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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 18,1996 20:43:20
To: JAMES FEIGENBAUM (JJBF83D)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Jim, When a ship's captain wants to traverse from A to B he sets a course and follows it unless something crops up and he has to make course adjustments in order to achieve his original destination.

With freedom as the goal the Founding Fathers were willing to compromise if necessary to achieve that goal, but each was an ideologue from his nose to his toes. That's how we became a great Nation, we had principles (ideology,) a set star by which to steer our course. The well being of millions of ordinary People was placed ahead of that of a few connected folk (as was the practice in Europe.)

Bulletin ID: EZA961218204320CHHL71AJJBF83D

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 11,1996 23:00:16
To: JAMES FEIGENBAUM (JJBF83D)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Just think of the Founding Fathers.

Bulletin ID: EZA961211230016CHHL71AJJBF83D

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 11,1996 22:59:39
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The only authoritarian countries that make the trains run on time are the ones with a fascist component. According to William Safire's Political Dictionary, a fascist is a supporter of the corporate state and making the trains run on time is "a defense of the Fascist 'corporate state' on the basis of its efficiency; now only used derisively. Whenever a government or political organization abridges personal liberties- giving as its reason the need for 'master planning' or 'efficiency'- the mid-thirties expression is recalled."

Ever hear of "property rights? In America lately, that idea has been subsumed into a larger corporate, or group, right that has been enacted "voluntarily." About a quarter of our population now live in private communities in which their right to do with their property as they please has been severely restricted to the point where they must seek the permission of the community's governing body.

Some of these areas won't allow a van or pickup to be parked in the driveway, and the color of the house and the type of shrubbery around it is regulated by the association and enforced by the contract the homeowner (voluntarily) enters into. Here, we see people swaddling themselves with yet another layer of government, just so they won't have to live near people they don't like.

Access to these communities is restricted and an outsider is prevented from passing through, even if it is a shortcut. Salesmen cannot engage in their trade in these places, yet people living outside these areas, in the greater municipality MUST pay taxes to provide various services to these communities.

The fact that these places are increasingly popular and that people flock to them with nary a concern about their rights shows how cavalier society has become in matters concerning rights. If 25% of the population voluntarily give up their rights it becomes easier for them (and the politicians) to chip away at the property rights of the rest of us.

Its creeping fascism. The right of the corporate community to dictate to its individual residents in matters of their property is really no different than having a commissar or a people's committee issue edicts on how to live. This is not freedom. These people claim that the need for "security" negates individual rights, but in the final analysis, it is the (voluntary) SURRENDER of one of our cherished liberties, the pursuit of happiness.

Bulletin ID: EZA961211225939CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 08,1996 22:00:17
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The mixed economy was meant to moderate the overuse of economic power to achieve political power. But its better to have a free economy, a free culture and a free People, so its better to have a Jeffersonian system that disallows the concentration of either political or economic power in a few hands. Centralization of wealth and power is what leads to dictatorship, (but it is more efficient, just look at the

trains running on time.)

Bulletin ID: EZA961208220017CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 08,1996 21:50:10
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Perhaps a question you should ponder is why the rich pay so much money to the politicians.

Bulletin ID: EZA961208215010CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 08,1996 21:47:23
To: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

If you truly believe Clinton's a socialist, why not go another step and call him a communist for all the aid and comfort he's given to the red rulers of the PRC? The facts are all there.

Clinton is more concerned with corporate welfare and if you recall used his henchman Ron Brown to use his Cabinet position to advance corporate profits and to drum up business abroad at the expense of working Americans here. Did he lead delegations of executive to South Central L.A. to find investment opportunities? Hell no, its more profitable for corporations to do business in Bosnia and Indonesia than here in the land of the screwed and the home of the benighted. With government officials like this we don't need enemy occupiers.

Yet we can't draw a bead on Clinton because he does such a good job of talking left and walking right. With "friends" like this, liberals don't need enemies. If Clinton didn't walk the corporate line so much with NAFTA, GATT and MFN for the butchers of Beijing, we wouldn't need welfare. Everyone knows a job is the best welfare program, but the Washington/Wall Street Axis uses American money to provide "welfare" work to the poor citizens of Mexico and Peru and Indonesia and Malaysia and China. Keeps the People in those places from wanting to overthrow their ruling class, you know.

Sounds like a welfare program for the rich, corrupt and powerful all across the Third World. This policy does not help the poor in our Country, but it sure helps the corp-

orations here make bigger profits. No wonder Wall Street likes Clinton's brand of "socialism." It allows the rich to get richer. Just like Bush. Just like Reagan. Just like Nixon.

Sound like you're really desperate to get Gates off the 2000 hook. It may be true the major culpability lies with the big corporations, but the fact is your friend noted that an upgrade will solve the problem doesn't take into account that folks like me don't want to be bothered with such things, we just want it to work right first time, everytime. If we buy a damned computer we expect it to do what its supposed to without headache or hassle. Some people like mechanical stuff, but most just want to drive without getting their hands greasy. Microsoft software thahastill exists with this problem should be upgraded gratis, a athing less is fraud. Never heard of 2036 and don't understand how that could happen either. Oh well, yet another mindless complication from the industry that's supposed to make life easier.

Better be careful how you spend those big bucks in Arizona. I heard the boys in Phoenix just changed the State Motto to Nils Californicatus Arizonus.

Bulletin ID: EZA961208214723CHHL71AHBWL80A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 08,1996 20:58:25
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

ASSEMBLY: A company or collection of individuals in the same place, usually for the same purpose.

Sounds like a group activity to me.

You seem to be mighty reluctant to admit group rights exist and you refuse to see it in the Preamble. Don't worry. The fact of group rights does not impinge on individual rights at all, and actually strengthens them. As long as a right is held by ALL it is also held by EACH, and a RIGHT, under law, is something that cannot be taken away for any reason nor can it be surrendered voluntarily. It exists.

Bulletin ID: EZA961208205825CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 08,1996 20:47:35

To: JAMES FEIGENBAUM (JJBF83D)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Clinton sure is a defender of the status quo but he is so intellectually dishonest he masquerades as a progressive, and in doing so performs an additional service for the ruling class: He diverts anti-establishment sentiment of sincere idealists into a dark backwater where it will do no real harm to the status quo, and they blindly love him for it.

