

Looking for our Long-Lost Future

Smith Continued from Page 1

... places have been taken, for the most part, by the most repulsive garbage imaginable — generally misadvertised as “reality shows” — and deliberately aimed, as far as I can tell, at destroying whatever remnants this civilization may still cherish of human decency and dignity.

If I were a “liberal”, who believes that everybody is just a little bit stupid and must be “helped”, if I were a “conservative”, who believes that everybody is just a little bit evil and must be watched, if I were a “populist” — or fascist — who believes that everybody is both stupid and evil and must be controlled, I would see “reality” programs as an answer to a propagandist’s most fervent prayers.

In the nation’s grocery and drug-stores, it’s no longer unusual to see paperback racks that hold no science fiction or even offer a place for it. Americans, I think, aren’t just no longer interested in their future, they’re openly terrified of it and don’t want to think about it. If what a culture thinks about its future determines its future, what can be said, then, of a culture that refuses to think about the future, and whose leaders — including New York book publishers and network television executives — won’t let it think about the future anymore?

The ironic fact is, there is nothing much wrong with America that couldn’t be cured simply by repealing every single law, at every level of government, passed since September 11, 2001 — and then rolling up our sleeves for the longer task of repealing every law passed since 1913. Eventually we’d get around to abolishing the obsolete medieval joke of sovereign immunity, dumping limited liability, and outlawing the “fractional reserve banking” fraud. With government severely limited by the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights energetically and stringently enforced, we should have the beginnings of a fairly decent society.

But it won’t happen easily; it will never happen if we go about it timidly. The libertarian movement is the only real opposition party left. We have nothing to lose by being as radical, within principal, as we can. It is not our role as libertarians to propose only what sounds reasonable. It is to point out, as enthusiastically and often as we possibly can, that a proposition is only reasonable when it is right.

Just as an example, it is time for those of us who call ourselves libertar-

ians to acknowledge publicly what the most principled among us have always believed privately: that taxes — all taxes — are evil, and exactly the wrong thing on which to base a civilization. It is time for libertarians to make it our public mission to eliminate taxes — all taxes — once and for all. We must undertake our mission in the spirit of those who fought so long and hard to abolish slavery, grimly determined to accomplish it no matter what it costs or how long it takes.

And it is time — long past time, in fact — for those among us who refuse to share this goal with us to stop calling themselves libertarians.

And go away.

Taxes are dangerous, as well as evil, because they offer to any government resources it invariably abuses, most often to take away our rights as well as our property. And if we resist, to take away our lives.

Moreover, taxation is the fuel of war. No nation’s tax practices can be purely an internal matter. Taxation is an international offense. Governments, whenever they levy or raise taxes — exactly as when they institute military conscription — should be considered by their



neighbors as having committed an act of war and dealt with accordingly.

Taxation is theft. And no, it doesn’t make any difference when the government does it; government has no unique moral status that puts it above the standards that all of us must observe. Unrestrained by basic considerations of decency, government is a dangerous monster. And just to get it straight, taxationwise, we are not doing it to ourselves. It is being done — with the help of hordes of “useful idiots” spawned by the public school system — by a gigantic gang of murderous thieves incapable of earning a re-



spectable living for themselves in a free society.

A retiring IRS chief once said, “Taxes are the price we all must pay for civilization.” But he was wrong — it’s precisely the other way around: the loss of civilization is the price we all pay — it’s what we must give up, what we have to sacrifice — in order to have taxes.

One more thing, for libertarians campaigners and platform writers: when a ravenous carnivore has its claws sunk into your body and its foul predatory breath is blasting hot on your throat, it is not your obligation to find it

America into a prison continent for long decades before the Twin Towers fell. September 11, 2001 was merely a convenient excuse.

Tell them that, in the free market system we will reestablish, there will be no reason for a gallon of gasoline to cost more than a dollar.

Tell them that libertarians will establish total separation of money and state, and that precious metals make the ideal currency because their value can’t be inflated out from under those who hold them.

Tell them there must be a separation, as well, of science — especially medicine — and state, ending decades of rising medical costs and putting an end to pseudoscientific frauds like global warming.

Tell them that libertarians will work to abolish tobacco taxes and establish and defend the rights of smokers so that they’ll no longer be milked like cattle and treated as outcasts. Alcohol taxes must go, too.

Tell them we will empty and raze the prisons that hold over two million of our fellow Americans, get rid of government driver’s licenses, pull down the spy-cameras, and restore privacy by aiming for anonymity.

Tell them we will end the war on drugs, and that the “peace dividends” from that will be: more freedom than most of them have known in their lives; a likelihood that most of them will live for 200 years or more as the resources presently being thrown away on this infantile prohibition are spent better on long-delayed advances in life-extension — or, for that matter, on almost anything else; and a chance to take part in exploring and settling the rest of the Solar System.

These are all new, exciting ideas to voters who will hear from nobody else. Taken together, they spell out a bright, beautiful future for everybody — except, perhaps, for politicians, bureaucrats, and cops.

All we have to do is go Thomas Jefferson one better. He said, “I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.” We must swear eternal hostility against every form of authority over the minds and bodies of humanity.

L. Neil Smith is the award-winning author of 27 books, including The Probability Broach, considered by many to be the definitive libertarian novel, Pallas, and Forge of the Elders. He has been called one of the foremost authorities on the ethics of self-defense.

Tell them that libertarians in office will end the war in the middle east, bring our military home for good from the 150-odd countries they’re based in, and abolish the standing army our Founders feared (correctly) would be misused by those obsessed with power over others.

Tell them to stop worrying about “terrorist” boogymen under their beds. We all know, deep down inside, that this country’s leaders had plans to turn

Did you Know... that there are 2 Private

