



New Jersey Libertarian

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 3

Fall 2013

Libertarian Party calls for permanent government spending slowdown, defunding Obamacare

There is no impending government shutdown — only a government *slowdown*. The threat of a "shutdown" is designed to scare voters while avoiding scrutiny of reckless government overspending.

If federal lawmakers do not pass a budget or a "continuing resolution" (CR) by Oct. 1, a government spending *slowdown* will take effect. This could halt almost \$1 trillion in annualized spending that the CR would authorize, which is the size of the current federal deficit. If made permanent, this would cut annual federal spending by approximately 27 percent to \$2.7 trillion — the current level of revenues coming in.

In other words, a federal slowdown — if allowed to take full effect — would balance the federal budget. This would greatly *benefit* the U.S. economy.

"Elected Republicans in the House can stimulate the productive private sector by slowing down Big Government," said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian National Committee.

"Why?" Neale asked. "Because a government-sector slowdown equals a private-sector growth speedup of small businesses and jobs. Americans should welcome a government slowdown — and fear the opposite: allowing politicians to continue irresponsible, reckless government overspending."

Do politicians properly prioritize spending cuts when a slowdown takes effect? Yes and no. Functions that affect life or property generally remain funded, but many needed cuts — such as lucrative government perks, Obamacare, and large volumes of waste marbled throughout government spending — remain intact.

Furthermore, lawmakers have made numerous exceptions to the slowdown. Only a portion of the \$1 trillion that would be authorized by a CR will be blocked if a slowdown takes effect.

While the particulars of the impending slowdown are far from perfect, any serious spending cuts are a welcome

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Don't forget to vote!

Our candidates have successfully petitioned to be on the ballot!

In the November 2013 elections five candidates have successfully petitioned to be on the ballot in the state of New Jersey under the Libertarian Party banner. Support their hard work and don't forget to cast a vote for our candidates!

- Ken Kaplan of Parsippany for NJ Governor
- Don DeZarn of East Windsor for NJ State Senate
- Sean O'Connor of East Windsor for NJ State Assembly (14th District)
- Steve Uccio of East Windsor for NJ State Assembly (14th District)
- Patrick McKnight of Hillsborough for NJ State Assembly (16th District)

Much thanks go out to the many petitioners who contributed to this effort.

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Delaying individual mandate will delay political backlash until after the election

By Alan Reynolds published on *Cato @ Liberty Blog*

Republican Senators Ted Cruz (TX) and Mike Lee (UT) and a few others have proposed that *all* Obamacare funding be cut off by a legislative “rider,” ostensibly forbidding funding of the 2010 law. They argued that public opinion polls trump mere laws enacted by Congress and vetted by the Supreme Court—an idea that sounds more like populism than conservatism.

Even if such “defunding” could have magically attracted the 67 Senate votes needed to override a veto, it would not have undone the mandate to buy insurance, premium subsidies through refundable tax credits, planned cuts in payments to Medicare providers, or any of Obamacare’s numerous new 2013 taxes—including the extra 0.9 percent payroll tax and 3.8 percent surtax on investment income for couples earning more than \$250,000. Rhetorical opposition to “funding” did not even include opposing Obamacare *taxes*.

The Senate Conservative Fund’s “donthundobamacare” website, which features photos of Cruz and Lee, exhorted: “Tell the Republicans to OPPOSE cloture to stop Harry Reid’s plan to fund Obamacare. Tell them a vote for cloture is a vote to fund Obamacare!” Nine senators who the SCF website claims opposed cloture nevertheless *voted for cloture* on September 25.

“Mr. Cruz’s ‘yes’ vote ... confused conservative activists who had mobilized to stand with him against any procedural step forward,” reports the *New York Times*. Politically innocent people are often easily confused because they fail to notice that “funds” is the key word in all political action funds. As a fundraiser, this theatrical show was great television. And groups that raise funds for political campaigns don’t offer refunds.