Didn't you know "rationally moderate" is a contradiction of terms? The last thing a moderate is is rational. He thinks finding the average or mean of an issue is the point of politics and that making no-one angry is evidence of the policy's success. There is no leadership there and society slowly oozes into a miasma of indifference. Everything is pabulum. Nothing is certain. Confusion reigns. "Things fall apart, the center cannot hold..the best lack all conviction"

Progress does not occur without stepping on some toes. Ideologues, at least, have vision and a rational organizing principle for their ideas.

Bulletin ID: EZA961208204735CHHL71AJJBF83D

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 06,1996 19:51:04
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

Perhaps a question you should ponder is why are the poor, poor?

Bulletin ID: EZA961206195104FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 06,1996 16:32:17
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

I've read the preamble and the entire Constitution many times. I have a copy of it in front of me.

I suggest you read it more slowly, and think. For instance, your statement that freedom of assembly and speech are group rights. That is not true, and if you thought about it you'd see its impossible. If speech was a group right, the group could negate an individuals speech (the right there to) See

the point?

You keep referring to Corporations as special interest groups, anmd worse. What is your point. Which Corporations are guilty of what?

Bulletin ID: EZA961206163217FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 05,1996 23:37:10
To: BRANDON LANDERS (XGLL84A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

<<<Fact is, the kind of men who have sold out to the corporations you hate are the same men who brought us the social programs I hate.>>>

I guess the name Nelson Rockefeller rings a bell for you.

Are you old enough to remember the Rockefeller/Goldwater competition for the Republican soul back in '64? You know, Wall Street vs. Main Street. Goldwater won, but only temporarily; since then its been a rout.

The poor are among the least active voters, so they can hardly be accused of polluting the political scene. And anyway, votes are gotten nowadays through manipulation of emotions and images on the TV screen. Politics is financed by Wall Street bucks so it is the corporation (and its lackeys) who are the big polluters. Get rid of big money and we get rid of the rip offs. The desire to get rich is what corrupts politics, not the need to maintain the poor at a subsistence level.

The biggest item in the budget, ahead of defense and social programs, is the interest payments on the national debt. A debt, by the way, that was increased EIGHTFOLD during the Reagan/Bush years. This period entombed the middle-American Republican virtues of thrift and fiscal sanity beneath the deng heap of greed, probably forever.

The job of looting the economy was done so efficiently we now blame powerless immigrants and the destitute poor for being the cause of our economic problems.

I hear you re Prodigy. They screw me all the time. It used to be owned in a partnership between IBM and Sears, but was sold off to its management team, who are now cutting corners like mad to recoup their investment. Quality has deteriorated across the board, and they're too stupid and/or greedy to fix it. Sometimes when I write a long message it gets cut off due to "inactivity." If you don't post something after being on the REPLY board for 50 minutes they give

this error message that you can't override. The only hot button it gives you makes you exit from Prodigy and evaporates your writing. When you try to talk to their "representatives" you get a typical bureaucratic run around and nothing gets accomplished. Their service sucks because all they want is our money and they won't do anything intelligent to justify taking it.

Bulletin ID: EZA961205233710CHHL71AXGLL84A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 05,1996 23:03:34
To: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

You sure hit the nail on the head re the GOP, but your thumb must be really throbbing re the DEMs. "Nothing less than socialists" at this point??? Clinton is BY FAR the most anti-labor Democrat ever to infest the White House. But the DEMs are so desperate after being out of power for 12 years they were willing to settle for a turncoat, as long as he went through the motions of supporting their causes. (He always must keep the voters happy, saying what they want to hear, but DOING what he was hired to do: keep Wall Street happy.) Ron Brown was the bag man who collected the dues which now have greased the skids of the Democrats handbasket to hell.

I agree, there is fertile ground for a major third party, and my guess is it will be a populist one combining the best ideas of the left and right. (But don't hold your breath for a Jackson/Buchanon ticket.)

So, you're leaving the peninsular. Can I have your apartment?

Bulletin ID: EZA961205230334CHHL71AHBWL80A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 05,1996 22:47:51
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Ah, consequence. Now we're really in my territory.

You saw the consequence when everyone moved to Galt's Gulch. Society collapsed. Government's mindless deployment of a new weapon destroyed a huge chunk of the Heartland. All those with money (and hence, power) used it to advance their own narrow self interest. Greed ruled. As Rand never tired

of pointing out, money is not the root of all evil; LOVE of money is the root of all evil. No-one was able or willing to foresee the consequences, so emeshed were they in the process of gaining as much special privilege for themselves as they could, oblivious to larger ramifications. Novels are great laboratories for examining the complex interweavings of history, politics, economics, culture and human nature. What most fans of Rand don't realize is that her great novel was a SATIRE on contemporary business practices, one that is even more prescient today, an accurate portrayal of things as they are.

But while Jim Taggarts are as abundant as pigeons in the corporate aviary, the Hank Reardens are as extinct as a dodo and John Galt is pure sci-fi. Yet many Americans today revere the corporate executive as some kind of heroic ideal because he has achieved wealth, power and status. How heroic is it to sit around the table and vote each other raises and bonuses? There is looting going on in the boardrooms today every bit as gluttonous as in Rand's Wall Street. The executives stare into the teeth of the consequences, ignore the peril, and pillage the company, the American economy, and common sense itself.

They vote themselves raises and bonuses even if the company loses money. Why shouldn't they? They have the power, so why not profit by it? The stockholders won't mind, or even know, as most stock is now held by giant pension and mutual funds. They close down factories here putting out of work hundreds of Americans who WANT to work, so they can employ the cheap and docile labor of third world dictatorships, which translates to bigger profits and bonuses for the denizens of the board room. They facilitate the outflow of capital to foreign countries and this capital ceases to benefit America, but further pads the pockets of the connected few and their corrupt, dictatorial partners.

The consequence will be the total collapse of the U.S. economy, and guess who will be well taken care of?

Bulletin ID: EZA961205224751CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 04,1996 12:48:47
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)

Rich,

I certainly agree that IF the problem of 2000 is as catastrophic as you believe then it might be the last straw that sparks change. We'll see. As to San Fran and landfill PLEASE don't talk like that for another 3 months

until I get my family moved out of there and here safely on bedrock in AZ <g>.

On the two dominant parties I give up. The DEMs are nothing less than socialists at this point and masters of media manipulation. The GOP seems unwilling the really fight this direction as long as their friends are taken care of.

