

The Libertarian

Suprynowicz Continued from Page 8

Some might have replied in a soft voice, aiming to find common ground with this reader and gradually bring her around to seeing things a bit differently.

I believe we need an approach closer to the way you get the attention of a wayward mule with the help of a two-by-four.

I responded, the following Sunday:

Aside from noting the inappropriate capitalization of the word "Federal," above, the way one might capitalize the word "God," does anyone else notice a whole category of places omitted where the central government could quickly and easily "get the money"?

In an admittedly very incomplete list, how about closing down the federal Department of Education — ending all federal subsidies and interventions in schooling, overnight?

We were a much more literate, independent, and productive nation 140 years ago, before government got massively involved in schooling.

How about shutting down the federal Department of Energy, with all its misdirection of agricultural resources and corporate welfare for agribusiness ethanol producers?

(It would be cheaper to import the stuff from Brazil, a simple procedure now essentially banned. It would be even better to drill America's offshore and Alaskan oil, relaxing Luddite "environmental laws" against siting new refineries and coal-fired generating plants. While I have nothing against nuclear plants, once we repeal the federal statutes limiting the liability of private operators for accidents and waste disposal, only private insurers will determine whether nukes are a dead letter.)

How about shutting down the Agriculture Department, ending all its ongoing efforts to fight the agricultural

depression of 1920 by barring the sale of undersized peaches? How about shutting down the actuarially bankrupt Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Ponzi schemes, allowing us to save and invest for our own retirements — money we can leave to our kids and spouses — meantime restoring a far less expensive free market in medicine with no government oversight except courts to prosecute malice, negligence and fraud?

Yes, "far less expensive." Is a rich variety of affordable food a) easier to get or b) harder to get, now that Moscow has replaced "state stores" with free-market groceries?

Such wealth-transfer schemes, cynically and fraudulently disguised as "insurance policies" and "pension annuities," were never authorized in the Constitution — anyone who has ever voted to support them is a thief and a traitor, a cynic or a fool.

How about repealing the Endangered Species Act, which has done more harm than good by leaving land owners who'd rather live in peace with our furry friends no option but to "Shoot, shovel, and shut up"?

How about withdrawing U.S. military forces from Iraq and 136 other nations with whom we are officially at peace, overseas? How about ending the multi-billion-dollar Drug War and mothballing half our federal prisons by properly declaring all federal regulation of drugs and medicines retroactively unconstitutional and releasing all Drug War prisoners tomorrow? (Just leave a few cells for the IRS agents.)

No federal agent should be authorized to carry weapons and serve as a "policeman" inside our borders. That's a local responsibility. When the McLennan County sheriff wanted to find out if the Branch Davidians had any illegal weapons in their church near Waco, he visited alone, knocked on the door and asked to look. They let him. He found no machine guns. When the federal government wanted to find out, they invited TV crews along to make an exciting action movie to show con-

gressmen debating a renewal of their "SWAT" funds, storming the place with a hundred black-clad storm troopers, murdering a nursing mother in her bed with assault weapon fire from hovering helicopters, shooting the pet dog and her puppies before they even got to the front door, guns ablaze.

When that didn't work out real well, the FBI and the Delta Force knocked down the escape staircases with tanks, incapacitated the women and children and set the place afire with their incendiary tear gas and ferret rounds, holding the fire engines miles away while the church burned to the ground, killing everyone in a very unpleasant inferno including babies too young to be christened.

(Yes, a few tried to escape. From the grainy, long-range videotape, it appears our G-men shot them. Those G-men never found any machine

barring IRS agents from any further federal employment and canceling all their pensions. If any of them object, prosecute them in front of judges not on the federal payroll and randomly selected juries — randomly selected juries — for operating in knowing violation of their own regulations and for knowingly violating our constitutional right against self-incrimination for the past 95 years. (Last time you signed a tax return, did you notice any Miranda warning?)

Yet the only way our letter-writer can think of for the federal government to "find more money" to repair its interstate highway network — justified for federal funding under the massive fib that these were and are "defense highways" (whereas a real "defense highway grid" would bypass urban chokepoints, instead of running right through them) — is to raise taxes?



guns, either. But they all got awards and promotions.)

How about shutting down the BATFE and the FBI (with the possible exception of the unarmed fingerprint lab), the very existence of which is an insult against our Second and 14th Amendment rights to defend ourselves against tyranny?

Do all that — for starters — and not only would we have plenty of loot to repair our highway bridges, we could do it at the same time we eliminate the federal income tax entirely,

How pathetic. What kind of Dumb Pills are Americans taking?

Oh, wait. To answer that we'd have to go back to writing about the mandatory government youth propaganda camps foisted off on us by the likes of John Dewey and Horace Mann, wouldn't we?

Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the daily Las Vegas Review-Journal and author of the "Send in the Waco Killers." See www.vinsuprynowicz.com.

Maricopa County LP News & Events

By Jim Iannuzo, Maricopa County Libertarian Party Chairman

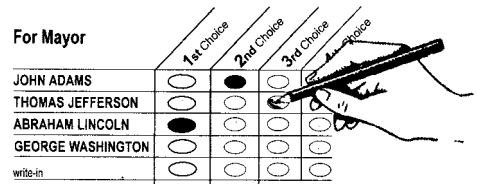
RANKED CHOICE VOTING – BETTER BALLOT GLENDALE INITIATIVE IS UNDERWAY FOR 2008

The Maricopa County Libertarian Party has taken a leadership role in supporting and promoting an initiative called "Better Ballot Glendale". If 1500 valid signatures are collected, it will be voted upon during the September 2008 City of Glendale election.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) saves money by eliminating costly require a majority vote in order to de-

clare a winner. RCV is designed to cause an instant runoff since voters indicate on the ballot their second and subsequent choices.

The wasted vote syndrome is eliminated with RCV. Instead of voting against someone, you can vote for the



individual you like the most without trying to keep someone out. Just Put the candidate you can't stand at the bottom of the list.

To get involved with the RCV initiative, call the MCLP at 602-595-5451 or visit www.betterballotglendale.org.

MARICOPA COUNTY LP WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

A funny thing happened when the Maricopa County LP appointed election observers pursuant to A.R.S. 16-621 to watch ballot counting and the logic and accuracy tests during the February 5th 2008 Presidential Preference Election. Karen Osborne, Maricopa County Elections Director, decided to exclude our observers in violation of state law.

According to a ruling by Judge Peter Swann, the state statutes clearly indicate that the Libertarian Party has a right to be in the tabulation room on election day. This decision was reached in less than 45 minutes during an emergency hearing called by MCLP attorney (and state chairman) Michael Kielsky.

According to Iannuzo, "the elections department believes that they are the rulers, and voters are relegated to serfdom. The LP insists that there is transparency in the elections process. Anytime they try to obfuscate the vote, we are ready to expose them."

The judge's order in case # CV-2008-002704 can be found at www.lpmaricopa.org.

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Maricopa County Libertarian Party Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, beginning at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome for our dinner meeting at:

China Village Restaurant
2710 E Indian School Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85016