With the cloture vote demonstrating the questionable sincerity and unquestionable futility of the mobilization to “defund Obamacare,” efforts were instantly diverted to a Plan B to *delay the individual mandate* in a continuing resolution that funds the government. Plan B would allow favored groups to enjoy new refundable tax credits and Medicaid entitlements for a year or two before less-favored citizens face fines (starting at 1 percent of marginal income) to help pay for Obamacare’s redistribution of health.

Ironically, this Republican plan to delay any such unpleasant aspects of Obamacare would be especially helpful to Democrats, who would then face fewer irate voters in the 2014 election. Being fully aware of this, however the Obama administration has largely *preempted* Republicans by seizing another opportunity to *postpone* unpopular features of Obamacare through delay or exemptions. As of September 5, “The IRS has

delayed compliance with the proposed regulations for one year under Notice 2013-45, 2013-31 I.R.B. 116. The reporting requirements are now effective for tax years beginning in 2015, with the first report due in 2016 for 2015 coverage.”

Subsidies, tax credits, and Medicaid handouts still begin on January 1, 2014. But the individual mandate cannot be enforced until tax returns are filed on April 15, 2016—with or without the Republicans Plan B—because insurers and employers no longer have to provide coverage information for 2014. The effective delay of mandate enforcement tilts the electoral balance toward those receiving taxpayer-subsidized benefits in 2014 as opposed to those who will face the burden of buying costly insurance in 2015 or paying fines in 2016. The de facto delay of the individual mandate, thanks to an IRS decree, *will keep voters largely unaware of Obamacare’s full burden in 2014*, making subsidies appear temporarily less costly than they are.

Such delay in the individual mandate and fines is great news for Democrats facing reelection in 2014. So why do Republicans imagine this is *their* clever idea? ♦

You shouldn’t need a license to speak

By Ilya Shapiro published on the *Cato @ Liberty Blog*

Washington, D.C. has served as the backdrop to some of the most important speeches in American history—from Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream,” to Franklin Roosevelt’s stirring call for a declaration of war after Pearl Harbor, to almost every president’s inaugural address (some less memorable than others). The city is also home to monuments and statutes celebrating the memory of men and women who spent their lives fighting for freedom, especially the freedom of speech.

But if you want to show this history off to tourists, you’d better have a license. District law requires tour guides to pass a history test on 14 subjects, covering material from no less than eight different publications, before they can go into business—all for the purpose of “protecting” tourists from misinformation.

In other words, you have to get a “speaking license” from the city.

Tonia Edwards and Bill Main operate “Segs in the City,” a company that gives Segway tours of the city’s historical landmarks, and they are unlicensed. Consistent with the history and values of free speech represented by D.C.’s monuments, the Institute for Justice is helping these entrepreneurs challenge the licensing law as an unconstitutional abridgment of First Amendment rights. After losing in district court, the plaintiffs appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Joined by First Amendment expert Eugene Volokh, Cato has filed an amicus brief supporting the lawsuit.

We argue that the licensing regime is a content-based restraint on speech and therefore must pass the strictest judicial scrutiny (so the government needs a compelling reason for it and has no other way of accomplishing the same goal). The law is a content-based speech regulation in that it is (a) triggered by the content of speech, and (b) justified on the basis of the content that it regulates.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that a law regulating the content of speech – as opposed to its location, timing, or manner – is subject to strict scrutiny. The justifications offered for the licensing law explicitly refer to the content of guides’ speech (“misinformation”). That is as much a content-based justification as saying that people need to be protected from hearing “erroneous” political opinions or “controversial” historical theories.

Finally, we argue that tour guides are not members of a “profession,” such as lawyers, doctors, and accountants, which could merit less First Amendment protection in order to protect the public from harm. Unlike those professions, tour guides don’t have intimate relations with clients. Instead, like most businesses, they simply have customers. The government cannot possibly require authors, public lecturers, or documentary filmmakers to get licensed in order to protect the public from “misinformation,” and it has no more basis for licensing tour guides. ♦

Houston we have a problem

By Mr. X published on Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Independent Gazette

As we go about our day-to-day lives most of us are not in tune with the ebbs and flows of capital in the marketplace. Sure, there are some professionals on TV commenting here or there about things, but in the end it all sounds more like iconic comic book character Charlie Brown talking to his teacher and only hearing that incomprehensible babble that leaves your head spinning.