I have no idea who or what will rise up but if/when serious economic decline occurs I suspect a new party with integrity will spring up and that the GOP will survive as the lesser of 2 evils from the old.

James

Bulletin ID: EZA961204124847HBWL80ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 03,1996 21:58:25
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

IN THE BEGINNING God created the Preamble...

In it you'll see "group rights," (general welfare, posterity etc.) Full text (including capitalizations) in reply #92.

As for Rights not being subject to revocation, have you not seen what has happened to the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and Tenth Amendments under the current Supreme Court? (Many of these Rights are group rights by the way-assembly and free speech, forming militias etc.)

Special interest groups like corporations can "alter, change or revoke " any right by ordering their puppets in Congress to do so. That's what they pay for.

If the People stick together as a group they can defeat the special interests. That's why the special interests try to convince folk like yourself that the purpose of the government is not to protect the common interest of the People, but to make it ever easier for corporations to gather wealth and power unto themselves. You've been wooled!

Read the Preamble to the Constitution and you'll see again.

Bulletin ID: EZA961203215825CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB

Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 03,1996 21:34:47
To: BRANDON LANDERS (XGLL84A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

ADVANTAGE: Any state, condition, or circumstances specially favorable to success, prosperity, interest, etc. Opportunity, convenience for obtaining benefit. Superiority over.

You claim that "20 million non-working people still eating, still making babies," is a result of an unfair ADVANTAGE conferred on these folks by the government. What advantage is it to be poor, living hand-to-mouth, powerless and reviled in today's society?

You have no sense of scale. You think these poor People are equivalent to the corporations that control the lion's share of the American economy. You sound like Ronald Reagan lampooning that infamous Cadillac driving welfare queen while ignoring the billions stolen from the American Taxpayer in the bulging pockets of corporate executives who charge Uncle Sam \$70 for a hammer and \$800 for a toilet seat. While you're parading welfare queens for all to see up and down Pennsylvania Avenue, the corporate executives are looting the Treasury out the back door. As Sen. Dirksen once observed, the average American can easily understand financial matters involving thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars, but when the amount gets up into the incomprehensible millions (and then billions,) they throw their hands up and relegate those matters to their democratically elected representatives.

But while millions and billions are incomprehensible to the average American, these are the meat and potatoes for the special interests. The same interests that buy those same democratically elected representatives.

You say we OUGHT not be so ignorant that we allow unfair combinations being formed around us, and we OUGHT not have men lacking in character representing us, and you infer that when the People allow this they get what they deserve. You're speaking of a perfect world where the People make their own decisions, a democracy, but we're not living in a democracy, we're living in a republic in which we elect those leaders to guide us.

The special interests pay and manipulate our leaders to betray us and redistribute our National wealth from We the People to the corporations. The People are not at fault. People are basically honest and assume their politicians are too. (They also assume that it is always someone else's politician who's a crook.) The People look at the politicians nice smile, and his lovely family, and his memorable TV commercials, and think "he's one of us." But they don't realize those commercials are paid for by the special interests and when the phones ring it is the

corporate executive who gets the politician's ear.

>>>Some men will find the way to head powerful corporations that hold great sway over entire communities and millions of people, but if the people find this influence unjust, they may simply restrain their trade with it/him.<<<

SIMPLY? You think such a thing can SIMPLY be done? Back to the looting done by defense contractors. These corporations, like all corporations doing business with the government get their contracts due to actions of Congress and the Administration. The People's will has nothing to do with it. The

Bulletin ID: EZA961203213447CHHL71AXGLL84A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 01,1996 20:08:02
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

I don't know what document you are reading, but it certainly is not the Constitution. No where in the Constitution is the subject of "Group Rights" addressed. This is for at least two reasons. First of all a right is something that cannot be revoked, such as the right to life, or a property right. If a right was anything except individual in nature, then a group could alter, change or revoke the "right".

Second, the Federalist papers, and the Constitution itself went to great lengths to discuss & guarantee individual rights. Which one of the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights is anything but individual?

Bulletin ID: EZA961201200802FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: December 01,1996 00:00:09
To: BRANDON LANDERS (XGLL84A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

You're not thinking "Jefferson," Brandon. If you want to know about micro-managing society, go no further than TJ, (unless you want to try Adam Smith.)

He wrote a whole big book on the subject, and his conclusion was to do nothing at all and allow society to be ordered naturally by "an invisible hand.") Principles of rational economic thought combined with the "enlightened self interest" of the People would create a happy and prosperous

society. Jefferson concurred and tried to spread wealth and political power as EVENLY around the Country as he could.

>>>

That was the era prior to the advent of Corporate Law, which came into being around the 1830's. There was no such thing as corporations in 1776, so there was no way to accumulate vast economic power into just a few hands.

When Congress conferred that power to the corporations the Jeffersonian Ideal began to unravel. Principles of rational economic thought fell by the wayside as the free market was distorted by the conscious efforts of corporate officers who learned how to use political power, wealth, and their centralized position to gather and manipulate information. This defeated the invisible hand because to be successful it needed to operate behind the scenes, out of sight, in order to serve the enlightened self interest of the masses. When a small number tried to use their superior wealth and political power to increase their wealth and political power the invisible hand was rendered useless.

The invisible hand of enlightened self interest was thus commandeered to serve the greedy self interest of the few. The invisible hand cannot be manipulated by the well connected and remain a force for freedom.

We needn't worry about Marx when we have Jefferson to guide us.

Bulletin ID: EZA961201000009CHHL71AXGLL84A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 30,1996 23:17:09
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

What you say is true:

>>>Nowhere in the Constitution does it say, or even imply that the government should look out for the economic interest of the people.<<<

IF

you believe that the Constitution contains three separate and distinct sections: The Bill of Rights, which was added to the main body of the Document and is specifically meant to protect those individual rights you're concerned about, the main body of the Constitution which lays out a blueprint for the actual workings of the Government, and the Preamble, which states the purpose of the Government and announces the Birth of collective Nationhood.

The Preamble doesn't imply anything, but states clearly the existence of National Rights, (or the "greatest good for the greatest number.") A strong Nation assures individual rights, and these strong words assure a strong Nation.

The overriding concern of the Constitution is the well being of the American People. (See reply 92 for text of Preamble)

Bulletin ID: EZA961130231709CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 30,1996 09:59:56
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say, or even imply that the government should look out for the economic interest of the people. Where do you see that?

