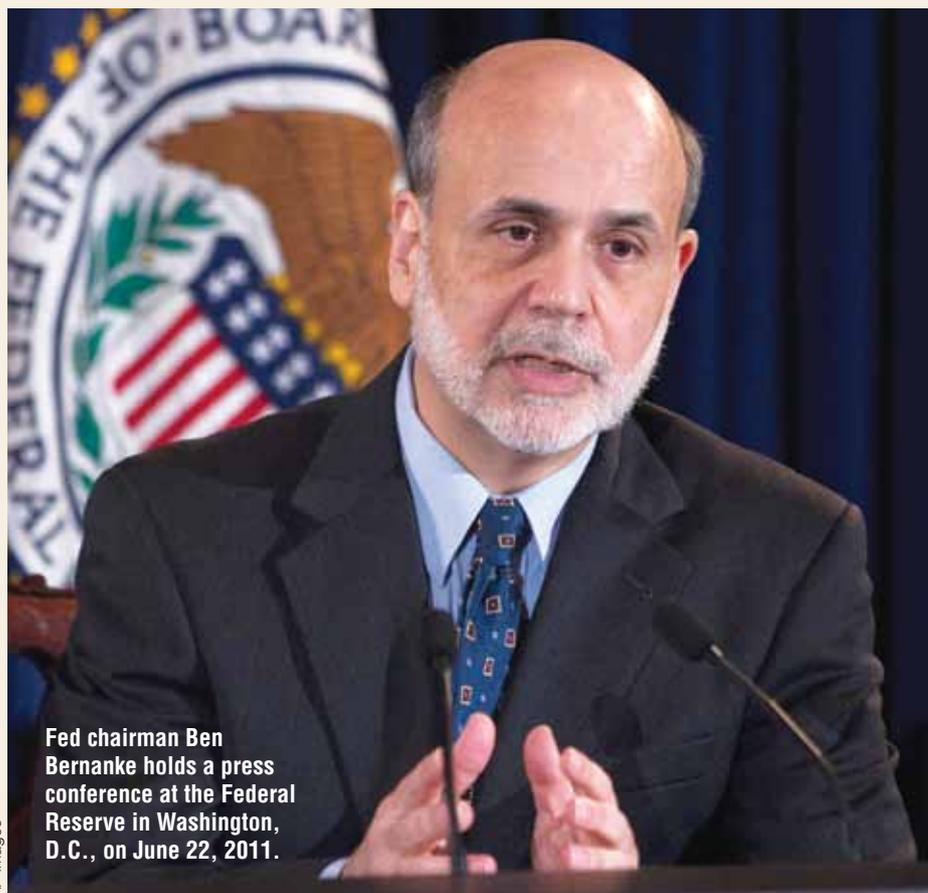
There is yet hope, however. In 2012, an educated electorate may select candidates running for election to Congress who will pass a law permanently revoking the Department of Homeland Security’s power to carry out the mission outlined in the Media Monitoring Initiative.

As was recently witnessed in the case of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), a determined citizenry yet wields extraordinary power to thwart the federal government’s goal of drawing all activity, whether in the real world or the virtual one, into its purview.

Americans familiar with the Constitution will be motivated to unite and save themselves and their posterity from the “gradual and silent encroachments” into the freedom of the United States by a federal government bent on sweeping away all such sentimental notions under a wave of constant surveillance and rapid registration of those who dare publish any challenge to its paralyzing hegemony or its silencing supremacy. ■

Now, More Than Ever, Time to Audit the Fed

The Federal Reserve initiated “quantitative easing” — inflating the money supply — to shore up banks and the economy. Now the Fed is doing it again — for a third time.



Fed chairman Ben Bernanke holds a press conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C., on June 22, 2011.

AP Images

by William F. Jasper

QE3 or no QE3? For the past year — and especially over the past several months — central bankers, mortgage bankers, financial analysts, business leaders, politicians, and commentators have been engaged in a great debate over whether or not Ben Bernanke and the Federal Reserve will — and should — initiate a third round of “quantitative easing,” or QE3. (Loosely, quantitative easing is a bank-

ers’ term for expanding the money supply.) The debate often rages over whether more “easing” would be “too” inflationary, and whether some inflation is acceptable if the tradeoff is a boost to employment and housing purchases.

Fed chairman Bernanke and other Federal Reserve officers have been making statements that are seemingly contradictory, fueling the controversy over if, and when, QE3 may launch. According to many astute observers, however, the debate is largely a diversion meant to conceal

the fact that the Fed has already started QE3. Legendary commodities trader Jim Rogers, who is a regular guest on many financial programs, says that “QE3 is already here.” The M2 money supply numbers show, he says, “They [the Fed] are in there buying already.”

Considering that literally *trillions* of dollars are at stake, not to mention the potential collapse of the dollar and global financial mayhem, QE3 is no trifling matter, and worthy of real and rigorous investigation, not rigged debate. There are now more than \$1.47 trillion in funds from QE1 and QE2 parked in banks as “excess reserves” that could unleash a tidal wave of hyperinflation if they were released into the economy.

What Is Quantitative Easing?

Although it has been with us now for several years, “quantitative easing” is not a term that is generally understood by the common man, or even by many of the financial types who regularly use it. The term was introduced into the common economic jargon during the 2007-2008 global financial crisis to describe the process by which the world’s central banks were buying up the toxic balance sheets of commercial banks. Or, it might be argued, it was introduced not to describe, but to *conceal and obfuscate* the corrupt transfer of assets between the commercial and central banks. The toxic balance sheets were loaded with malinvestments, especially in the housing sector, that had been encouraged by the central banks’ easy money policies of the previous decade.

Investopedia provides this definition for “quantitative easing”:

A government monetary policy occasionally used to increase the money supply by buying government securities or other securities from the market. Quantitative easing increases the money supply by flooding financial institutions with capital, in an effort to promote increased lending and liquidity.

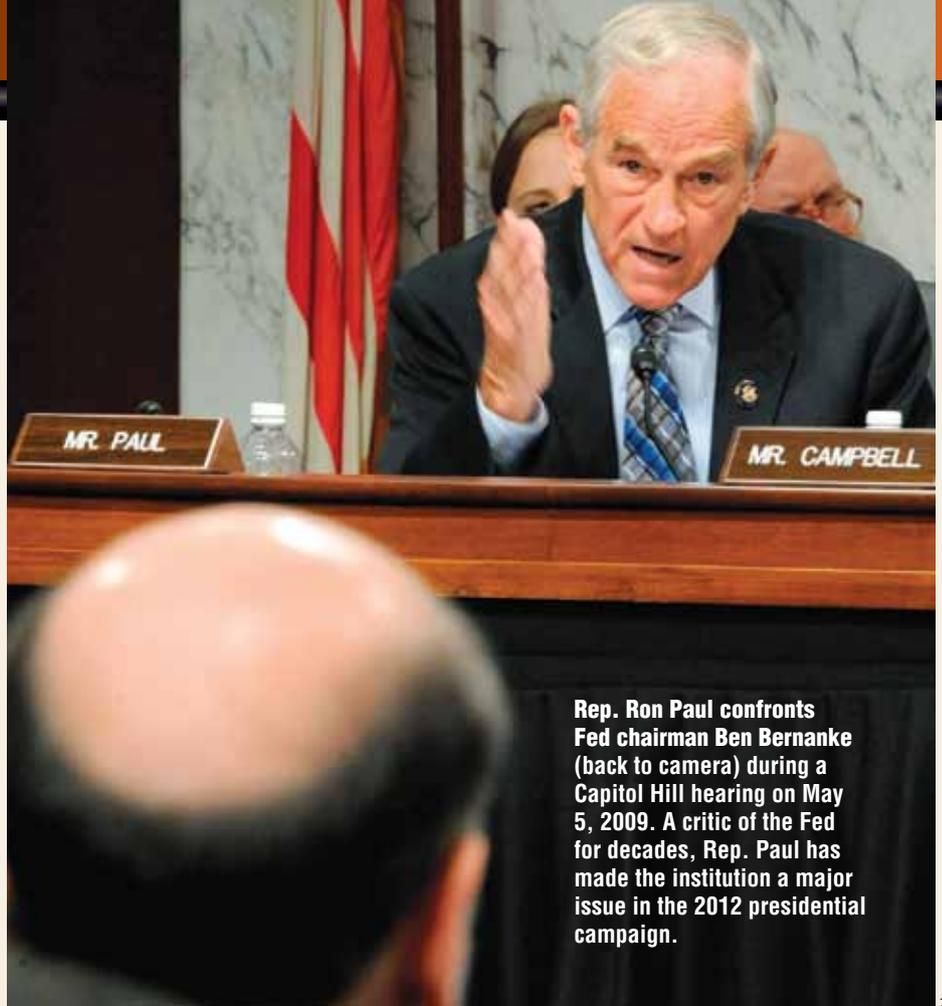
That’s fairly straightforward and accurate. Investopedia goes on to explain that central banks “tend to use quantitative easing when interest rates have already been lowered to near 0% levels and have failed

to produce the desired effect.” “The major risk of quantitative easing,” it notes, “is that, although more money is floating around, there is still a fixed amount of goods for sale. This will eventually lead to higher prices or inflation.”

In November 2008 the Fed began its first round of quantitative easing (since dubbed QE1), buying up the mortgage-backed securities (MBS), thus bailing out the Wall Street banks that had unwisely loaded up on the bad loans. This was only an “emergency” measure, Bernanke insisted, and would be a temporary, short-term solution aimed at averting a banking collapse. The Fed had an “exit strategy,” Bernanke assured everyone, that would enable the institution to unwind the huge credit mess and then clean up the Fed’s balance sheet and return it to pre-crisis levels. Those predictions have proven to be about as honest and accurate as the promised “cakewalk” in-and-out invasions/occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan — which have turned into decade-long quagmires. The Fed’s initial \$500-\$600 billion purchase of MBS debt from the banks and the government-sponsored enterprises (GSE) Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae was followed by the announcement in March 2009 that the Fed was initiating another \$750 billion MBS buy-up binge. The Fed further announced that it was sinking another \$100 billion into Fannie-Freddie-Ginnie and spending up to \$300 billion for U.S. Treasury securities.

That concluded QE1, or at least what we have public knowledge of thus far. We don’t really know the full extent of the Fed’s QE1 since it has never been subjected to a full, honest audit, something that Congressman Ron Paul has been trying to force Congress to implement for many years. Many free-market economists warned that QE1 would fail to solve the crisis and would simply lead to additional calls for further “easing.” That is precisely what has happened. One of those who opposed and exposed QE1 from the start is economist Dr. Philipp Bagus, an associate professor at Spain’s Universidad Rey Juan Carlos and author of *The Tragedy of the Euro*.