Although they appear to be speaking English, most news programs are filled with distortions and doubletalk that leave the listener even more confused. The reason for this is that they are always giving themselves an out.

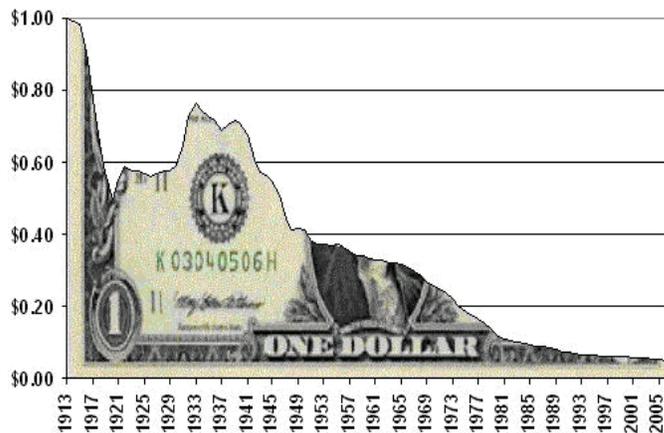
Is the market going to go up or down? Standard answer is “it depends.”

You see, this “no answer” answer strategy has become more and more pervasive as we have moved into the media age where everything is recorded. That old article, that out-of-context joke, that picture on spring break—anything can come back to haunt even the cleanest among us. And for the dirtiest among us the standard operating procedure is to say *something*, but not anything that someone in the future can use against you. So in essence, say nothing of value to a listener.

As a writer for this column I will do my best to present to you the very best information without any spin or hedging. When making an observation my policy here is to tell the truth to the best of my ability without holding any punches. So here goes.

The Fed is losing control of the bond market.

Value of a \$1 Federal Reserve Note in 1913 Dollars
(Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)



That’s right. The mighty Federal Reserve (the US’ central bank), with all of its quantitative easing, is losing control of its ability to keep interest rates down and that means for you, the average man on the street, things are going to get worse, not better. Let’s just look at some of the facts.

1. The economy is slowing down and has been kept alive on cheap money. Rising rates will put a stop to the housing recovery and the stimulus provided by people and businesses refinancing their debts into lower rates.
2. The jobs reports are disasters. As the media tries to spin falling unemployment numbers they leave out the fact that their decline is occurring because over 500,000 workers have left the labor force. After a certain point you’re no longer considered unemployed, because you have been unemployed too long!
3. The percentage of Americans working has fallen to the levels last seen back in the 1970s (63.2%), when we still had the majority of women staying home with their children.
4. The percentage of American men working is at the lowest modern recorded level—69.5%.
5. 10-year government bond rates have increased from 1.6% at the beginning of May to the current rate of 2.8%.
6. 30-year mortgage rates have surged over 1%, making purchasing a home more expensive.
7. Bonds as an investment are hemorrhaging money flows and are suffering significant losses.

8. The only bright spot for the US is the current energy boom which has supported 2.1 million jobs and contributed \$283 billion to GDP. This works out to about \$1,200 per household.

The Fed has spent hundreds of billions to push rates lower, but they are now back to where they were over two years ago. The Fed now has over \$200 billion in losses sitting on its books from the bonds it now holds, because they have declined in value. What happens if interest rates return to where they were before the crisis? The answer is Depression 3.0.

We are really living through Depression 2.0. If it were not for food stamps there *would* be visible bread lines. If it were not for the billions pumping up stock and bond markets, rich people would be feeling it, but I know *you're* feeling it in spite of those inflated markets. Your husband can't find a job, your daughter still lives at home, you're postponing having kids, mom moved in to help pay the bills, the neighbor—who you thought was doing well—just filed for bankruptcy. You get the idea. For most Americans they are moving backward, not *forward* as Obama claims.