Yes the term "People" is inclusive. However, something I am not sure you realize is that INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS are the overriding concern of the Constitution. The "People" as a group, have no more rights than any individual. This must be so, as if it were no, there could be no such thing as individual rights.

Bulletin ID: EZA961130095956FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 30,1996 00:45:06
To: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Gates gets singled out cos he's such a great symbol. IBM and Honeywell are faceless entities, but we can sink our teeth into Gates because he's such a fat target. Even if he didn't intentionally cause this problem, the fact that his software is everywhere certainly contributes mightily to it. A good estimate is the ENTIRE industry is responsible. Since so much of the industry now rests on Microsoft, like much of San Francisco rests on landfill, a good shake can bring it down. A trillion dollars is an incredible sum to pay to fix a problem which shouldn't have occurred in the first place. They were all so eagerly grabbing the dollar they missed the signpost announcing their demise: 2000! 2000! 2000! 2000! As plain as day, but to those blinded by greed, a complete surprise.

You certainly hit the nail on the head re the current

parties not admitting the coming problem. To do so, they'd have to think rationally. That's an art that went out when television came in. To not prepare for the inevitable crash is an act of negligence that will be deemed by the People an outright crime, and treated accordingly.

Clinton managed to grab the balanced budget banner due to the Republicans stupidly dropping it during the Reagan go-go years, when they abdicated their longstanding values to help the rich get richer by octupling the National Debt from \$500B in 1981 to \$4T in 1992. Robbing from the future to pay the greedy pigs of the present is the silver bullet devised by the ruling class to bring down America.

The ruling class, of course, is prepared to profit from the crunch and have seen to it, with their legalised bribery, that the politicians of both parties continue to exist in a political la-la land raking in the big bucks oblivious to any conception that their corruption is destroying America. The coming crunch will end up making the New Deal look like a picnic held by the New York State Conservative Party. Forget about going Right. The two parties will certainly do that leaving a giant hole to be filled by a Populist Party that will be a true representative of the American People. Let the jackals of the ruling class have the carcass of the Republicrat Party, a new classless society will arise from the rot of the old.

Bulletin ID: EZA961130004506CHHL71AHBWL80A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 30,1996 00:00:53
To: BRANDON LANDERS (XGLL84A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Brandon,

You haven't been around this board long enough to understand that my basic idea is that Jeffersonian Capitalism, or pre-corporate Capitalism, is the foundation of a prosperous America. Spreading wealth and political power out among the People makes democracy far safer and more useful to the People than to concentrate wealth and power into a few hands of the Washington/Wall Street Axis.

Jefferson's was a simple, but brilliant idea. A true classless society was in the making during the early 19th Century, which, had it been allowed to achieve fruition, would have negated Marx to the max.

Instead, corporate capitalism displaced Jefferson's ideal and America began a descent to the current point where our stratified class system far more closely resembles that of

the Britain we revolted against than the free and sovereign Nation Jefferson envisioned.

Read back through the thread and you'll see what I'm about.

Bulletin ID: EZA961130000053CHHL71AXGLL84A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 29,1996 23:34:22
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

I think it is proper for the government to "look after the economic interest of the People" because it sez so in the Constitution, in the Preamble. The People means ALL the People, equal in the eyes of the LAW, not just the connected few, the greedy rich, who "contribute" to the well being of the politicians.

We the People means 250,000,000 of us, not just a million or so overprivileged millionaires, so when the government serves just the few at the expense of the many, it is our right, it is our duty to overthrow such government and start a new one that will properly serve We the People.

Bulletin ID: EZA961129233422CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 29,1996 23:24:04
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Loved your Rand quote re the initiation of force and the forcible seizure of property.

If Rand was an apologist for the Wall Street fascists such a statement could be construed as the last brick in the wall of the Castle, the final protection for the staus quo, but we all know she goes much deeper than that.

Once a ruling class arrives on top of the heap through the Hegelian dialectic of thesis
NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 24,1996 15:35:48
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

Please advise why you feel it is proper for the govt. to "look after the economic interests of the People"

Additionally, which "People", and just how would the govt. do that?

Certainly the property rights inherent in stock ownership are valid, and the govt (judicial branch) has the duty to enforce contractual obligations. Is that what you mean?

What is so unjust, that needsw to be overthrown???

Bulletin ID: EZA961124153548FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 24,1996 00:59:22
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

I am not quoting the Preamble out of context because the Preamble IS the context.

CONTEXT n. (Latin: To weave together) The whole situation, background, or environment relevant to some happening or personality.

The Preamble is a clear and concise statement of the purpose of the United States government.(PREAMBLE An introduction, especially to a constitution or statute, stating its reason and purpose.) When something is so up front and obvious, why do you go hunting around the murky depths of the Federalist Papers searching for a meaning which at best is a theory or interpretation of just three men written BEFORE THE FACT of the Constitution itself. The Federalist Papers is not a law, it is a suggestion. The Constitution is the real McCoy and the Preamble is the horse's mouth.

The Founding Fathers made the Preamble short and sweet to avoid the inevitable distortion that accompanies documents of many words. The more words there are, the more possible interpretations arise, one of which is yours.

The Founding Fathers were enthusiasts of classical rhetoric, (as was Aristotle) and followed one of its basic tenets: "Say what you're going to say, then say it."

We don't need "painstaking and precise detail" when we have an abstract like the Preamble. Detail is for the bureaucrat; Panorama is for the People.

Bulletin ID: EZA961124005922CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB

Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 24,1996 00:02:58
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

If I live to be 101 years old, I will NEVER say that government is innocent. I wish a pox on both their houses for what they have done to America.

They have Americans laboring under a misconception. Because we are such a sports oriented, competitive society, with a long history of vanquishing our foes on the battlefield, we tend to see things as an either/or proposition. Everything is portrayed as a choice between shades of left/right with Americans enthusiastically choosing sides and defending their team with the fervor of a hometown fan. But its not a left/right, liberal/conservative, Democrat/Republican thing. Its a CLASS thing. Its always been a class thing and it will always be a class thing.