Writing in the December 31, 2010 issue of *Mises Daily* online, Bagus noted:



Rep. Ron Paul confronts Fed chairman Ben Bernanke (back to camera) during a Capitol Hill hearing on May 5, 2009. A critic of the Fed for decades, Rep. Paul has made the institution a major issue in the 2012 presidential campaign.

Newscom

In the winter of 2010, no one is talking about reducing the Fed’s balance sheet or about exit strategies anymore. On the contrary, the Fed has chosen the path of more inflation and dubbed this strategy “QE2.”

QE2 has a slightly different purpose than QE1. QE1 directly supported struggling banks by buying their problematic assets. QE2 supports the government.

“The inflationary policies of the Fed have been coupled with the Keynesian fiscal policies of the US government,” Professor Bagus explained. “The US government engaged in deficit spending to bail out financial institutions and automakers, disrupting a fast liquidation of malinvestments and a smooth adaptation of the structure of production to consumer wants.” Bagus continues:

QE2 is a direct response to this deficit spending, which obliges the government to issue more bonds. With QE2, the Fed supports the government by buying these bonds. The Fed thereby actively helps the government in its

Keynesian policies, which disrupt recovery.... The banking system finances the government that in turn grants the privilege of fractional-reserve banking and implicitly gives guarantees for banks’ losses.

Bagus’ essay for *Mises Daily* was precisely entitled, “Will There Be QE3, QE4, QE5...?” anticipating the ongoing Fed policy for continuous debauching of the dollar.

Contrary to the claims of Bernanke and the Fed’s usual cheering sections on Wall Street, and in the media and academia, quantitative easing is inflationary in multiple ways. Bagus points out:

First, base money (bank reserves) increases. When the Fed buys a government bond, it creates money that it transfers to the bank selling the bond. At the end of the operation, the bank has more bank reserves and the Fed owns the government bond.

Second, the quality of money tends to decrease. The average quality of assets that the Fed holds decreases when it buys government bonds. The

percentage of gold of total assets that could be used in a monetary reform decreases, while the percentage of government bonds increases....

Third, prices will be higher than they would have been otherwise. Prices would probably have fallen substantially without QE1 and QE2....

Fourth, the exchange rate will be lower than it would have been otherwise. Market participants will value the dollar lower, given that the base-money supply increases and the dollar's quality decreases.

Bagus suggests we stop aiding and abetting the QE scheme, by calling it what it is. He offers a number of possible replacements for "Quantitative Easing": "Quantitative Destruction II," "Crisis Prolongation III," "Currency Debasement I," "Bank Bailout I," "Government Bailout II," "Consumer Impoverishment" — or, simply, "Money Printing I and II."

Wall Street Loves QE

The big Wall Street firms love the Fed's QE policies and will undoubtedly cheer on QE4, QE5 ... QE20, ad infinitum. Why? Because money created by QE flows into the stock market, bidding up stock prices. In March 2009, when QE1 got cooking, the Dow Jones was below 7,000 but quickly rose to 10,800. When QE1 expired and the Dow fell below 10,000 again, the push was on for QE2.

Goldman Sachs, the epitome of Wall Street insiders, is a big booster of QE3. In a Q&A Goldman Sachs issued in August 2011, following the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, the firm stated:

Q: Will Fed officials ease monetary policy further?

A: Yes, we think so....

Q: Should Fed officials ease monetary policy further?

A: Yes, we think so.

The folks at Goldman Sachs even indicate they hope that the Fed will inaugurate "much bigger," "more radical," and "extreme" versions of the QE program. The Goldman Sachs Q&A continues:

There are three main ways in which the Fed could be more radical: (1) an extension of the QE program into markets other than Treasuries and agency MBS, e.g., private sector securities, (2) a much bigger QE program, up to the extreme version of a promise to buy as many securities as needed to hit a specific yield target ..., and (3) an explicit or implicit change in the Fed's policy targets.

Goldman Sachs has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Fed's largess. And there is more than a mere hint of corruption and inappropriate conduct involved with the steady revolving door of top Goldman Sachs executives into top positions of the Fed and the U.S. Treasury. Much the same can be said for the execs at Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, and the other top-tier Wall Street banks, which have profited handsomely from the Fed's QE policies.

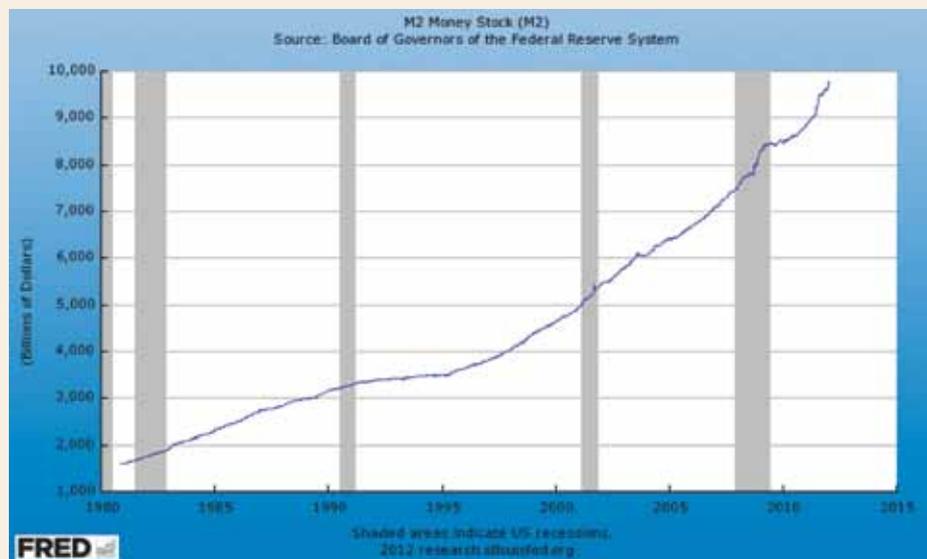
Where's the Inflation?

But if QE1 and QE2 are inflationary, as Ron Paul, Bagus, and others insist, why aren't we experiencing more inflation? After all, according to the Fed and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), annual inflation (by which they mean *price* in-

There are now more than \$1.47 trillion in funds from QE1 and QE2 parked in banks as "excess reserves" that could unleash a tidal wave of hyperinflation if they were released into the economy.

flation) has continued to hover around a mere 3 percent. Economists aligned with the Fed deem that "moderate" and acceptable. However, as we have noted in these pages before, many analysts and economists have taken the BLS to task for manipulating its Consumer Price Index (CPI) to drastically understate the true extent of price inflation and falsely peg the annual rate in the Fed's pre-ordained 1-3 percent acceptable range.

In order to accomplish this the BLS has dramatically changed its calculation methodologies twice, and jiggled them many other times. Significantly, it dropped home mortgages from its equation, coming up with a complicated and ever-changing owner-renter housing formula that masks much of the inflation. The CPI also excludes food and energy, two very volatile and not insignificant core components of every family's budget. These and many other sleight-of-hand statistical tricks allow the government's economic soothsayers to produce any



Off the charts: The skyrocketing M2 money supply is alarming in itself, but the M3 money supply picture is much worse, so the Fed has stopped publishing it to conceal the inflation tsunami looming before us.

What is the real level of annual price inflation, then? No one knows precisely, but the evidence supports estimates that we are already in the double digits.

outcome that may be deemed desirable to justify any current or proposed policy.

What is the real level of annual price inflation, then? No one knows precisely, but the evidence supports estimates that we are already in the double digits. Financial analyst John Williams at Government Shadow Statistics (www.shadowstats.com) is one of many experts presenting data supporting the claim that our true price inflation rate is already closer to 10 percent.

However, another answer to the inflation puzzle points to the gargantuan overhang of "excess reserves" that have not yet made their way into the system. "Excess reserves parked at the Fed have now risen to a record \$1.47 trillion," notes the National Inflation Association (NIA), in a January 25, 2012 posting on its website. "Much of the

\$600 billion in newly printed money created by the Fed as part of QE2 has gone straight into the excess reserves and has not yet expanded the U.S. money supply."

The NIA reports:

The Fed is currently paying 0.25% interest on these excess reserves, which is encouraging banks to keep these excess reserves parked at the Fed instead of making loans. The Fed is basically allowing banks to generate risk free profits doing nothing by paying out this 0.25% interest.

The NIA warns that "even if the Fed doesn't implement QE3, or decides to pause before launching QE3, the Fed can create tremendous price inflation simply by pushing these \$1.47 trillion in excess reserves into the U.S. economy. This \$1.47 trillion is high-powered money that could potentially multiply by ten times and increase the U.S. money supply by nearly \$15 trillion."

These "parked" excess reserves hang by a thread like the proverbial Sword of Damocles above our heads. Monetary expert Terry Coxon, president of Passport Financial, Inc., warns that these reserves could unleash "inflation rates far beyond anything the U.S. has ever experienced." "The monetary base has more than doubled," noted Coxon in an interview last July with David Galland of Casey Research, "and without the Federal Reserve paying interest on the recently created boatload of reserves that is essentially keeping them immobilized in accounts at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, the M1 money supply would more than double and we would have inflation rates that would make the worst days of inflation in Brazil and Argentina look tame."

Congressman Ron Paul has been sounding the warning about this deadly overhang from the get-go, which is why he has been censored, scorned, reviled, and smeared by the powers that be who aid and abet the Fed's illicit and immoral policies. ■

*Containerized Storage From
The People Who Invented The Concept*

MARTIN

CONTAINER, INC.

Serving You Since 1976

***Straight From the Harbor
Refrigerated Units Always A***

**LENGTHS UP TO 45'
24-HOUR DELIVER
BUY OR RENT**



**REFRIGERATOR/FREEZERS
ALSO AVAILABLE**

www.container.com

1-800-221-3727

Hungry For Power

Much is made politically of the necessity of “going green,” but the claims made to support the supposed need are often erroneous. And the government’s green path is harmful.

by Ed Hiserodt

Power Hungry: The Myths of “Green” Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future, by Robert Bryce, New York: PublicAffairs, 2011, 414 pages, paperback.

The False Promise of Green Energy, by Andrew P. Morriss, William T. Bogart, Roger E. Meiners, and Andrew Dorchak, Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 2011, 289 pages, hardback.

Last month showed the strong hold that radical environmentalists have on the Obama administration. Even in the face of strong union support for the Keystone XL pipeline, which would bring an additional 590,000 barrels per day from Canada to oil refineries in the United States, and lip service about creating jobs and lessening our dependence on buying oil from our self-professed enemies, the Obama regime once again put off approval of this \$7 billion expansion. “Greens” in the administration are concerned that this modern, welded 1,700 mile pipeline may pose a risk to the nation’s air and water quality — even though there are already 50,000 miles of crude oil pipeline, out of a total

of two million miles of energy pipeline, crisscrossing the United States with an infinitesimal environmental effect.