This next round of the economic cycle will prevent real and meaningful growth because all extra money will have to be expended to service higher and higher interest payments. The debt *does* matter. The debt *cannot* mathematically be repaid without debasing (destroying) the value of the dollar. Everyone in the government probably knows this, just like they knew there was a housing and internet/tech bubble. Nevertheless, the vast majority of elected officials chose not to say or do anything to prevent the impending train wreck, because it is better for them politically to be wrong with everyone than right “all by yourself.” Remember, the early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. Politicians will hardly ever risk their neck. Let the other guy take the fall and then claim ignorance.

So what do *you* do? For God's sake, get out of any and all debts, if possible. Own your house, own your car, stash away six months—minimum—in savings. I have a good friend who had a nice \$100k-a-year job who has been out of the work force for over two years. Sure, she found a new job, but the new job is part time with limited benefits and is at half of her old salary. Thankfully, she saved for a rainy day and in her case has been able to weather the storm, but not without a drastic overhaul of her lifestyle. I can list others who have lost *everything*.

If I had the ability to go back in time and tell them what was to come I bet each and every one of them would not have bought those extra shoes, gone on that extra-long vacation or traded that car in so early.

Debts are like cancer on your spirit and body. They eat away day after day, much like simple water can bore a

hole through a stone, if given enough time. So listen to me, and listen well: It is going to get worse, so please prepare accordingly. The Fed will not be able to help this time; they have run out of ammunition, and we are now on our own. ♦

Bury the 1st Amendment?

By Anthony Antonello, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Independent Gazette

So, this humble column in a humble publication has offered me some time to explain that Americans no longer have rights, that everything they thought was a protected, guaranteed right has been removed, changed, nullified and replaced with privileges. Just to make it clear for those of you who aren't familiar with where I'm coming from, I'll break it down as short and simple as possible. You, just by the fact that you were born into this world were endowed with certain “Natural Rights,” rights that can never be usurped or taken from you under any circumstance. When you have to pay to exercise said “rights” and then also qualify for licenses, permits (as in “permission,” get it?), registrations (from “regis,” or, “king”) and also pay for that, I would think such evidence would be enough for you to see my point. When you have to live your life a certain way to exercise “rights,” well, by very definition it's no longer a right, but a privilege.

I heard a senator say recently, “If you choose to act like that, you forfeit your right.” What the senator demonstrated was how little he actually knows about rights, and pushed this agenda to get Americans to believe they need to give up everything in the name of “National Security”.

A government big enough to grant you rights is big enough to take them away—and we are seeing that play out in real time right before our eyes. So for many years now I have been explaining to anybody and everybody who would listen that totalitarianism has crept in and the chains of tyranny are tightening by the day. The mechanisms that were put in place to bind the hands of government have been defeated, and now the unbound hands of government are putting the final nails in the coffin of America and will possibly soon find its place in history as the only country to become a failed state because of “National Suicide.”

The same country which once had the spirit of men like Patrick Henry—of “Give me liberty, or give me death!” fame—now seems to be a nation of people who don't care whether they live or die, so as long as you don't bother them with anything of importance. But I digress.

A quiet war

With the power that has been accumulated from the Orwellian-named USA PATRIOT Act to the NDAA and with so many federal laws in existence that nobody can

even agree on just how many laws are actually on the books, what else would *they* need for complete control?

Not to mention the advancement of technology and the understanding of human psychology, cognitive dissonance, and the like—simply look up studies like the Asch conformity experiments and the Milgram Shock Experiment for evidence of all this.

What is now understood is that controlling the majority of people through psychological propaganda and predictive programming and creating the paradigm of what is socially acceptable is a far superior way to control the entire population. Get them to believe they are doing what's right, that they are "good citizens," that they do have control, and most importantly, that they are free. You don't need to control *the body* if you control the thoughts and opinions of *the mind*.