But it serves the interest of the ruling class to portray the basic conflict in society in ideological terms rather than class terms. This enables the ruling class to have its members and operatives in EACH camp influencing events and defining the terms of the debate in ways that will most benefit the ruling class. By creating the rules of the game to maintain the status quo, and by playing on BOTH teams, the ruling class assures that the People will never discover an alternative that can (and will) threaten their duopoly. It is the only game in town. The ruling class is in a league of its own so to be a player the ambitious must never branch off in a way that might challenge the Washington/Wall Street hegemony, but conform instead to the dictates of the Establishment: "to get along, go along," a philosophy that brooks no dissent.

Its a corrupt system in which we can't hang either the thief or the crooked cop, but which forces the People to pay the price foisted upon us.

Bulletin ID: EZA961124000258CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 23,1996 22:34:51
To: JAMES FEIGENBAUM (JJB83D)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Paz, 'bro! Take a look at a table of the House of Rep's, state by state, over the years and you can get an idea of how the population moved and what numbers constituted its various parts. It was indeed a minority that went West during the Settler Era. Texas and California experienced the vast majority of their population increase in the Post-

War Era due to demographic factors having nothing to do with the Pioneers. Many of our smallest states are Western.

And most third parties are strongest in the West. Hmmm.

Bulletin ID: EZA961123223451CHHL71AJJBF83D

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 20,1996 23:14:28
To: JAMES FEIGENBAUM (JJBF83D)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The Founding Fathers just happened to be the right People in the right place at the right time. They were not elected, but self appointed seizing the initiative once the power of their brilliant idea became apparent. They were well read in History and Philosophy and the universal truths they dealt in are as current today as they were then and as they were 2400 years ago. They weren't kings or gods but they were something New under the sun: Americans.

Its true that Americans always had the option of going West, but those who actually did so were a small minority of our population. Most People stayed close to civilization and its amenities, and were comfortable living in the complex, inter-related economy of the day.

It really wasn't very different than today, although today we contemplate OJ far more than TJ. Back then folks understood the importance of current affairs (eternal vigilance is the price of liberty) while today we surrender our future to the liars and thieves of the Washington/Wall Street Axis and surround ourselves with frivolities that are the exact equivalent of ancient Rome's bread and circuses.

But you wouldn't know about that because what happened 2000 years ago is irrelevant to your way of thinking.

Bulletin ID: EZA961120231428CHHL71AJJBF83D

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 20,1996 22:43:13
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

>>>That attempt by business is only possible if government has the power in the first place. Without it, business couldn't try to use it. It all starts and ends with government power.<<<

And how did the government get the power in the first place? It sure wasn't given in the Constitution. This power is a result of lobbying and politician buying by big business starting in the Robber Baron era. Business needs/wants government power on its side and has always proved willing to pay for it. They got it, now they use it. Take away this initiative by business to control government and we'll have honest government for a change.

>>>Wealth is only political power if the government usurps the power over wealth in the first place.<<<

Wealth buys political power whether or not government tries to regulate it. Wealth, like water, finds a way around all obstacles. Wealth is the corrupter of government and politicians.

End wealth's power over government and you end the abuses of wealth and power.
See! We're getting closer.

Bulletin ID: EZA961120224313CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 20, 1996 09:05:56
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

<<<I would extend the meaning of fascism to include the use, by business, of government power to achieve its ends.>>>

This is the very point I've been trying to make to you for months. That attempt by business is ONLY possible if the government has the power in the first place. Without it, business couldn't try to use it. It all starts and ends with government power.

<<<The entire idea of our system of government is to balance forces and interests in such a way that no-one suffers or is abused by any force that may have acquired wealth and power out of proportion with the Constitution's mandate.>>>

The Constitution mandated nothing with regard to the accumulation of wealth, only power. My point again. Wealth is only political power if the government usurps the power over wealth in the first place. There are plenty who have wealth willing to play into that government power to add political power to their wealth. End the government power over wealth and you end the abuses of wealth and power.

Bulletin ID: EZA961120090556SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 20,1996 00:18:41
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The Preamble is a clear and concise statement of the principles of the United States government. It is part of the Constitution and was endorsed by the signatories.

Why would you want to enter into interpretive territory when we have such a clear statement of purpose? I know what the Founding Fathers actually meant by those words because I can read those words, located as they are right at the very beginning of the Constitution. Its not difficult.

Bulletin ID: EZA961120001841CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 20,1996 00:07:53
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Most corporations ARE owned by employees and the public in the forms of direct stock ownership, mutual funds and pension plans. It IS the proper role of government to look after the economic interests of the People but it has lately abandoned the People in favor of the wealthy and connected few.

Through their stock ownership the People have property rights in businesses and this needs to be protected by an honest government. Since we don't have an honest government we need to overthrow the current one and institute a new one that uses its powers justly.

Bulletin ID: EZA961120000753CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 19,9,96 23:54:27
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

I agree, the purpose of a business is to make a profit. Do you agree the purpose of a society is to enable its members

to live civilized lifestyles?

I would extend the meaning of fascism to include the use, by business, of government power to achieve its ends. Such use, consequently, is at the expense of other sectors of society, such as small business and labor, which do not have access to power or the means to purchase it.

When a big business buys or rents coercive government power it IS sacrificing some for the benefit of a few, and this is immoral, as you say.

For example, many Wall Street firms have big investments in Mexico. When the piper came calling a few years ago "our" government aided the corrupt Mexican government to the tune of \$50 billion. The current government also aids a relative handful of businesses in other places around the world, such as Indonesia. The previous Secretary of Commerce died while ushering business executives to make investments in economies other than America's.

What the American taxpayer has been led to believe, however, is that the government he pays for is supposed to provide for the well being of the American People, not just those who give big contributions to politicians and parties. Read the Preamble of the Constitution to confirm this.

When the government uses its powers, coercive or otherwise, to single out a particular business for special treatment, responds to this business' lobbyists, and accepts what amounts to being kickbacks to aid the business, that government is acting against the interest of the American People and against its own charter. While its true the purpose of business is to make a profit it does not follow that the purpose of government is to help business make that profit.

The purpose of government is stated clearly in the Preamble. The entire idea of our system of government is to balance forces and interests in such a way that no-one suffers or is abused by any force that may have acquired wealth and power out of proportion with the Constitution's mandate.