It is these same decision makers who have promised us five million “green jobs” and “reversing the dependence on foreign oil.” How’s that coming?

Power Hungry

Two books look at this question from different perspectives: *Power Hungry: The Myths of “Green” Energy and the Real Fuel of the Future*, and *The False Promise of Green Energy*. *Power Hungry* delves into the length of time it would take, even under the best circumstances considering the magnitude of our economy and our use of high-grade industrial energy, to make a transition to other forms of energy. To those who say “we are addicted to coal” or “we are addicted to oil,” author Robert Bryce suggests we substitute the word “prosperity” for “coal” or “oil,” as any governmental limitation on use of these fuels would produce a profound dash into a grinding energy poverty that is so commonplace in many parts of the world today. (Imagine your life if the power went off one afternoon and just didn’t come back on.)

In the battle between common sense

and “green” nonsense, Bryce identifies the reasons that green ideology has so many adherents:

Although guilt, anger, and fear are key elements of American gullibility when it comes to energy matters, the most important factor is ignorance. Most people simply don’t understand how energy and power are produced. And that lack of knowledge, combined with widespread scientific illiteracy and innumeracy, makes for a deadly combination.

One of the ways Bryce chooses to remedy this lack of understanding is to examine 13 myths that are commonly accepted by those who have been swayed by “green” propaganda created by environmental radicals inside and outside of government, and spread by those in the mass media who are either illiterate in these matters, or intentionally devious to prop up a “green” agenda. Here are brief summations of my two favorites:

Wind Power Reduces CO₂ Emissions: “Would you be surprised that wind-power boosters do not have a single study — based on actual data collected from the world’s existing fleet of wind turbines and conventional electricity-generation plants

— showing that wind power actually reduces carbon dioxide emissions?” This is particularly shocking in light of the Global Wind Energy Council’s declaration that “a reduction in the levels of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere is the most important environmental benefit from wind power generation.”

This seems counterintuitive because we tend to think in terms of a windmill being connected directly to a generator that is, in turn, connected directly to a light bulb. In this case it is obvious: No CO₂ is generated. However, a wind turbine on a network of other generators where an energy level must be maintained continuously is a horse of a different color. Because winds are extremely variable — and the power generated by a wind turbine is a function of the cube of the wind speed — there must be electricity-producing backup systems for all industrial wind generation. And since electricity is used the moment it is created, the backup generation must be on the verge of producing power at the instant the wind turbine component drops.

In other words, the backup generator must be a “spinning reserve”: always operating and producing nearly as much CO₂ as when generating power. Making the problem worse, since the backup generator must slow down (cool down) or speed up (heat up) to compensate for the gain/loss of wind generation due to wind variances, the backup systems operate very inefficiently.

Electric Cars Are the Next Big Thing. Robert Bryce opens this myth with two interesting quotations:

Electric cars must keep near to power stations. The storage battery is too heavy. Thomas Edison, 1896.

There are not enough idiots who will

To those who say “we are addicted to coal” or “we are addicted to oil,” author Robert Bryce suggests we substitute the word “prosperity” for “coal” or “oil,” as any governmental limitation on use of these fuels would produce a profound dash into a grinding energy poverty.

buy it. Johan De Nysschen, president of Audi of America, talking about the Chevrolet Volt, 2009.

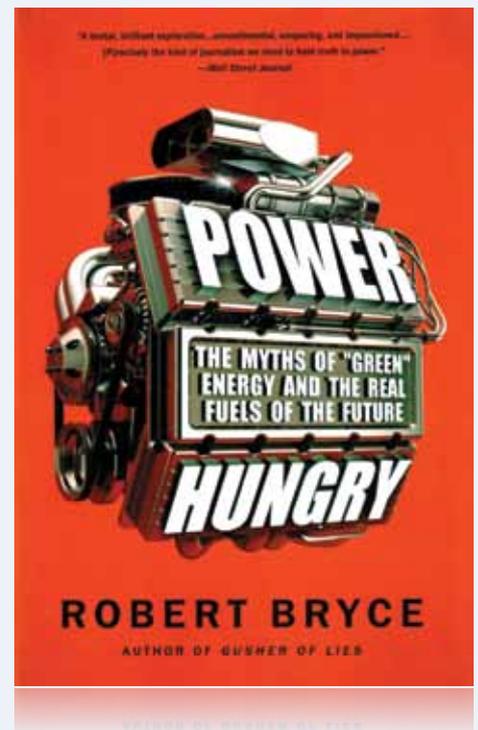
Permit me a personal example of how this applies to someone who must actually drive somewhere and get back in a reasonable time. Recently, I needed to meet face to face with another engineer in Michigan (I live in Arkansas) to work out details on a project. The round trip from Arkansas to Michigan and back was 1,838 miles. Only stopping for fuel, this took about 26.1 hours. Had I been driving a Volt, using its EPA “all-electric range” of 35 miles and a recharge time of four hours using an everybody-doesn’t-have-one 240-volt Level II charger, I would have had to make 52.5 stops to recharge. Assuming the same average speed while driving, my trip time would have jumped from 26 hours to 236 hours.

While reluctant to purchase them, many people consider electric cars as the car of the future. In the *New York Times* we read that the electric car “has long been recognized as the ideal solution” because it “is cleaner and quieter” and “much more economical.” By the way, this was from a 1911 article.

The author points out that it is a matter of energy density, and while the lithium battery has a four times greater energy density (in terms of watt-hours per kilogram) of current lead-acid technology, gasoline has 80 times the watt-hour capacity of the lithium battery.

Author Bryce doesn’t see doom and gloom in America’s energy future. He tends to trust market forces and the price mechanism to tell us when oil is becoming more difficult to obtain from the earth. The price will rise, and we will use less or do something else. (Your contributor believes this will be converting natural gas to

gasoline and diesel, a process well under way but almost totally ignored by media and those who are hoping for shortages and high prices to slow our dependence on automobiles.) Government edicts and mandates are not necessary and, as Bryce shows clearly in a chapter on natural gas regulatory history, can be incredibly stupid and counterproductive.



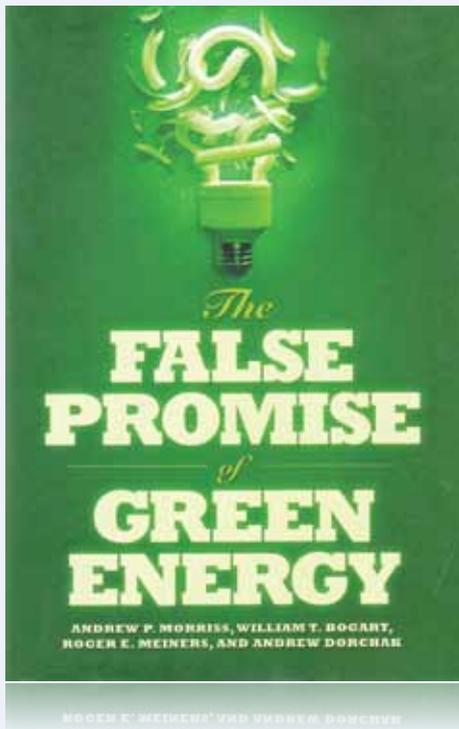
As far as future electric power generation is concerned, Bryce favors what he describes as N2N — for Natural Gas to Nuclear — a process he sees going on around the world, except in some countries such as the United States where the government is dominated by environmentalist radicals. As part of the second N, he forecasts the use of small community reactors a tenth the size of current reactors utilizing technology where meltdowns are impossible. These would include reactors powered with thorium, an element three times more abundant than uranium.

Robert Bryce sums up his energy philosophy as “More energy — and more power — equals more wealth. Period. End of story. Leave. Go home. Elvis has left the building.”

False Promise

While *Power Hungry* is primarily directed at the physical factors limiting a “green energy economy,” *The False Promise of Green Energy* examines the economics of this fallacy, and attempts to define just what a “green job” is and where the “green economy” would take us.

Co-authors Andrew Morriss, William Bogart, Roger Meiners, and Andrew Dorchak begin by exploring the extent of government subsidies to various forms of electrical generation. Those most exalted by



the green lobby — wind and solar — get the most tax dollars for least performance. Wind sucks up \$23.37 per megawatt-hour in taxpayer subsidies, and solar soaks taxpayers for \$24.34 per MWh. For comparison, U.S. retail customers generally pay between \$60 and \$100 for a MWh. These subsidies are shown to be approximately 100 times those for natural gas, which are in the form of tax relief as opposed to cash subsidies for “green” energy. The authors point out that adding expensive types of unreliable energy is not going to solve any of our energy problems. They agree that the way to solve the problems is for the government to get out of the way so that the free-enterprise system can come up with the best possible solutions.

The authors emphasize that the supposed benefits of green energy — such as more green jobs — are more fictional than factual. “Green energy” — often portrayed not only as an energy solution but also as a jobs program — requires taxpayer subsidies to create the new “green jobs,” subsidies that must first be siphoned out of the economy as a whole, destroying jobs elsewhere. A study of employment in Spain from 2000-2008 showed a loss of 5.06 jobs per renewable installed megawatt.

In Obama’s January State of the Union speech, he touted green jobs as the path to future prosperity, but to better analyze

his claim, we need a definition of a “green job.” Most of us would have difficulty in explaining what a green job is. For this definition, we could turn to Obama’s former Green Jobs Czar Van Jones to see what is likely meant by the phrase “green jobs” when someone in the administration says it. (He is the “former” jobs czar because he was exposed by Glenn Beck as being an avowed communist.) Comrade Jones, explain the authors, defined a green-collar job as “blue-collar employment that has been upgraded to better respect the environment, family-supporting, career track, vocational, or trade-level employment in environmentally-friendly fields.” Gee, that is certainly elucidating. But the authors also found a more “official” definition from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Green jobs are either: A. Jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources. B. Jobs in which workers’ duties involve making their establishment’s production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.” It wouldn’t take a Philadelphia lawyer to argue that virtually every job in the United States meets one or more of these criteria.

Loosely, then, green jobs seem to be jobs that greens feel benefit the environment and workers — a theme that is played upon when speaking to voters. Most administration “green” factory rallies are given at plants with unions. How does unionism fit in with “green jobs”? Morriss and the others note that “green jobs proponents see *increasing* the use of labor as a virtue, not a cost.” The authors quote from a UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme): “Any effort to create green jobs in food and agriculture must confront the fact that labor is being extruded [sic] from all points of the system.” The authors provide examples of union influence in what we generally call “featherbedding” in the creation of green jobs — a way to create new jobs by lowering the productivity of existing jobs.