This is accomplished through mass media. I don't have time to properly delve into this subject now, but if you are interested in the who's and how's of propaganda being perfected, I would recommend the works of one Edward Bernays.

So I think it goes without saying that the ability to control the world like never before is something that people are willing to do anything to achieve. The problem they are facing right now is the mass awakening of people to the realm of *geopolitics*. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Adviser to Jimmy Carter and long-time globalist and major power broker, has admitted on record multiple times his concerns about what he calls "a universal awakening of mass political consciousness, [and] the resulting, widespread rise in world-wide populous activism." Brzezinski goes on to talk about how globalization has been pushed back so much that they might have lost the window to carry out their plan. This is not conspiracy; this is happening. Never in the history of humanity has there been a time during which anybody could record something instantly, report news and have that report spread globally in a matter of seconds. Who do you think people trust more, an average person with a camera asking questions the mainstream won't—often putting themselves in danger and then uploading their hard-won footage to the internet—or the orchestrated, scripted show that has become modern politics and mass media? The powers that be appear to have lost control of the strongest tool they had against us, that being the control of information.

Bottom line: the "mainstream" outlets are in a tailspin. People are catching them in lie after lie, and except for the very few genuine journalists that are interested in the truth and real stories, the people have nowhere to go but to the internet. Yes, of course there is a lot of misinformation, disinformation, and straight up garbage to be found on the "interwebs," but let each individual read and watch and figure it out for themselves. There is

a lot of information, but in an age where it would be impossible for somebody to know everything about everything, shouldn't the individual have the right to sift through as much information as they desire to try to find answers? Especially when we've shown that the corporate-owned media has been exposed to lie right to our faces, and if not lying, then its utter incompetence is not any more acceptable.

You'll still hear the talking heads brag about being mainstream, and their interpretation of the truth, and that if you question their portrayal of events you're a freedom-hating traitor, or a conspiracy theorist. Why? Because evidently facts don't matter to many in the mainstream. We know there's always cause and effect, so now that so many people are waking up to so much of the deception and have lost all faith in the government and the corporate-owned media, and now that the independent media is just embarrassing the mainstream on so many levels that it's incredible, what will be the establishment blowback? The Modus Operandi for something like this would be what? Same as always: more control. A Michigan lawmaker in 2010 wanted journalists to be licensed. State Senator Bruce Patterson introduced legislation that will regulate reporters, much like the state already does to hairdressers, auto mechanics, and plumbers.

"Patterson, who also practices constitutional law, says that the general public is being overwhelmed by an increasing number of media outlets—traditional, online and citizen generated—and an even greater amount of misinformation," stated a May 2010 FoxNews.com report. Fortunately, Patterson's proposal failed to gain sufficient traction in the Michigan legislature. And why does it seem that so many constitutional lawyers really know how to usurp the U.S. Constitution, seemingly even desiring to do so?

So there you have it, folks, their push back. Trying to regain the control of information dissemination. *AMENDMENT I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.* Seems pretty clear to me. ♦

Message from the Libertarian party continued...

change from wildly irresponsible government overspending and growing government debt.

Every American should ask himself one question: Is my family better off with a government slowdown that cuts federal spending by 27 percent? Or is my family better off with another trillion dollars in federal government debt?

Transferring wealth out of the government sector and into the private sector creates jobs. Every government-

funded job loss is matched by *roughly two private sector job gains* — a panacea for jobseekers.

"The Libertarian Party calls for a permanent government slowdown," Neale said. "Cutting taxes, removing regulations, ending failed Big Government programs, and *cutting total government spending* is the only way to revive the American economy and save it from further decline."

"Americans should be very afraid every time politicians pass another 'continuing resolution,'" he said. "It's their latest method for keeping government spending high, adding to government debt, devaluing the dollar and putting the American economy at risk."