Now, because of crooked politicians and lobbyists, government power is exerted to aid a small sector of our society to the detriment, and even exclusion of others. Those in power won't listen to reason. Money talks. Whoever coughs up the biggest "contribution" gets the prize. Since doing business in foreign dictatorships (many of them fascist) is more profitable (as you say) than doing business here, the companies doing business abroad have enough cash to pay off the various sectors of government, including congressional aids, to create the climate that will facilitate that business. Look at NAFTA, look at the MFN deal with China. If these dollars were invested in America we wouldn't have the crime and poverty and unemployment we have now, but since the average American and the poor American don't have the funds to buy the government, America gets poorer by the

day, while third-world dictatorships and Wall Street get richer.

Business makes profits, sure, but its at the long and short-term expense of this Nation. The people with wealth

Bulletin ID: EZA961119235427CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 19,1996 17:06:26
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)

Whether or not "business executives" gather together to discuss closings, or layoffs is nothing the government can be involved with. The business is not owned by the people, or the government. A government rightly must say we will offer all citizens equal employment in government jobs, else they would be discriminating against a class, or classes of the governed. But the government has no right to tell private busiuness what to do as that infringes on property rights, and rights are either there or they are not. There is no such thing as a partial right.

The only use of power the Founding Fathers abhored, indeed even addressed is power of government. The private sector was not even discussed.

Bulletin ID: EZA961119170626FCSR26ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 18,1996 18:52:54
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The Founding Fathers detested any exercise of arbitrary power over the People. They wanted things fair and equal.

You say "nowhere in those documents is the common good defined as sacrificing some for the benefit of others." True. That's the way its supposed to be in America.

But that's not the way it is. Too often in today's business climate executives get together and figure out that if they close down a factory in Ohio and put a hundred People out of work, and then open a new factory in Indonesia, they will save their company millions of dollars. So they do so and reward themselves with fat raises and bonuses.

It is certainly to their benefit to do so, but the newly unemployed worker, who may have been with the company for many years, suffers. American executives have proved all too willing to sacrifice some for the benefit of others. They have the power to do this and get away with it because they own the politicians.

But that doesn't make it right. The Founding Fathers were against any arbitrary use of power, but their writings concentrated on political power and didn't address the concentration of economic power.

In the early years of the Republic concentration of economic power was not a problem because the chief means of doing so, the corporation, hadn't been invented yet. Tell me, if you can, where in the Federalist Papers the word "corporation" appears. Corporate Law didn't come into being until the 1830's. Before that there were no corporations and hence no arbitrary use of concentrated wealth to sacrifice some to benefit others.

The Founders believed that wealth, like political power, would be spread out across the population benefitting all equally.

I understand your frustration with what you regard as a big problem in the maintenance of poverty through taxation. You need to realize, however, that simply because one side is wrong doesn't make the opposite side automatically right.

The wealthy try to divert attention from their own excesses and greed by pointing out the excesses and stupidity of their opponents and by not admitting their own. The wealthy have proved themselves perfectly willing to sacrifice others to benefit themselves. They are like witches conducting a witch-hunt of innocents in order to keep themselves from falling under the scrutiny that could do them in.

Its true the Founding Fathers didn't want to see anyone sacrificed for the benefit of others and they created a system to assure that. But now the wealthy, using their bought politicians are getting around the wishes of the Founders and are exploiting and sacrificing others until the only end in sight is a new Revolution.

Bulletin ID: EZA961118185254CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 18,1996 09:33:53
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

<<<Sure sounds like an attempt to address the common good,

to 'Nuff said.>>>

Not NEARLY 'nuff said. One MUST understand what the FF meant by the common good. The D of C, the Constitution, and the Federalist papers elucidate on that at length. NOWHERE in those documents is the common good defined as sacrificing some for the benefit of others. The FF vision of the common good, one which I share, is that ALL rights, of all people, are protected and defended. They further defined those rights as individual rights, not any group rights. So, yes, we are supposed to be for the common good, but when some are sacrificed for the benefit of others, do they cease to be part of the "common?" What mental and moral contortions are necessary to justify what we hear trumpeted so often today as "the common good!"

Bulletin ID: EZA961118093353SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 16,1996 22:54:02
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Ken and Robert, muchos gracias!
Y'all have given me a great opportunity to trumpet a quote, one of the most powerful of all:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Sure sounds like an attempt to address the common good, to me. 'Nuff said.

Bulletin ID: EZA961116225402CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 12,1996 23:37:40
To: KENNETH GARDNER (ZCPH93A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

This country was founded on two antagonistic principles:

1. Religious tolerance
2. Profit motive

The Northern Colonies were populated by folk who lived

deeply in their religion. They were very group oriented, family, community, sect. They eschewed conspicuous consumption and opposed the slave trade. They were refugees from oppression and mistrusted the Colonial Administration.

The Southern Colonies were populated by folk who were there to make money. They were individualists who tried to accumulate great wealth because wealth helped them gain their deepest desires, status and power. They were willing to deprive others of individual rights in order to attain wealth. They lived in magnificent homes and killed foxes. They were deeply supportive of government because the government aided their lavish lifestyle, and were Anglo-philic to their toenails.

This tension between two classes of settlers has permeated American History: Mammon v God. Greed v Ideals. We can see it today, with somewhat altered particulars, but individualism is not the founding principle of America.

Bulletin ID: EZA961112233740CHHL71AZCPH93A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 12,1996 08:56:52
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

The programming of computers wasn't mindless at all. Using the 00 to mean 1900 made it possible to set dating using the NUMBER of days from 1900 as a basis for a calendar. There was method in it. The problem has already been solved and the hysterics are unfounded. I don't know where you get your numbers about cost of reprogramming, but I sure wish you'd take them less at face value and dump you silly conspiracy theories and come back to Earth.

Bulletin ID: EZA961112085652SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 11,1996 23:01:03
To: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

James and Nick,

The problem is not with PCs or Mainframes or anything like that. Becoming obsolete is not the problem either.

The problem is with the way computers have been programmed

from the very beginning of the industry. Back in the fifties the year 2000 was far, far away. To save time and space all computers and their operating programs used a two digit code to indicate the year. 67 was 1967. This coding became a tradition that programmers mindlessly followed even as the next Century loomed ever closer. Today, there are literally billions of lines encoded in such a way that the two digits mean the 1900's.

So, when we reach 2000, 00 will be read by the electronic intellect to mean 1900, which will mess up all sorts of information stored in computer systems.