Of course, increasing the amount of labor used for each unit of output produced — whether it be in manufacturing or agriculture — is the very definition of low labor productivity, which leads inexorably to an impoverished society because of a failure to utilize capital to its best advantage. Because green-jobs proponents

promise high-wage jobs, they then must coercively force compensation higher than the competitive wage (a wage kept low because of low worker output) through the power of government, thus producing high unemployment. The authors point out:

This is not a matter of theory; a comparison of European and North American labor markets over the past 50 years reveals that promoting high-wage, low-labor-productivity jobs produces high structural unemployment.

Similarly, the authors show, the green-jobs movement is antithetical to free trade, not just among nations, but even between states and communities. Why? Because the green model would require adopting human beehive communities, with local production of all necessary goods and services. Transportation is to be walking, bicycling, or mass transport by train. (They ignore buses.) Want bananas from Guatemala? Too bad, they’re not in the commune.

After reading these two books, and seeing the future that the radical environmentalist greens have in store for us, my thoughts return to a conversation attributed to Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman with the foreman on a government project. Friedman was struck by the methods being used to excavate and transport the soil at the construction site. He asked his host why workers were using shovels rather than backhoes, loaders, trucks, etc. His host replied, “Dr. Friedman, you don’t understand. This is a jobs project.” Friedman’s reply: “Then why are they not using spoons instead of shovels?”

In deference to Comrade Jones and the BLS, we would offer our own example of the perfect green job: a worker waiting on the side of the road for government transportation to take him from his government-furnished housing to his government-funded jobs project, with a union card in one hand and a spoon in the other.

Neither of these books is a light Sunday afternoon read. They are both crammed with statistics that would come in very handy to anyone writing his local editor or to a receptive (non-green) politician. They are written to convey knowledge and understanding, not to show how smart the authors are. And they have one very important common attribute: truth. ■

THE HONEST COMPANY

**Fast Service:
Usually Within
60 Minutes!**

★ Firm Quotes Gladly Given Right Over The Phone
★ No Gimmicks ★ No Hidden Charges

FAMILY OWNED — FREE ESTIMATES

PLUMBING REPAIRS

- Water Heaters
- Faucets
- Toilets
- Garbage Disposals
- Re-pipes
- Gas Lines
- Replace Water Lines

SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING

- Kitchen Sink Drains
- Laundry Drains
- Tub/Shower Drains
- Main Sewer Drains
- Sink Drains
- Roof Vents
- Roof Drains

 **Allstate Plumbing Inc.**

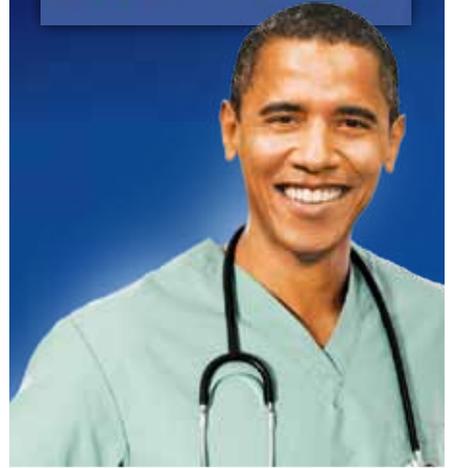
Serving the greater San Francisco Bay Area since 1993.

Call Today!  (800) 280-6594



Fully Insured
License # 694771

Join us on
facebook



 **Choose
Freedom**

STOP ObamaCare

Morinville Farms

808 Hill River Road • Brooks, MN 56715

Growers of
spring wheat
and soybeans

neptune plumbing co.



- Residential
- Apartments
- Commercial
- Industrial

**HELP PREVENT
AMERICA FROM GOING
DOWN THE DRAIN!**

(818) 837-1310

**453 Jessie Street
San Fernando, CA 91340**

www.neptuneplumbing.com



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

The Marrow of America

Firefighters are trained to save the lives of strangers, to be willing to rush into burning buildings to save the lives of people and animals whom they've never met. For that alone they are courageous, but firefighter James Wildes took heroism to new heights when he came to the rescue of a young girl who required a bone marrow donation.

Little Alise Williams had undergone two open-heart surgeries to fix a congenital defect, both before her second birthday. Doctors discovered that the cause of her health problems was anemia and set out to find a bone marrow donor, but warned her parents that finding a donor was rare.

"Some people are on the registry for 10 to 15 years and they never get called," said Alise' mother, Debra.

According to the *New York Daily News*, Wildes had signed up to be a bone marrow donor in 2003, and was finally contacted in November 2008 when the hospital discovered that he was a match for little Williams. On February 4, 2009, Wildes donated his marrow at the New York Blood Center. His marrow was then transferred to the University of Minnesota, where Williams underwent the transplant.

For a full year, neither Williams nor Wildes was permitted to know the other's identity. But Wildes then agreed to make his identity known to the Williams family, and they immediately began to exchange photographs and letters regarding the improvement of Alise' condition.

On Friday, January 27, Wildes was finally able to meet the girl whose life he saved, a six-year-old Evansdale, Iowa, girl who suffered from Fanconi anemia, an extremely rare genetic blood disorder that attacks the bone marrow. Williams had been facing 1-in-20,000 odds to find a donor to save her from her disease.

"I just want to thank him," said Debra Williams. "My daughter has a second chance because of him. I just want to hug him."

Wildes and the Williams family met at the headquarters of the Fire Department of New York, where Wildes and some fellow firefighters joined the "Honor Roll of Life" as department bone marrow donors.

Though Alise is still battling her condition, the bone marrow transplant will protect her from bone marrow failure and from the chance of an onset of leukemia that often accompanies Fanconi anemia.

The Big Give

Students at Johnston High School in Des Moines, Iowa, have taken charity to new heights. A student council-sponsored series of charity fundraising events called Johnston's Big Give began on Friday, January 27 and continued into February. All of the proceeds from the events are being donated to the American Cancer Society.

Prior to this year's Big Give, the *Des Moines Register* reported that the event began years ago as a "Week of Giving," wherein a different school club adopted one day of the week and sponsored an activity to give to the charity of its choice. But the students at Johnston became inspired by the impact an Illinois high school had on its community and reformed their charitable endeavors.

Student body president Scott Syroka explained the motivation to the *Register*: "Their campaign ... usually raises about \$100,000 every year for the charity they choose to support," Syroka said. "I think student council and its members have always been focused on giving back to our community at large, but I think this year the members have chosen to take it to the next level. They saw an opportunity to do something truly special, on a scale that the Johnston community has never seen before, and they are stepping up to that challenge no matter if they are a sophomore, junior or senior."

Student council staff liaison Chris Bequhn indicated that the students were especially motivated to help the American Cancer Society: "We have two seniors currently dealing with cancer."

As we go to press, the week of Big Give events was still in progress. By the time you read this, all of the following should have taken place:

- Coaches Against Cancer basketball game against rival Urbandale, followed

by "Overtime" activities at the Johnston Evangelical Free Church;

- Johnston's Got Talent, featuring a variety of acts judged by a panel of judges;
- a student/staff dodgeball tournament; and
- a student/staff pancake breakfast.

All Together

When Lionelle Demosthene saw her five-year-old son pinned by an automobile, she feared she would lose him. But passersby immediately sprang to action and saved her little boy.

While walking home from school, Demosthene and her son, Jonathon, were holding hands by a city crosswalk when a car struck Jonathon. He was dragged beneath the vehicle and landed face down on the concrete.

"The next thing I know, I'm on the ground, yelling and screaming," she said. "He's underneath the car. I'm trying to pull him out. He's awake. He's reaching for me. I'm reaching for him. All I wanted to do was just get him out."

Frantically, Demosthene laid on her stomach and attempted to reach for her son as he cried for her, but she could not reach him.

As she began to feel a sense of growing desperation, a group of people came to her rescue.

"Somebody took charge," Demosthene said, "and a group of men lifted the car and pulled him out."

According to Demosthene, one of the men who came to her aid said, "Ok, let's go," and all of the people followed his orders, lifted the car, and pulled the young boy out. "These good Samaritans, I don't know where they came from," she said.

Fortunately, Jonathon only suffered bruises and a fractured right femur — he does not remember too much of the incident.

"I am extremely grateful," Demosthene said. "Thank you, thank you right from the bottom of my heart. I thank you. My family thanks you." Jonathon is now recovering at the Children's Hospital Boston. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



TRAILWINDS PLAZA

Cleveland Ave.
(Rt. 41)

Ft. Myers, Florida

Stamra Inc.



Natural Foods Market

Clark's Nutritional Centers have the vitamins, minerals, herbs and other supplements you need to keep your health and fitness at their highest level, plus all the latest information about them available through our extensive online catalog.

Locations Serving You:

RIVERSIDE
4225 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 686-4757
Fax (951) 686-5678
Deli (951) 686-9970

RANCHO MIRAGE
34175 Monterey Ave.
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 324-4626
Fax (760) 969-6730

LOMA LINDA
11235 Mountain View Ave.
Loma Linda, CA 92354
(909) 478-7714
Fax (909) 478-0814

Mail Orders: (800) 251-8996

Online Orders: www.clarksnutrition.com

BOWMAN and SONS

7877 Raytheon Road • San Diego, CA 92111
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT RENTALS

(858) 278-1030

JC HONDA
Independent Service
(858) 292-8042

**AMERICAN
MUFFLER
SAN DIEGO**
(858) 277-0276

**CHASSIS
MASTERS**
(858) 278-9675

**QUALITY AUTO
MACHINE**
(858) 565-7467

Sound Check
(858) 560-5455
PGR (858) 424-0997

**Toyota/Lexus
Care**
(858) 541-0852

T C RACING

T C Racing, LLC

218 W. Illinois Ave, Ste. 200
Midland, TX 79701

Bullied by the Bull Moose

William Howard Taft was elected President because he was a protégé of President Theodore Roosevelt. But Roosevelt soon wanted the presidency back.

by Jack Kenny

Addressing a cheering crowd of about 12,000 supporters in Boston, the President of the United States made a couple of strange admissions. For one, he told the crowd he was anything but happy to be there.

“I am extremely sorry my mission to Massachusetts is unpleasant,” William Howard Taft said in that campaign appearance on April 25, 1912. For he must reply to charges made against him by an “old and dear friend” who had propelled him into the White House and was now trying to take it back from him. And Taft conceded that “old and dear friend” now had him cornered. “I do not want to fight Theodore Roosevelt,” he said, “but then sometimes a man in a corner fights. I am going to fight.”

In Taft’s day, a President was expected to stay “above the fray,” while lesser mortals acted as campaign surrogates, speaking for him and answering charges against him. But in the Republican primary campaign of 1912, Taft decided he could no longer stay on the sidelines. He badly needed a victory after Roosevelt’s string of victories in Illinois, Pennsylvania,

Nebraska, and Oregon. Facing a growing threat from within his own party, Taft could not afford a McKinley-style front-porch campaign.