Republicans tie less spending with more spending

The U.S. Constitution requires all spending bills to originate in the House of Representatives. Members of the U.S. House can vote to veto any spending of which they disapprove. They can reject all "continuing resolutions." They can also fully defund Obamacare.

But Republicans in the U.S. House have refused to defund Obamacare, despite having a majority in the House since 2010. On Sept. 20, they finally passed a bill to defund it — but at a very high price to taxpayers and jobseekers. The bill also authorizes a "continuing resolution" through Dec. 15.

Republicans were willing to fully defund Obamacare *only* when coupled with a permission slip for continued reckless spending at an annualized rate of almost \$1 trillion.

The U.S. Senate leadership and President Barack Obama vow to reject the House bill and protect Obamacare.

The solution: reject both overspending and Obamacare

As it stands, Obamacare will go into effect on Oct. 1 even with a government slowdown. It will be funded by new taxes and cuts in Medicare that are not stopped by a slowdown.

Does this mean that House Republicans are forced to accept either Obamacare or a "continuing resolution?" Are they powerless to stop both of these dangerous and destructive government policies? No.

At any time, the Republican-controlled House can do the right thing: Both fully defund Obamacare *and* refuse to pass a continuing resolution. They control the federal purse strings.

All that House Republicans need to do is debunk phony "shutdown" talk and pass a new bill.

"Lawmakers do not need to concede to either overspending or Obamacare," said Neale. "Instead, we must move in the opposite direction: dramatically cut government spending and remove existing health care

mandates, taxes, and regulations that stifle human progress."

Voters are becoming increasingly aware of the exorbitant cost of Obamacare and the damage it will do to their family's health. If it takes effect, it will force Americans to buy unwanted and grossly unaffordable medical insurance policies that provide poor coverage — or pay a fine. It will result in higher medical costs, more red tape, and more rationing of health care services.

Voters are also deeply concerned about high government spending and government debt.

The Libertarian Party runs candidates for federal, state, and local office to cut spending, lower taxes, and balance budgets — and to nullify, defund, and repeal Obamacare. ♦

Union City pays \$80,000 to settle police assault case

By John Paff

On October 10, 2012, the City of Union City (Hudson County) agreed to pay \$80,000 to a man who sued members of the Union City Police Department for allegedly assaulting him after taking him into custody for violating the City's curfew ordinance.

In his suit, Diego Diaz, through his mother, Maria Lopez, said that at 3:43 a.m. on February 6, 2010, while he was 15 years old, he was taken into custody by Union City Police for violating the municipal juvenile curfew ordinance. He claimed that while in custody, he "engaged in a verbal altercation with Officer Corey Corbo which resulted in Corbo assaulting him. He also claimed that Officer David Chasmer assisted Corbo in the assault. The case is captioned Diaz v. Union City, Federal Case No. 11-2365 and Diaz's attorney was Nathaniel M. Davis of Newark. Case documents are on-line.

The settlement agreement contains a confidentiality clause, which prevents the parties to the suit from publicly disclosing the settlement terms. Fortunately, however, these confidentiality clauses do not trump the public's right to obtain copies of settlement agreements that arise out of lawsuits in which a government agency or official is a defendant.

None of Diaz's allegations have been proven or disproven in court. The settlement agreement resolution expressly states that the \$80,000 payment does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing by Union City or any of its officials.

All that is known for sure is that Union City or its insurer, for whatever reason, decided that it would rather pay Diaz \$80,000 than take the matter to trial.

NJ Libertarian Party

General Meeting Announcement

November 10, 2013 1:00 PM

Omega Diner
1337 Route 1 South
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

All members are strongly urged to attend. We will be discussing the 2013 election results and planning our strategy for the 2014 election cycle. County organizations will be caucusing and discussing ways to become more active in your local area. Please plan on attending!

Perhaps the defendants' decision to settle was done to save further legal expense and the costs of trying what were in fact exaggerated or meritless claims.