It seems like a minor matter, but it turns out that no quick fix is possible. Each and every computer program with this flaw will have to be remedied line by line, by a real live human being. To recode these billions of lines will cost more than a trillion dollars, hardly small change. As usual, We the People, and not those responsible, will be forced to pay this cost.

>>Maybe it will take serious economic upheaval to clear the decks.<< My friend, there IS a serious economic upheaval coming and its coming from many directions at once. One aspect of this will be the massive cost to fix that little computer coding problem. The latest published report put the price tag at one and one half trillion dollars.

Thats nearly one third of the entire National Debt. Right now the two current parties are "promising" to balance the budget in 2002 (computers call that year 1902) and so we can look forward to the coming deficits prior to 2002 piling on another couple of trillion and so by the time the budget is balanced the National Debt will be \$7,000,000,000,000+.

The point is, we have NEVER (since 1969) been able to reduce the Debt because TRILLIONS of dollars is a lot of money. As Ronnie Reagan would say a trillion dollars is the amount British Telcom would spend to buy MCI, not once, not twice, not ten times, but fifty times over. Cash like that doesn't grow on trees, or even the Federal Reserve. We've never been able to reduce the National Debt by a mere billion dollars but now we're going to have to come up with a trillion just to re-program the computers. Its mind boggling. Where is this money going to come from?

The only outcome of this debacle will be to drive the economy deeper in the red. The State of Florida will have to pay \$170,000,000 to re-program its own computers. How much will the Federal government have to pay?

I'm willing to bet the Federal taxpayer's share of this burden is not in the current budget, is not in any projected budget for the future and hasn't even been researched yet. But I'm sure it will be a budget buster. They have to fix the Defense Department and all other Federal computers, the expense of which will make Florida's \$170 million seem puny

indeed.

Bulletin ID: EZA961111230103CHHL71AHBWL80A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 07,1996 08:16:40
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

I have a suggestion for you. If you don't like the computer programming, don't use computers...unless you find somewhere in a purchase contract that programs are valid indefinitely. In that case, sue!

As for the rest of your note, all I can say is: HEIL!

Bulletin ID: EZA961107081640SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 05,1996 23:05:33
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

How about a special fine making the executives and the corporations that are responsible pay for the fix?

IBM, Apple, Gates and the rest may not collectively be worth \$1.5 trillion, so the law should include a "nationalization" clause that will kick in when they all go bankrupt paying the fine.

If this seems a breath-taking proposal just remember the breath-taking incompetence of the computer mongers who allowed this situation to develop. We can't trust them. They've made a mistake that will cost the economy \$1.5 trillion. This is gross negligence and the People shouldn't be forced to pay for it, either through taxes or higher prices.

\$1.5 trillion was the total of the National Debt in 1984. Nobody then proposed paying it off in one year or even three. It couldn't be done. Now, we MUST pay that amount within the next three years, just to keep our computer systems functioning properly.

Don't you think that money could be put to better use elsewhere? That's why we should take it out of the hides of the computer mongers, and give the People a break, for once.

Bulletin ID: EZA961105230533CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 05,1996 09:26:12
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

So what do you propose? Legislate computer programming?

Bulletin ID: EZA961105092612SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 04,1996 22:04:53
To: ROBERT MILES (FCSR26A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Example: A farmer grows wheat and sells it. The (little) profit he makes is indeed re-distribution. Of every dollar you spend on bread only 13 cents goes to the producer. (Compared with 65 cents for poultry and eggs.) Most of the rest goes to the middle-man (usually Cargill or Continental Grain, privately owned, closed books corporations, which together control most of America's wheat distribution.)

These middle-men reap huge profits from the actual producer simply because they are in the right place at the right time. Back in '72, many folks believed they caused a massive re-distribution of wealth because as campaign contributors to Nixon and the Republican Party they were let in early on knowledge of the huge Soviet purchase of grain. In this "great grain robbery" the middle-men bought up the wheat supply at depressed prices (it was a bumper crop) and then sold it to the Soviet who purchased it with U.S. taxpayer subsidized, government guaranteed loans. A "flower" of detente.

This huge sale caused the price of supermarket bread and other food products to skyrocket. The consumer paid and the farmer missed out on what could have been a big profit, but the grain companies got richer on what amounts to be a huge re-distribution of wealth from the farmers and consumers to their companies.

And Nixon got re-elected.

Untold additional examples available.

Bulletin ID: EZA961104220453CHHL71AFCSR26A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 04,1996 21:44:33
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Of course wealth is created BEFORE it is redistributed, as you say in note 11.

Up until the 1950's America exported oil. Now, each year over \$50,000,000,000 of America's wealth is redistributed to oil exporting countries, many of which have criminal governments, because politicians and oil company executives and foreign lobbyists resisted the development of alternative energy sources.

You can't deny this wealth is being re-distributed. Wealth need not be subjected to a tax to be re-distributed. Greedy and ignorant individuals in corporations have re-distributed HUNDREDS of BILLIONS of American dollars to foreign dictatorships simply by closing factories here and buying their goods from backward countries.

In this way the former employees here of American multinational corporations have seen their livelihoods re-distributed overseas so a few executives can get richer.

Who knows what kind of behind-the-scenes deals have been arranged by the United States government in order to induce or otherwise facilitate this sell-out of America's wealth.

Bulletin ID: EZA961104214433CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 04,1996 21:25:10
To: CARL LAGRASSA (UJLS09A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

When computer programs were originally devised the century marker, "19" was left out to save time and space. Computers assume any year it reads, 66 or 77 or 88 or 99, are in the 20th Century. No-one thought to program computers thirty or twenty (or even ten) years ago to recognize 00 as 2000 or 01 as 2001, so when a computer sees these figures it regards it as having a 19 in front. Thus 00 will mean 1900, not 2000, and to correct this "tiny" error will cost \$1.5 trillion in the next three years.

Where will this money come from? You and me, Carl. The computer manufacturers and programers will profit again off us!

Bulletin ID: EZA961104212510CHHL71AUJLS09A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 04,1996 21:13:49
To: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The problem IS that massive, re 2000. A recent newspaper article (AP, I think,) gave the \$1.5trillion figure for the economy as a whole and \$170,000,000 for the government computers in the State of Florida alone to get the fix.

And this money has to be coughed up in the next three years.