The 1912 presidential campaign, waged 100 years ago, was a harbinger of things to come. It was the first in which primary elections played a significant, albeit not decisive, role in choosing the nominee of a major political party. The intra-party battle between Taft and Roosevelt became as intense and personal as any we have seen in our own time. Roosevelt’s split from the Republicans resulted in the most successful third-party candidacy in history. Yet it virtually assured the election not only of Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson, but solid Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. The Republican Party would survive its self-inflicted wounds. But 1912 would be Theodore Roosevelt’s last year in the center of a political stage he was so reluctant to leave.

“Taking Advice From Theodore”

Taft had never run for elective office before winning the presidency in 1908. An Ohio attorney, he had been a federal circuit court judge, the U.S. Solicitor General, and the first civilian Governor of the Phil-

ippines when then-President Roosevelt appointed him Secretary of War in 1904. When Roosevelt honored his pledge not to seek a third term in 1908, he promoted Taft as his heir-apparent. As the party’s nominee, Taft was seen as so closely aligned to Roosevelt that an oft-heard joke was that T.A.F.T. stood for “Taking Advice From Theodore.” He remained in Roosevelt’s shadow throughout his presidency.

“When I am addressed as ‘Mr. President,’ I have to turn to see if you are at my elbow,” Taft wrote his mentor shortly after taking office. “I have not the facility for educating the public as you had ... and so I fear that a large part of the public will feel as if I had fallen away from your ideals; but you know me better and will understand that I am still working away on the same old plan.”¹

Roosevelt replied with a breezy, “Everything will turn out all right, old man,” before leaving on an extended safari in Africa. Legions of admirers wished him well, while not a few of his enemies silently prayed, “May every lion do his duty.”

1. David Traxel, *Crusader Nation: The United States in Peace and The Great War, 1898-1920* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006) p. 22.



Library of Congress

President Theodore Roosevelt arrives at the Capitol for the inauguration of the man he chose to succeed him, William Howard Taft, on March 4, 1909.

The Tariff and Other Entanglements

Taft's first stumbling block was a protective tariff, called by one writer of the day, "the sacred temple of the Republican party." Demands from Western farmers and consumers feeling the pinch of higher prices prompted the Republicans in 1908 to promise relief. Taft called a special session of Congress to deal with the issue the following March, but after negotiations, horse-trading, and more than 800 amendments, the bill that finally came out of a House-Senate conference committee raised more rates than it lowered. Taft, however, after wresting some concessions from the protectionists, believed he got the best deal possible and signed the bill.

The legislation deepened the rift between the party's conservative leaders and its progressives. The *New York World* called Taft a defender of "privilege plutocracy and betrayal of the party faith."² Pressed to defend the measure, Taft called it "the best tariff bill the Republican party ever passed," opening himself to further ridicule.

Taft's first year in office also found him in conflict with Gifford Pinchot, Roosevelt's close friend and the man he

appointed as head of the National Forest Service. Taft had replaced Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior, James R. Garfield, with Seattle corporate lawyer Richard Ballinger, whose reopening nearly a million acres of public land to private development signaled a break from the "socialist" policies of Roosevelt and Garfield. Pinchot accused Ballinger of favoring special interests concerning coal lands in Alaska. When the chief forester criticized both Ballinger and Taft in an open letter to Senator Jonathan Dolliver (R-Iowa), Taft fired him for insubordination. When Roosevelt, still on safari, heard the news, he was incredulous. He began to question not only Taft's judgment, but his own for choosing him as his successor. On his return trip months later, Roosevelt pondered his own role in the future of his party and country.

TR's Triumphant Return

Cheering crowds and a ticker-tape parade greeted the former President when he arrived in New York in June 1910. With speculation rampant about his possible entry into the 1912 election, Roosevelt entertained a number of Republican progressives at his home at Oyster Bay, New York, prompting no little concern in the White House over what a Cabinet member described as "the pilgrimage of insurgents to the shrine at Sagamore Hill."

When reporters sought a comment from the White House, the President's secretary snapped, "Our position is we don't know what Oyster Bay is going to do and we don't give a damn."³ What Oyster Bay would do became rather clear when Roosevelt embarked on a speaking tour among the Western states at the end of August "to announce myself on the vital questions of the day." He began to preach a doctrine he called the "New Nationalism," a phrase he borrowed from a book by Herbert Croly, whose views on social problems closely matched his own. The New Nationalism, said Roosevelt, "regards the executive power as the steward of the public welfare." Speaking at Osawatimie, Kansas, in a ceremony honoring the violent abolitionist John Brown, Roosevelt described a vision of liberty that must have shocked some of his conservative admirers:

The essence of any struggle for liberty has always been, and must always be, to take from some one man or class of men the right to enjoy power, or wealth or position, or immunity, which has not been earned by service to the fellows.

2. Bill Severn, *William Howard Taft: The President Who Became Chief Justice*, (David McKay Company, Inc., 1970), p. 105.

3. Lewis L. Gould, *Four Hats In The Ring: The 1912 Election and the Birth of Modern American Politics* (University Press of Kansas, 2008), p. 16 .

The nation needed to “destroy privilege and give to the life and citizenship of every individual the highest possible value both to himself and to the commonwealth,” Roosevelt said. In Denver, he spoke out against court rulings that inhibited the power of both the states and the federal government to regulate industry. While several states had already adopted such popular measures as initiative and referendum and recall of elected officials, Roosevelt became the leading champion of a right of recall of judicial decisions. When a judge, said Roosevelt, “decides what the people as a whole can or cannot do, the people should have the right to recall that decision if they think it wrong.” Taft, a former judge, found the idea appalling. “Judicial recall! Judicial recall!” he scoffed in an address to the New York State Bar Association. “The words themselves are so inconsistent that I hate to utter them.” Three weeks later, without mentioning Roosevelt by name, the President denounced “extremists” who “would hurry us into a competition which could find no parallel except in the French revolution or in that bubbling anarchy that once characterized the South American republics. Such extremists are not progressives — they are political emotionalists or neurotics.”

While Roosevelt favored government oversight and regulation of corporations, Taft was more inclined to rely on anti-trust litigation. Taft actually brought more anti-trust suits than “trust-buster” Roosevelt, prosecuting 78 claims in his four years, compared to Roosevelt’s 44 in nearly eight. When, following the stock market crash and the financial panic of 1907, J.P. Morgan’s U.S. Steel Company decided to purchase Tennessee Coal and Iron, company officials persuaded Roosevelt that the acquisition would be reassuring to investment banks, including Morgan’s, that owned TCI stock. Roosevelt agreed to the acquisition and at least implied that there would be no anti-trust litigation as a result.

But in the fall of 1911, as Roosevelt was edging closer to a declaration of candidacy, Taft pulled the rug out from under the

agreement with the House of Morgan. On October 26, Attorney General George Wickersham filed an anti-trust suit alleging that its acquisition of Tennessee Coal and Iron was part of a long pattern of monopolistic practices by U.S. Steel. Even worse, from Roosevelt’s perspective, was the claim that President Roosevelt “was not made fully acquainted” with all the relevant details surrounding the transaction.

“Government Sues to Dissolve Steel Trust As Illegal Combination In Restraint of Trade” said the headline in the next day’s *New York Times*, with the subhead: “Says Roosevelt Was Deceived.”⁴ Furious at being portrayed as a dupe of Morgan’s men, Roosevelt lashed out at his former protégé, saying Taft had made no objection to the acquisition as a member of Roosevelt’s Cabinet — though why the deal should have been of critical concern to the Secretary of War was not altogether clear. In an article for *Outlook*, Roosevelt sought to distinguish his approach from Taft’s in dealing with the giant trusts:

We should not strive for a policy of unregulated competition and of the destruction of all big corporations, that is, of all the most efficient business industries in the land. Nor should we persevere in the hope-

Speaking at Osawatomie, Kansas, in a ceremony honoring the violent abolitionist John Brown, Roosevelt described a vision of liberty that must have shocked some of his conservative admirers.

less experiment of trying to regulate those industries by means only of lawsuits.... We should enter upon a course of supervision, control and regulation of these great corporations — a regulation which we should not fear, if necessary, to bring to the control of monopoly prices, just as in exceptional cases railway rates are regulated.

Eager to promote as well as respond to a demand for him to run, Roosevelt solicited letters from seven Republican Governors, urging him to make the race. By the end of February, he dropped all pretense of indecision, announcing, “My hat is in the ring.” The year 1912 was the first year a

As the Progressive Party candidate for President in 1912, the charismatic Roosevelt drew large crowds and enough votes to knock William Howard Taft into a third-place finish, behind Democrat Woodrow Wilson and Roosevelt.



4. William Kolasky, “Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft: Marching Toward Armageddon,” *Antitrust*, Vol. 25, No. 2, Spring 2011, pp. 103-104

A would-be assassin in Milwaukee fired a bullet into the chest of Theodore Roosevelt. The bullet went through the steel case for his glasses and a thick manuscript before lodging in a chest cavity. The bloodstained Rough Rider went ahead with his scheduled speech.

significant number, though not a majority, of delegates to the parties' national conventions were chosen by voters in direct primaries rather than by party bosses at state conventions, and Roosevelt waded into the campaign with characteristic energy and bravado.

To "Armageddon" — and Beyond

Wisconsin's Progressive Senator Robert La Follette took the first two primaries, winning in South Dakota on March 19 and in his home state two weeks later. Roosevelt took all but one of the remaining nine, however, while Taft finished a distant third in both Nebraska and Oregon. Even more humiliating was his loss in Ohio, where Roosevelt thumped his successor by 55-40 percent in the President's home state. Even Taft's lone primary win, a narrow 50-48 percent victory in Massachusetts, was a mixed blessing. Because the ballot separated the presidential preference vote from the delegate selection, Roosevelt actually came away with more delegates.

A thousand police were on hand when the delegates arrived at the Chicago Coliseum for the Republican National Convention in June, and the platform was surrounded by barbed wire under the red, white, and blue bunting. "Delegates talked of drawing pistols and knives over disputed seats," wrote Florence Harriman, a Democrat who was there as a reporter. Also reporting on the convention was William Jennings Bryan, the three-time Democratic candidate for President. "I

Thousands filled the Chicago Coliseum for the national convention of the Progressive Party, and they nominated Roosevelt as the presidential candidate of the "Bull Moose" Republicans.

will agree not to say anything worse about Taft and Roosevelt than they say about each other," he cheerfully assured the official in charge of press passes.

Roosevelt arrived with 411 committed delegates, with 201 for Taft and 36 for La Follette. There were 166 "uninstructed delegates," chosen by state convention, the great majority of whom were for Taft. Another 254 delegates were contested and, with Taft men in charge of the convention, the President was awarded 235 of them. Roosevelt, who had broken with tradition to appear at the convention in person, loudly protested the "fraud" and his delegates, following his call, walked out of the convention.