Or, perhaps the claims were true and the defendants wanted to avoid being embarrassed at trial. This is the problem when cases settle before trial—it is impossible to know the truth of what really happened. ♦

This Libertarian sees opposition as a promising sign

By Mark Richards

Dear Editor:

Libertarians are evidently getting under the skin of some folks, a sign that the philosophy of individual liberty and small limited government is growing!

On the one hand we have our bully of a governor, Mr. Christie saying libertarianism is dangerous in his attacks on Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. We then have a local letter writer giving a completely distorted view of what he thinks Libertarians believe in.

As a long time pro-liberty activist allow me to try and set the record straight. The writer attacking Libertarians recently in the Suburban Trends repeats the same line with regard to the Second Amendment, which is that since the words "well regulated" are in the opening sentence of the Second Amendment this means the founders of our republic really didn't endorse private firearm ownership. What he and others don't understand (or maybe they do, but won't admit) is that the word "regulate" in the 18th century and applied to military issues simply means that it was to be organized with a chain of command. The word "regulars" still appears in reference to military matters.

For example, during the Vietnam War, American troops fought both the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Regulars, which was another reference to the North Vietnamese standing, organized, and official army. So the term "well regulated" meant organized military force not restrictions on gun ownership by private individuals.

Moving on to the Civil War, it really wasn't one nor was it a rebellion of southern states. Civil War and rebellion imply a struggle to control the powers of government in any given country; the southern states wanted independence not control over the rest of the county. Secession would be the proper and correct terminology, not insurrection or rebellion.

Would it have been wrong for the original colonies to have seceded from England in 1776? According to the anti-libertarian letter writer, apparently so!

States' rights were a check against federal tyranny. It didn't mean states should or could do anything they wanted to restrict individual liberty. If you have an unjust and repressive law at the local level (and believe me there have been plenty), it should be changed and repealed at the local level. A case in point would be back in 1970 when New York repealed its abortion laws three years before the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade case. So you see, it can be done. One of the most successful Libertarian groups that fight oppressive local laws and regulations is the Institute for Justice (www.ij.org). Perhaps our letter writer will check out its website.

As to the Civil War being about slavery and therefore being a good and noble war, consider this: Delaware and West Virginia both union states, had slavery as did the nation's capital— Washington, D.C. If it was a moral crusade against evil, white southerners (most of whom

weren't slave owners), why wasn't it abolished in Union states that had it first?

The Libertarian movement is now and always has been open to all who believe in personal as well as economic freedom. Libertarians view people as individuals not group members, so the race and religion smear just doesn't wash. Since we're getting attacked from Gov. Christie right down to writers in local papers, it shows we must be doing something right!

Mark Richards,
West Milford ♦

In defense of Libertarianism

By Alex Pugliese

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recently stated in an interview that there is a strand of libertarianism that is in both the Democratic and Republican parties that he finds repugnant and "dangerous" when it comes to foreign and domestic policy. In the same interview, he attacked libertarian politicians like Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and others both personally and professionally.

On foreign affairs, Mr. Christie believes that it is justified to have U.S. troops stationed in 140 countries for the sole purpose of sending them into battle in wars and conflicts that are not in U.S. interests. He further believes that it is the duty of the U.S. to be the world's policeman.

Mr. Christie agrees with Neo-Conservatives like William Kristol and Charles Krauthammer that the U.S. must follow the foreign policy of Woodrow Wilson to make the world safe for democracy no matter where. Libertarians believe the opposite. They are of the belief that wars should only occur when a nation is attacked or threatened.

Furthermore, while they believe that all nations of the world should be free and prosperous, they are the well wishers of their own nation. They also believe that the U.S. should stay out of the affairs of other nations both internally and externally.

On Domestic Policy, libertarians strongly believe in free market capitalism whether in the selling of products, in the marketplace of ideas and in every other human interaction and endeavor.

Libertarians strongly support the U.S. Constitution and the Bill Of Rights and are strong supporters of property rights and the rule of law. They believe in the strictest limits on government power and intervention as specified under the Constitution.