Some are lucky enough to have Windows 95 but they too will have to pay the price because the problem has penetrated everything, and as you know, the little guy, the taxpayer, the consumer,ends up paying everything while they who caused the problem, and own the politicians, get off scot-free.

Bulletin ID: EZA961104211349CHHL71ASZJU69A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: October 29,1996 21:36:30
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: CARL LAGRASSA (UJLS09A)

And why do you think that going from 99 to 00 is different from going from 96 to 97?

Bulletin ID: EZA961029213630UJLS09ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: October 29,1996 08:57:11
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: NICK MARK (SZJU69A)

Re: The year 2000 on computers...

Windows 95 has the correction built in already and I'm sure computers not on Windows 95, like telephone company computers, can have a fix programmed in with little trouble. While the problem exists, I seriously doubt it is THAT massive.

Bulletin ID: EZA961029085711SZJU69ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: October 28,1996 22:15:08
To: CARL LAGRASSA (UJLS09A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The example I heard on Nightline, (I think,) showed that since computers were never programed to recognize the concept of the year 2000, if you were to make a long distance phone call starting at 11:55pm December 31, 1999 and end it ten minutes later at 12:05am January 1, 2000, the phone company computer will charge you for 100 years because all computer programs use two digit dates that leave out the century. Thus 1999 is 99 and 2000 should be 00, but actually 1900 is programed as 00. Not a single computer has been built and programed (apparently) to correctly deal with the next century. To reprogram them all, a laborious line by line process, will cost \$1.5 trillion. If not paid, CRASH!!

Bulletin ID: EZA961028221508CHHL71AUJLS09A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: October 28,1996 18:55:54
To: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)
From: CARL LAGRASSA (UJLS09A)

No wonder you are so confused. Do you really think all computers are suddenly going to stop working in three years?

Seek help!

Bulletin ID: EZA961028185554UJLS09ACHHL71A

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: October 28,1996 15:47:11
To: JAMES BRACKETT (HBWL80A)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

The ante has been upped. The latest published figure for correcting the problem that shouldn't have occurred in the first place is \$1.5 trillion. That's nearly 1/3 of our National Debt. It took the government over 200 years to run up the debt and now the computer mongers have advanced to

1/3 that level in just 20 years!

During the Cold War there was a type of missile attack called TOT, or Time On Target, with all missiles launched to arrive at the same time. Now we are being held hostage not by nuclear bombs, but by the march of time bringing us ever closer to 2000 and the crash of computers IF we don't pay the computer mongers \$1.5 trillion to fix the problem THEY created. Its like a protection racket: pay up or suffer.

America has been hooked on computers, and now like dope dealers the computer mongers are demanding more and more for us to get our fix. The equivalent of 1/3 the Nation Debt must be paid IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS just to get back to normalcy. A "reasonable lifecycle" for computers DOESN'T include the simultaneous crash that will occur because none of the best and the brightest of the computer industry had the ability to foresee that the year 2000 was coming. The modus operandi of the computer mongers is to grab as much possible while addicting America to the computer and then hit the consumer with a \$1.5trillion bill later, which, of course, will make the mongers even richer.

Suppose back in the sixties you bought a Ford Mustang. Suppose every Mustang built from 1964 to 1969 had a flaw that would cause it to suddenly stop running on January 1, 1970. Would you demand your money back? Would you consider this timed obsolescence to be the normal lifecycle for the product? Would you buy another Mustang and allow the Ford Motor Company to design a new Defense System? Are you one of those Americans who have been trained to happily throw good money after bad?

Many Libertarians are corporate employees who feel guilty about how corporate power has led to ever increasing fascism in this country, and they try to assuage their guilt by going through the motions of promoting personal freedom. Look to Howard Phillips and the Taxpayer Party. At least they understand the evil of selling out to foreign interests and don't try to sugar coat the treachery by quoting Adam Smith.

WAIT A MINUTE! I just remembered. Ralph Nader and the Green Party are also opposed to the sell out of the American People to foreign interests. How can this be? A left-winger (Nader) and a right-winger (Phillips) are BOTH right? They BOTH agree? Wow, my circuits are about to about to overload from the confusion...better bail

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Board: NEWS BB
Subject: FAMILY VALUES
Posted: November 17,1996 22:56:40

To: JESSE BRADFORD (KBWH84E)
From: RICK GOMBAS (CHHL71A)

Beware of wolves in Libertarian clothing.

Family values is the purpose of America. America values family.

America began as a revolt against the British class system which sought to impose the will of a tiny minority of aristocrats over millions of ordinary People. These People just wanted to live a free and prosperous life among familiar faces and to not be manipulated for economic gain by the entrenched ruling class. They believed their lives should revolve around their families, not the local lord. Then, for the entire 19th Century, and most of the 20th, the family unit became the basic building block of a healthy and prosperous society. America flourished because Americans realized that all they had to do was take care of their own family, and rely on the neighbors to do the same, and a great Nation would naturally evolve. (Throughout American history "family unit" was a highly amorphous concept, and could mean anything from the mountain hermit to an extended clan.)

Because of various perils the American family has traditionally assumed many irregular and unique structures. The Pioneers, for example, went West carrying all combinations of family members, depending on need and economic circumstance. In addition to the nuclear family these families often included the husband's little brother, or the wife's widowed mother. Oftimes, when the wife died in childbirth the husband would marry his kid sister-in-law who would then raise the kids as her own.

The elasticity of the family became the strength of America.

The Colonists became tired of their lives being dictated by distant oligarchs and successfully arranged things so that their lives would benefit what they truly value: Family. And it worked great for a long time.

Then Nixon got in power. He ruined the economy by kicking gold out from under the dollar releasing the flood of inflation that FORCED women to go out and get jobs just to keep the family in the great middle-class. The children were neglected out of economic necessity. Two incomes were now needed to accomplish a lifestyle that had been supported by only one in previous generations.

But the rich got richer and put out word that it was a MARVELOUS thing that women were demonstrating their worth by competing with men in the job place. Of course, they never put out word that the two income family was an economic regression.

Few wives of the ruling class work. They get to stay at

home and carefully prepare the NEXT generation of rulers,
a luxury not experienced any longer by the middle-class.
Democracy suffers, but since when would this cause an
oligarch to weep?

Because of current economic conditions, People's lives no
longer revolve around their families, but around their
employment. The job is all important. Corporations rule.

We've devolved to pre-1776 conditions. The current oligarchy

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