Roosevelt and his followers would return to Chicago in August to form the Progressive Party, with Roosevelt as its candidate. The nominee provided the party with its memorable nickname when he announced upon his arrival that he felt "fit as a bull moose." To the hero of San Juan Hill, the battle was joined on a scale of no less than biblical proportion: "Fear-

less of the future, unheeding of our individual fates; with unflinching hearts and undimmed eyes; we stand at Armageddon and we battle for the Lord."

Wilson and "The New Freedom"

Three days after the Republicans left Chicago, the Democrats, encouraged by the Republican split, gathered in Baltimore. The party rule requiring a two-thirds vote for the nomination virtually assured a long, drawn-out battle, with New Jersey Governor Woodrow Wilson winning finally on the 46th ballot. A scholar, author, and former president of Princeton University, Wilson had entered politics only two years earlier, winning the governorship as a reform candidate who promised to be independent of the party bosses. Though lacking Roosevelt's dramatic flair, Wilson proved himself a polished speaker unafraid to speak his mind. He declared himself for "the man on the make" instead of the man who has already made it, a point he drove home when addressing a gathering of the nation's most powerful bankers:

You are not interested in the development of the country, but in what has been developed. You take no interest



Library of Congress

in the small borrower and the small enterprise which affect the future of the country, but you give every attention to the big borrower and rich enterprise which has already arrived.

Wilson, like Taft, preferred increased reliance on antitrust actions to Roosevelt's policy of federal oversight and supervision of corporations with dominant market share. Countering Roosevelt's "New Nationalism" with his own call for a "New Freedom," Wilson at times warned of the growing power of the bureaucratic state. "The history of liberty is the history of the limitation of government power, not the increase of it," he said. However, at other times, he appeared to welcome it. "I am not afraid," he said while campaigning in Pennsylvania, "of the utmost exercise of the powers of the government of Pennsylvania or of the Union, provided they are exercised with patriotism and intelligence and really in the interest of the people living under them."

Taft, meanwhile, having beaten back the Roosevelt insurgency, returned to the tradition of the President remaining above the battle while others did his campaigning for him. Unfortunately, his running mate was unable to help in that regard. Vice President John Sherman made it clear from the start that he was too sick to campaign, then proved it by dying just a week before the election. And in one of the most bizarre incidents of any election campaign, a would-be assassin in Milwaukee fired a bullet into the chest of Theodore Roosevelt. The bullet went through the steel case for his glasses and a thick manuscript before lodging in a chest cavity. The bloodstained Rough Rider went ahead with his scheduled speech, explaining to his audience that he had a bullet in him and was unable to deliver the long speech he had prepared. So he gave a short speech — for 85 minutes.

In the end, Wilson and the Democrats, benefiting from the split in the Republican ranks, were swept into power, with Democrats winning both houses of Congress and Wilson carrying 41 states with 435 electoral votes. Roosevelt won five states (California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Washington) and 88 electoral votes, the highest electoral vote total ever for a third-party candidate. Taft



Woodrow Wilson, shown here at his inauguration on March 4, 1913, promised a "New Freedom." What followed was the enactment of the federal income tax, the establishment of the Federal Reserve System, and, in his second term, America's entry into World War I.

finished a distant third in a race that saw the sitting President win only Utah and Vermont, with a woeful total of just eight electoral votes. In another sign that voters were restless and eager for a change of some kind, Socialist Party candidate Eugene Debs received more than 900,000, or six percent, of the votes, more than double his vote total of four years earlier.

A "Power Somewhere"

The states would amend the Constitution four times in the second decade of the 20th century. The 16th and 17th amendments, allowing Congress to impose a graduated income tax and providing for popular election of U.S. Senators, were both adopted in the early months of 1913. Amendments establishing Prohibition and guaranteeing women's suffrage were yet to come. Congress passed and President Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act in 1913, creating a privately owned central bank with regional branches that would control currency and credit. The income tax and the Federal Reserve made it possible for the nation to finance our own and much of Great Britain's efforts in World War I.

Yet another change occurred that year that was less apparent to the American public: Edward M. House became a fixture in the Wilson White House. An independently wealthy Texan with the honorary title of "Colonel," House had been active in Democratic politics when he joined

the Wilson campaign as an advisor in its planning stages in 1911. House became Wilson's best friend and closest advisor, a man the President described as literally his alter ego: "He is my independent self. His thoughts and mine are one." House would later become a founding member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an elite organization of well-connected men whose meetings are held in secret, but whose goals, stated repeatedly in its numerous publications, include the erosion of national sovereignty and the rise of "global governance."

In his first year as President, Wilson published a book with his campaign slogan as its title. In *The New Freedom*, the new President described in brief a power behind the throne that cast its ominous shadow over the life and commerce of the nation:

Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere, so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it.⁵ ■

5. James Perloff, *The Shadows of Power: The Council on Foreign Relations and the American Decline*. (Western Islands, 1994), p. 26.



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

“... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Crazed Criminal Kicks Dog

As the old adage goes in regards to a news-worthy item, “man bites dog” will get your attention. Well, a story out of Tulare County, California, didn’t involve any biting, but it did involve a home intruder who announced his presence to his planned victims by kicking the family dog in the front yard shortly before 1 a.m. on January 6. The *Fresno Bee* reports that the adult male resident of the home, a 38-year-old man who was there with his wife and their four children, heard the dog’s yelping and called the Sheriff’s Department.

The man on the front lawn did not stop just with animal abuse: He then tried to force open an attached garage to the home. When that effort didn’t bear fruit, he switched gears and broke into the homeowner’s vehicle and used a hammer he found there to break a living-room window. Meanwhile, the homeowner had retrieved his pistol and readied it for the thug’s entry. As the burglar burst into the home, the homeowner fired and hit him in the upper right thigh. The homeowner then held the injured criminal at gunpoint until deputies arrived. The wounded suspect was taken to a hospital, where he was treated while watched by deputies.

WWII Vet in Shootout

CBS San Francisco reports that a 30-year-old suspect with a criminal record broke into the Greenbae home of a 92-year-old WWII veteran. At around 10:45 in the morning on January 4, the robber entered the home, which is located near San Rafael, and detained the elderly homeowner while he ransacked the house looking for valuables. While the assailant searched throughout the home, the victim was able to arm himself with a gun. A gunfight ensued, and the senior citizen was able to shoot his attacker three times. Unfortunately, the criminal shot the resident in the face during the exchange; both men are in stable condition and are expected to recover from their injuries. The injured robber fled the scene in a vehicle but eventually reported his injuries to the police in an effort to seek medical attention, although he initially alleged that he accidentally shot himself. The

police soon realized that he was involved in the robbery of the vet, owing to the nature of his injuries. Neighbors were in shock about the crime but not about the heroic behavior of the battle-tested veteran. One neighbor, who lives across the street from where the shooting happened, spoke very highly of the WWII veteran. “He’s a class act, a very refined guy.”

Hot Foot

The Boston Channel reports that a burglary suspect received medical attention for a gunshot wound to his foot that was inflicted by an armed homeowner in central Maine. Penobscot County Deputy Sheriff Troy Morton told the *Bangor Daily News* that a family returned to their home in Eddington on January 7 and was shocked to find an intruder inside their home. The homeowner was prepared to defend his family and had his pistol readily accessible. He drew his weapon and confronted the masked intruder, shooting him in the foot. The injured hoodlum tried to flee the scene but was apprehended in a house across the street.

Crime-increase Solution

In a small neighborhood increasingly plagued by break-ins, some residents feel like it’s only a matter of time until they get victimized. The small area known as College Park, which is located near Virginia Beach, had 31 reported property crimes in 2011. One homeowner was prepared for robbers and kept his pistol at the ready. At around 12:30 p.m. on December 29, 2011, the homeowner heard glass breaking and drew his weapon. When he went to investigate what was happening, he saw a man going up the stairs to the second level of his house. The armed resident confronted the man and shot him. The burglar turned out to be in his late teens. The injured teenage criminal ran away from the home and made it a few blocks before he stopped to ask for help. The young intruder was picked up by an ambulance and received treatment at a nearby hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The detectives eventually charged the teen, who qualifies

as a juvenile, with breaking and entering, intent to commit a felony, and destruction of property. The police said that the homeowner was defending himself and will not face charges.

A Zebra Doesn’t Change Its Stripes

A retired police officer showed a home invader that while he might no longer be on the force, he’s still got it. The suspect involved was recently paroled on three other home invasion charges from 2009 and 2010. The *Detroit Free Press* reported that around 9:30 a.m. on December 22, a 62-year-old homeowner in Warren, Michigan, was awakened by knocking on his door. He looked through his bedroom window and saw a man on his porch who he assumed was a delivery person. He ignored the knocking, thinking the man would leave the package, but the banging continued. Then the knocking stopped, and the homeowner could hear the man bashing his shoulder against the door to break it open. At this point, the homeowner realized that he was dealing with a potentially violent criminal. He grabbed his handgun and headed off to confront the man. The homeowner found the man in the kitchen. The homeowner fired four times at the intruder and hit him in both biceps and his hand. The injured burglar ran to a waiting car, which sped away from the feisty retiree. The thug went to a nearby hospital seeking medical attention. The hospital staff had been told to be on the lookout for someone with three gunshot wounds and reported the suspicious patient to the authorities. Warren Deputy Police Commissioner Louis Galasso said that “the homeowner acted appropriately.... It almost goes without saying it’s a very unnerving thing to have someone abruptly intrude into your home, which is your ultimate sanctuary.” Galasso also had words of caution for anyone considering a life of crime as a burglar. “It’s certainly something I would discourage. It is a very dangerous practice.... The act of breaking into a person’s home certainly comes with a high degree of risk.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



Throttling Dissent From Global-warming Orthodoxy

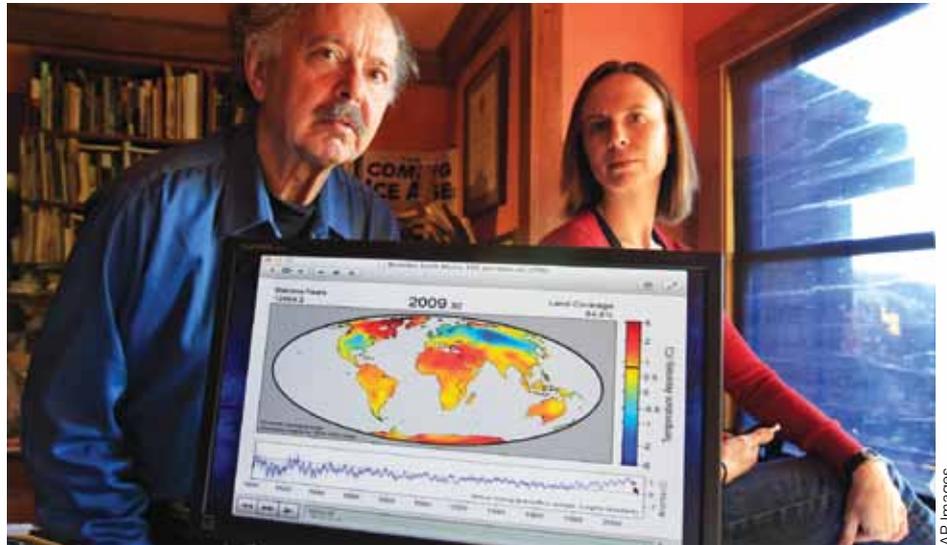
ITEM: The website for the WWF — the World Wide Fund for Nature, formerly called the World Wildlife Fund — calls climate change (or global warming, terms it uses interchangeably) one of “the biggest threats to humanity and nature.” It is, avers WWF,

nearly impossible to overstate the threat of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are rising more rapidly than predicted and the world is warming more quickly in response. Global warming will have catastrophic effects such as accelerating sea level rise, droughts, floods, storms and heat waves. These will impact some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, disrupting food production, and threatening vitally important species, habitats and ecosystems.