Many years ago, Ronald Reagan stated that libertarianism was at the heart and soul of conservatism. However, there have been forces in the Republican Party that have done all in their power to push it aside or abandon it.

These Republicans would rather follow the philosophies of Theodore Roosevelt, Hebert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Nelson Rockefeller, Jacob Javits, Christine Todd Whitman, John McCain, George W. Bush and other progressives past and present.

It is the progressive philosophy that has been a cancer in this nation for over 100 years. It does not bode well for the people who follow it and it does not bode well for the people in society or in government overall. I am witnessing progressivism's failures not only in Europe, but in Detroit, Michigan, in the Northeast and in the West Coast in states such as California and Hawaii, Progressivism can only bring destruction, misery and sorrow.

If Chris Christie does run for the presidency in 2016, I will not support him. His philosophy, not to mention his personality, among other things, would bring harm to this nation and to all that is dear.

Alex Pugliese ♦

While it is true that some of the federal leviathan's tentacles will take a brief respite, its reach into practically every facet of our lives will continue largely uninterrupted. – Tad DeHaven of the Cato Institute

Senator Menendez chooses party over peace

By Matthew M. Turner

All eyes were on Sen. Bob Menendez during the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations vote. Menendez, the chairman of the committee, had a major influence on the 10 to 7 vote that put a proposal to go to war with Syria on the table in the Senate.

It's too bad he used his power to back his president instead of doing the right thing.

Menendez led the largely Democrat group to vote yes, only two Democrats went against party orders and voted no. It just goes to show what many of us have known for some years, neither party represents a foreign policy of peace.

In the age of interventionism almost anything is within the realm of "American interests" abroad.

Ask the average American what they think and it's nearly unanimous, common sense really. Syria has not attacked the United States, they pose no imminent threat, war with them is not justified.

Yes, it's true that the American public feels terrible about the chemical attack. Who doesn't? It still doesn't justify a "humanitarian" war with Syria.

I wish someone would have asked those who voted yes when dropping Tomahawk missiles on a country all of a sudden became humanitarian.

But morals over in Washington work a bit differently.

Wired magazine wrote a terrific article detailing the problem. I won't spoil too much of the article for you, ill just tell you the main point. Senators who voted for the war in Syria got 83% more money from the defense industry, it's that simple.

It looks like President Eisenhower was right after all, the military industrial complex is pulling us in to another war.

Senator John (I've never said no to a war) McCain (R-AZ) got the most at an incredible \$176,300— Menendez got \$60,000.

In an interview with WCBS 880's Steve Scott, Menendez explained his vote repeating the Obama talking points almost identically.

“To send an ability to deter and degrade his capability to use chemical weapons again, and to send a global

message that the violation of international law, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons, comes with great punishment. So that we can send a message globally to Iran that is considering a march towards nuclear weapons, or North Korea that has a large chemical weapons cache — don't even think about violating these international norms.”

This is essentially the red line statement made by Obama, but awkwardly.

There is some silvering lining to all of this; Shaheen (D-N.H.), Coons (D-Del.) and Durbin (D-Ill.), who all voted yes, will seek reelection next year. Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) voted present and also seeks reelection.

In due time the Democrat voters will also have a vote of their own and my hope is they will, unlike their inferiors in Washington, choose principle over party—and throw them out of office.

As for Menendez, who was reelected in 2012, we have a much longer wait. ♦

A Message from the Editor

To everyone who submitted a letter to the editor, thank you as always. Listening to your opinions is easily my favorite thing about putting together this newsletter.

If you ever want to contact me to give me a news tip, or just talk, I can be reached at: editor@njlp.org.

And a special thanks to Lou Jasikoff, Editor-in-Chief of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Independent Gazette, who has allowed me to use articles from his publication in our newsletter.

Yours in Liberty,
-Matthew M. Turner

The New Jersey Libertarian

Fall 2013 Volume XXXVIII, Issue 3
©2013 The New Jersey Libertarian Party
ISSN 1093-801X
Editor, Matthew M. Turner

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