ITEM: USA Today for January 16, 2012, in a piece entitled “Science educators take on climate naysayers,” reports: “The National Center for Science Education [NCSE], based in Oakland, California, is best known for leading charges against creationist efforts to remove evolution from public schools nationwide. But now, the three-decade-old group will also fight efforts to slip incorrect climate science information into school lessons.”

ITEM: In an article called “Climate change skepticism seeps into science classroom,” the Los Angeles Times reports on January 16 that there has been “mounting resistance to the study of man-made climate change in middle and high schools.” The Times went on to say: “Although scientific evidence increasingly shows that fossil fuel consumption has caused the climate to change rapidly, the issue has grown so politicized that skepticism of the broad scientific consensus has seeped into classrooms.”

The NCSE, a “watchdog group that supports the teaching of evolution through advocacy and educational materials,” is



AP Images

Reporting bias run amok: The AP description of this picture of the authors of the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature study shows AP’s bias. It says, “A new study of the Earth’s temperatures going back more than 200 years finds the same old story: It’s gotten hotter in the last 60 years.” Yet even Richard Muller (left) admits the data the study used is extremely uncertain.

beginning an “initiative to monitor the teaching of climate science and evaluate the sources of resistance to it.”

CORRECTION: You might think that someone who purported to be pro-science would want to hear all relevant evidence — not just assertions pushed by lobbyists seeking to use force to shut up one’s opponents in the public arena. But when one is in the propaganda business, it does matter what is planted in the mind of youngsters, and it also helps if evidence to the contrary can be excluded.

When it comes to the crusade involving climate change — the current euphemism of choice, since “global warming” seems to have lost its allure — there is a pincer movement. On the one hand, the object is to create panic: A fright campaign is used to justify extreme government action lest there be a worldwide disaster. On the other hand, there is an attempt to control what is taught, with the curricula in schools being used as a straitjacket to control the issue.

Anyone who really believes that a left-wing advocacy outfit such as NCSE doesn’t support big-government “solutions” in the war against certain types of energy production is terminally naïve.

Slanted press coverage also helps to color claims. Last year, there was a lot of hype by the warming crowd over the re-

lease of the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) study, which reported that the temperature of the Earth has risen 1 degree Celsius since 1950. But even the project manager (who supports the theory of global warming) acknowledged the limitations of the study. Berkeley Professor Richard Muller was begrudgingly honest enough to admit that the land-based “temperature station quality is largely awful.”

The project director also pointed out: “A careful survey of these stations by a team led by meteorologist Anthony Watts showed that 70% of these stations have such poor siting that, by the U.S. government’s own measure, they result in temperature uncertainties of between two and five degrees Celsius or more. We do not know how much worse are the stations in the developing world.” Muller went on to note: “The margin of error for the stations is at least three times larger than the estimated warming.”

Most of the mass media ignored the caveats of the project director and came up with headlines such as “Skeptical Research Effort Confirms Global Warming, Again,” “Climate Skeptics Remain Unswayed,” and “Climate Skeptics Take Another Hit” (*Scientific American*, *New York Times*, and *Mother Jones*, respectively). Such reports generally blur the differences between



Correction, Please!

“global warming” and what is man-made, and happily trumpet any suggestion that might serve as proof of human causation.

A few doubters were allowed to register their misgivings in public forums (though one wonders if such reservations would be permitted in schools teaching only one side of the issue). For example, S. Fred Singer, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project, with specialties in atmospheric and space physics, wrote in the European edition of the *Wall Street Journal* that the reason he remains skeptical about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “and now the Berkeley, findings, is that they disagree with most every other data source I can find. I confine this critique to the period between 1978 and 1997, thereby avoiding the Super El Niño of 1998 that had nothing to do with greenhouse gases or other human influences.” Singer went on to write:

Contrary to both global-warming theory and climate models, data from weather satellites show no atmospheric temperature increase over this period, and neither do the entirely independent radiosondes carried in weather balloons. The Berkeley study confined its findings to land temperatures as recorded by weather stations. Yet oceans cover 71% of the earth’s surface, and the marine atmosphere shows no warming trend. The absence of warming is in accord with the theory that climate is heavily impacted by solar variability, and agrees with the solar data presented in a 2007 paper by Danish physicist Henrik Svensmark in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*.

Moreover, independent data using temperature proxies — various non-thermometer sources such as tree rings, ocean and lake sediments, ice cores, stalagmites, and so on — also support an absence of warming between 1978 and 1997. Coral data also show no pronounced warming trend of the sea surface, and there are good



reasons to believe that reported sea-surface warming is an artifact of thermometer measurements.

In other words, there is plenty of room for questioning that such a study somehow proved that man is responsible for raising the temperature of the globe and, by extension, that this should validate the imposition of tight restraints on businesses and the economy.

In this case, it is the narrow-minded who tend to make broad statements — often in the name of a “consensus” among scientists that doesn’t exist.

Moreover, as elsewhere in the academic and political realms, intimidation is employed against those who challenge the accepted wisdom. A number of scientists who have been in the establishment’s lap on this issue have themselves sought to squelch dissenters. Consider the scandal that emerged a couple of years ago that earned the sobriquet of Climategate.

Those who mouthed the establishment views about how man’s activities had raised the temperature of the entire globe to catastrophic proportions even subverted the scientific peer-review process — to the extent of blackballing those review journals that dared to publish dissenting papers.

As was pointed out by George Avery, Ph.D., MPA, an assistant professor of public health in the Department of Health

and Kinesiology and the Regenstrief Center for Health Care Engineering at Purdue University, outright manipulation of data took place. This was noted when embarrassing e-mails among the participants were exposed, providing evidence in spades about what many had long suspected. The e-mails, Dr. Avery wrote,

from the government-sponsored Climate [sic] Research Unit at the University of East Anglia reveal a pattern of data suppression, manipulation of results, and efforts to intimidate journal editors to suppress contradictory studies that indicate that scientific misconduct has been used intentionally to manipulate a social consensus to support the researchers’ advocacy of addressing a problem that may or may not exist.

Wouldn’t it be invigorating if young science students were told to be strong enough in their beliefs to resist being indoctrinated in such a fashion? Wouldn’t it be refreshing if they were even aware of the political manipulation that might ensue if they do not bend to the will of the supposed consensus? However, one seriously doubts that is the subliminal message that the National Center for Science Education is trying to convey.

Indeed, we are assured by *USA Today* that the object here is to “fight efforts to



AP Images

Disbelief of a believer: Chris Landsea, the operations officer of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, says he believes that man-made global warming is happening, yet he demonstrated that claims made by warming alarmists that storms are more frequent, intense, and damaging are false.

slip incorrect climate science information into school lessons.”

As noted, those who maintain that there is a crisis have changed their tune a bit, now often using the term “climate change” or “climate chaos” or “climate distortion” whenever some individual weather event can be used, however misleadingly, to buttress their premise. But just saying something repeatedly doesn’t make it so.

James Taylor of the Heartland Institute has repeatedly taken on such claims. In *Forbes*, for example, he pointed to one such contention, which had offered no specifics, but spoke of “unprecedented combinations of extreme weather events.” As Taylor wrote:

It certainly wasn’t hurricanes, as Ryan Maue at the Florida State University Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies documents that global and U.S. hurricane activity has been remarkably quiet for the past few years. During 2009, global accumulated tropical cyclone energy reached a record low, and has remained abnormally quiet in the two-plus years since.

It certainly wasn’t tornadoes, as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports 2011 continued a long-term trend in declining

frequency of strong tornadoes. Yes, there were some strong tornadoes in 2011, but there are strong tornadoes every year. The only thing climatically remarkable about the 2011 tornado season is that the relatively few strong tornadoes that did occur happened to beat the odds and touch down more often in urban areas than is usually the case....

It certainly wasn’t drought, as multiple peer-reviewed studies report global soil moisture has consistently improved during the past century as the planet has warmed.... Yes, some droughts are going to occur somewhere on the planet each year, as they always have, but cherry-picking one of the increasingly less frequent droughts that still do occur does not constitute evidence that global warming is causing more extreme weather events.

In fact, as Taylor told the *Washington Times*, the pushback that has occurred in some schools and among certain lawmakers is directly related to the fact that the public is frustrated at being told “only one side of the global warming debate — the scientifically controversial theory that humans are creating a global warming crisis.” It should hardly be a surprise,

said Taylor, that “state legislatures are stepping in to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent in a manner that turns an important and ongoing scientific debate into a propaganda assault on impressionable students.”

There are scientists willing to draw their own conclusions as opposed to repeating the au courant contentions of those on the subsidized gravy train. One such is Dr. Chris Landsea, the science and operations officer of the National Hurricane Center, who resigned in 2005 from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change because he said it had become too politicized. While he believes in the theory of man-made global warming, he is an outlier among them, as noted by a recent piece he wrote on the site of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

As summarized by columnist John Ransom:

Landsea attacked three specific datasets that are often used by global warming alarmists to show that the warming of the earth will have terrible consequences for human-kind: 1) the frequency of storms; 2) the intensity of storms and; 3) the economic damage of storms.

In each data subset he showed that apparent increases in storm activity or effect can be ascribed to advances in technology or development that skew the data rather than a real increased frequency or effect of storms.

For example, Landsea shows that as we have gotten better at monitoring the number of storms over the last 100 years because of new technology like satellites, the number of storms that we have been able to observe has gone up, not the number of storms as a whole.

However, the phony moralizers who preach the religion of man-made global warming, and will brook no assertions to the contrary, would prefer that you — and especially your children — know little of this. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Tim Thomas **Wouldn't Go to the White House**

Most Americans haven't a clue about who Tim Thomas is. It happens that he's the goal tender for the Boston Bruins professional hockey team. And it also happens that he was named Most Valuable Player for his team when the Bruins became the National Hockey League champion last spring. He is a revered hero in sports-crazy Boston and throughout New England.

As has become a custom, the championship Boston team accepted an invitation to the White House for a congratulatory session with the President. This type honor is regularly awarded, not just to hockey teams, but to the champions of other major sports as well. At the January 23 event, President Obama received a team shirt with his name on it. The President duly registered his admiration for the Bruins' accomplishment earned last spring, and a good time was had by all who attended.

But one member of the team refused to go. And the missing player was none other than MVP Tim Thomas. In a statement he posted on his Facebook page, Thomas explained,

I believe the Federal government has grown out of control, threatening the Rights, Liberties, and Property of the People. This is being done at the executive, legislative, and judicial level. This is in direct opposition to the Constitution and the Founding Fathers vision for the Federal government. Because I believe this, today I exercised my right as a Free Citizen and did not visit the White House. This was not about politics or party, as in my opinion both parties are responsible for the situation we are in as a country. This was about a choice I had to make as an INDIVIDUAL.

Predictably, a columnist from the left-wing *Boston Globe* savaged Thomas for his refusal, and especially for his statement. Calling the Thomas decision and the reasons why he had made it shabby, immature, unprofessional, self-centered, and Bush League, Kevin Paul Dupont suggested that the all-star goalie should have gone with his teammates where he could have expressed his dismay about the way America is being run in person. As if that were even remotely possible! Dupont seems to think that only politicians, Hollywood stars, and leftist media personalities have a right to express their political views. The newspaper for which he works surely spouts its hard-left opinions regularly. But Tim Thomas shouldn't? That's ridiculous.

If Thomas had done as Dupont recommended, and stated his unhappiness to the President *in person at the event*, that



AP Images

would indeed have been out of order. Instead, Thomas let all his fans know via his own Facebook account why he wasn't there. Surely, many would have wondered why he was absent. An unabashed political conservative who hasn't previously trumpeted his views publicly, he obviously felt a need to tell his followers why he was absent. Note also that he indicted "both parties" and all three branches of government for our nation's "situation."

If the all-star goal tender had purchased space for a full-page ad in the newspaper, there may have been justification for chiding him for using the invitation as an opportunity to make a political statement. He didn't do that, nor did he secure time on a radio station to air his views. He simply and forthrightly told his friends why he felt compelled to stay away. His statement, which didn't target the President by name, and the way he handled the matter, showed proper respect for the nation's highest office. It would be nice if the way he acted could be copied by Hollywood leftists who trash anyone trying to steer the country back to the Constitution and limited government.

Team visits to the White House are always political stunts created for political advantage by the President's handlers. Had Thomas attended the January 23 gathering, remained silent, and possibly allowed himself to be photographed with President Obama (a likely consequence of being the team's MVP!), wouldn't that have indicated to the uninformed that he was in the President's corner? A *Boston Globe* editorial insisted that the White House welcome for the Bruins was a "non-political" event. Balderdash! Everything done by this President, and plenty of his predecessors, is done for hoped-for political advantage.

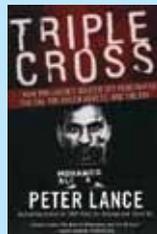
Tim Thomas was born in the USA, having been brought up in Flint, Michigan. He is one of only two U.S. natives on the Boston team. As he indicated in his statement, he has a right as a free citizen to speak out, or in this case to refuse to be in the room with President Obama, and then tell the reason why. Like some baseball champions before him who skipped a White House appearance when Bill Clinton was its occupant, he didn't cease being a citizen when he put on his skates.

Ironically, the attention given the matter by the *Globe* resulted in far greater awareness about what Thomas had to say. He likely enjoyed seeing the statement intended only for Facebook friends given far more attention. As for what he did say, he scored a definite goal — something goalies rarely do in hockey games. But goalies and others are perfectly within their rights as citizens to state their concerns, even to skip a White House visit. ■

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Triple Cross

Peter Lance's book is a narrative of al-Qaeda's attempts to attack America, and the U.S. failures to stop al-Qaeda. (2009ed, 688pp, pb, \$16.95) BKTC



The Politically Incorrect Guide to Science

In this installment in the popular "Politically Incorrect" series, readers will be both educated and entertained as Bethell tackles such issues as global warming, nuclear power, DDT, endangered species, cloning, cancer, and evolution. (2005ed, 270pp, pb, \$19.95) BKPIGS



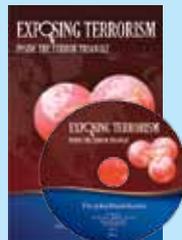
American Tyranny Step by Step: Saving Our Republic

JBS CEO Art Thompson looks to history to understand what can happen to American freedoms if the federal government continues to centralize power. Viewer discretion is advised. (2010, 21min, sleeved DVD, 1/\$1.00; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea) DVDATSBS



Exposing Terrorism

JBS CEO Art Thompson reveals there is more to the war on terror than meets the eye. Booklet: (2009, 40pp, pb 1/\$2.95; 10/\$2.00ea; 25/\$1.50ea; 50/\$1.00ea; 100+/\$0.75ea) BKLKET Sleeved DVD: (2009, 17min, 1/\$1.00; 11-20/\$0.90ea; 21-49/\$0.80ea; 50-99/\$0.75ea; 100-999/\$0.70ea; 1,000+/\$0.64ea) DVDET



9/11 Press for Truth

The coverup exposed by the 9/11 families. This hard-hitting video presents some of the most glaring discrepancies, lies, and coverups concerning the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil. (2006, 85min, \$19.95) DVD911PFT



QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

SUBTOTAL

**WI RESIDENTS ADD
5% SALES TAX**

**SHIPPING/HANDLING
(SEE CHART BELOW)**

TOTAL

--	--	--	--

For shipments outside the U.S., please call for rates.

Order Subtotal	Standard Shipping	Rush Shipping
\$0-10.99	\$4.95	\$9.95
\$11.00-19.99	\$7.75	\$12.75
\$20.00-49.99	\$9.95	\$14.95
\$50.00-99.99	\$13.75	\$18.75
\$100.00-149.99	\$15.95	\$20.95
\$150.00+	call	call

**Standard: 4-14
business days.
Rush: 3-7 business
days, no P.O. Boxes,
HI/AK add \$10.00**

The Official Store of The John Birch Society

ShopJBS.org

Order Online: www.ShopJBS.org

Credit-card orders call toll-free now!

Mail completed form to:

ShopJBS • P.O. BOX 8040
APPLETON, WI 54912

1-800-342-6491

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

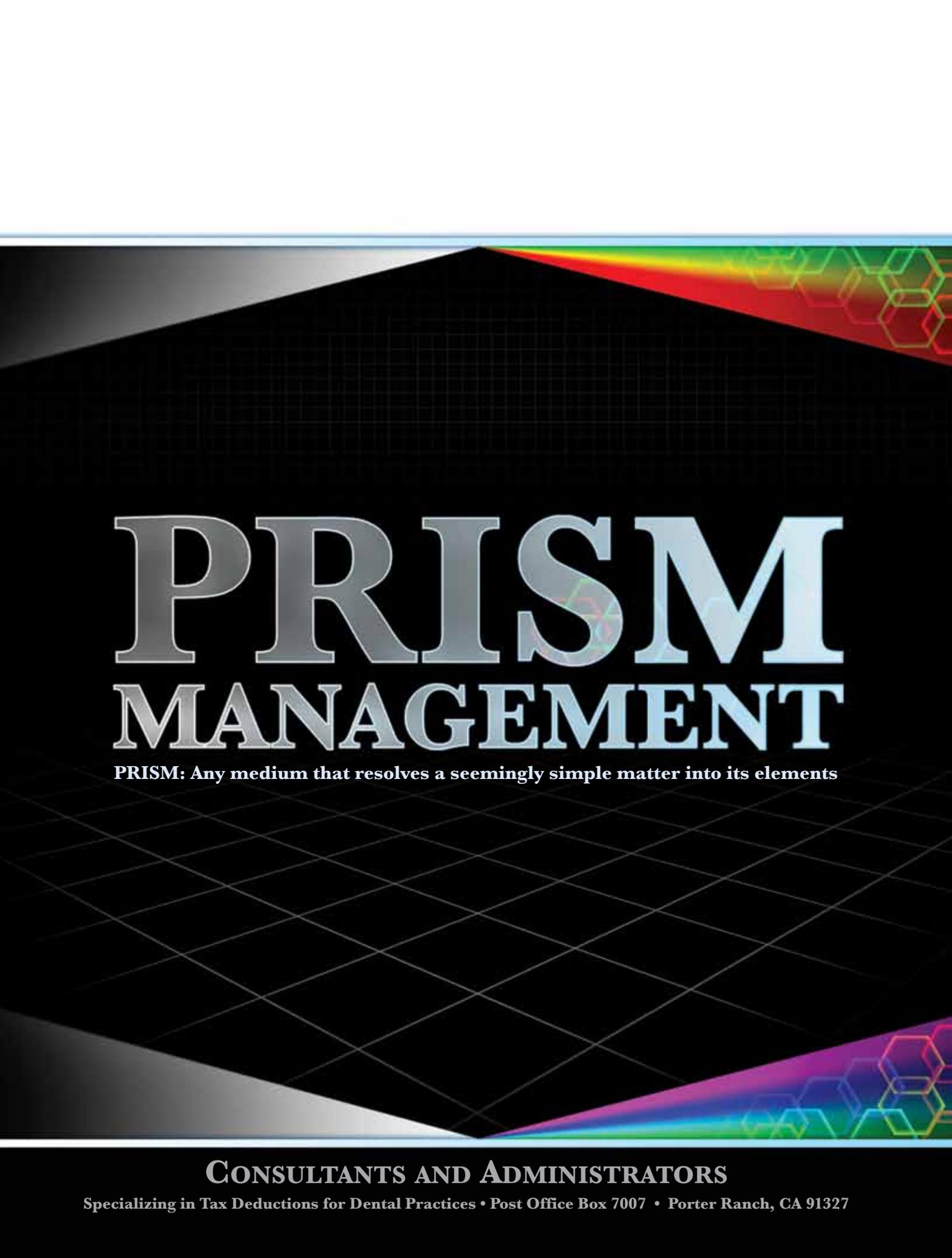
- Check
 VISA
 Discover
 Money Order
 MasterCard
 American Express



Make checks payable to: **ShopJBS**
_____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

120220



PRISM MANAGEMENT

PRISM: Any medium that resolves a seemingly simple matter into its elements

CONSULTANTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Specializing in Tax Deductions for Dental Practices • Post Office Box 7007 • Porter Ranch, CA 91327