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IRS abuses past and present

By Chris Edwards

Originally published at Cato Liberty blog

The stories coming out about IRS abuses of nonprofit groups are appalling. We will likely find out that arrogant and biased officials are to blame, as well as members of Congress who pushed them to be especially aggressive on conservative groups.

Past IRS abuses have stemmed from foul play by both politicians and bureaucrats. As Gene Healy mentions, numerous presidents have used the IRS as a political weapon. As for the bureaucrats, investigations during the 1990s revealed how IRS enforcement had run amok, with abusive tactics being used against small businesses and other taxpayers.

Some of the hearings were hair-raising, and the abuses led Congress to pass the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. Hearing documents include Senator Roth describing the agency as having an “awesome power.” *Washington Post* coverage is [here](#), including a story about how even President Clinton was “outraged” by the revelations of IRS abuse.

Going back further, this 1997 book by Shelley Davis describes some of the historical misdeeds and corruption of the IRS. This book review gives an overview of her investigations.

In recent years, efforts to close the “tax gap” have included proposals to augment the power of the IRS and increase the intrusiveness and compliance burden of tax rules. Yet Congress keeps raising tax rates and making the code more complex, which increases incentives for taxpayers to avoid taxes while reducing their ability to comply. Regarding the latest scandal—note that getting tax-exempt status is so valuable because the tax rates are so darn high.

This article by Bill Beach frames the tax gap issue: Congress can reduce the gap by either giving the IRS more police power or by reforms to cut rates and simplify the code. Hopefully the latest IRS scandal convinces Congress that the agency already has too much power. Thus the way to give Americans more freedom from the tax police and to also boost the economy is to scrap the current tax code in favor of a low-rate consumption-based system. ♦

It’s time to end the IRS

By Joe Siano

The recent IRS scandal reminds us that the income tax was, is, and will always be an immoral thing. When it is progressive, it is even worse.

When you go to the grocery store, the movies, or anywhere else, no one asks how much money you make and then adjusts the price accordingly. You pay whatever you believe that the fair price should be whatever your earning power. Why should it be different when it comes to government services?

Let’s agree as reasonable people that, if government provides essential services, we, as its recipients, should pay for them. Why then should those who are smarter, harder working or more productive pay more? Many of America’s high earners achieved their success by astutely paying the most advantageous price for the goods and services that they acquire. That is behavior that should be rewarded, not punished.

However, the progressive tax code adds another level of inequity to this injustice. The tax code empowers politicians and bureaucrats to capriciously decide who pays more and who pays less and who pays nothing at all based upon their personal judgment of what is good and desirable for society as a whole.

Thus we have a situation where IRS functionaries determine that those organizations that advocate for limited constitutional government are less deserving of favorable tax status than other more government friendly entities.

It is high time that Americans abolish income taxes on the federal, state and municipal levels. It is also high time that we disband America’s collection thugs, the IRS. It is time that we tax the recipients of government services fairly and equitably for the services that they receive. ♦

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Police Accountability Project



The Police Accountability Project is a committee of the NJ Libertarian Party. Its goal is to search out cases of police misconduct, file former Internal Affairs (IA) complaints when appropriate, and to publicize violations of rules and laws by the police.

If you would like to help or know of a case we should be looking at, contact the committee at policeaccountability@njlp.org.

Response from Stafford Township

By Jay Edgar

On March 10th, the NJ Libertarian Party Police Accountability Project filed an Internal Affairs Complaint with the Stafford Township police department over an officer illegally reaching into the pockets of a suspect without a warrant or due cause.

On Tuesday we received a response from Chief Joseph Giberson, III in response to our complaint. Our complaint was "Not Sustained" because of the retirement of the offending officer his refusal to participate in developing facts in our complaint. However, as a result of our complaint, Chief Giberson has agreed to increase training of his officers in regards to the rules for terry frisks using the basis of our complaint as an example. See the response from Chief Giberson on our website <http://njlp.org/policeaccountability>.

Internal Affairs complaint against Vineland Police

By John Paff

Dear Sergeant Wolf:

I chair the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Police Accountability Project and ask that you accept this letter as our Internal Affairs complaint. We would like your agency to investigate whether Officer Louis J. Plantania and other personnel employed by your agency acted in accordance with department policy and the law regarding a warrantless search of a motor vehicle on May 25, 2011.

According to the Appellate Division's decision in State v. Perry Wilcox, Docket No. A-4578-11T4 (on-line here),

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Plantania located a handgun while he was inside a suspect's car without having first obtained a warrant. The trial court suppressed the gun as the fruit of an invalid search and the Appellate Division affirmed.

If Plantania, despite having received adequate training and direction regarding warrantless searches, elected to ignore his training, we ask that you discipline him. Otherwise, we ask that your department review and supplement your training requirements in this area of the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Paff, Chairman
New Jersey Libertarian Party
Police Accountability Project

Internal affairs complaint Neptune Township Police

By John Paff

Internal Affairs Unit
Neptune Township Police Department
25 Neptune Blvd.
Neptune, NJ 07753

Dear Sir or Madam:

I chair the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Police Accountability Project and ask that you accept this letter as an Internal Affairs complaint. We would like your agency to investigate whether Lieutenant Robert Mangold and other personnel employed by your agency acted in accordance with department policy and the law regarding a warrantless strip search of Daniel Dolan on October 8, 2011.

According to the Appellate Division's decision in State v. Daniel Dolan, Docket No. A-0623-12T4), despite not having a warrant to do so, Lieutenant Mangold gave Officer Bryce Byham permission to strip-search an arrestee, leading to the discovery to two glassine bags of heroin. The trial judge found that the strip search was illegal and suppressed the heroin as evidence. The Appellate Division affirmed.

It seems to us that Mangold, as a Lieutenant, should have known better than to authorize this warrantless strip search. If his training in this area was adequate, we ask that you impose sanctions upon him. Otherwise, we ask that your department review and supplement the training requirements in this area of the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Paff, Chairman
New Jersey Libertarian Party
Police Accountability Project

Voting 3rd party: Why No One Believes Viability is the Ultimate Factor

By William Sihr

Did you vote for a third party this election cycle? Only 1 out of 100 Americans voted for Governor Gary Johnson for President this year, despite many more agreeing with the Libertarian message. So why didn't his message of freedom, personal responsibility and economic prosperity translate into a higher vote percentage? Well, most will likely claim that despite their Libertarian disposition, they opted to perpetuate the 'lesser of two-evils' system because such and such candidate actually stood a chance at winning. The question then becomes whether or not such a reply is a legitimate excuse? The short answer is no.

Let's engage in a simple thought experiment. Assume you are left with a choice between only two options. For arguments sake we'll adopt a much beloved naming scheme for our fictional candidates. Candidate A, who will be called "Giant Douche", is on the ballot opposite his opponent, whom we will dub "Turd Sandwich." Assume that these two candidates are up for election for President of the United States, which Giant Douche being the incumbent and favorite to win. Finally, place yourself in the shoes of someone voting in a 'winner take all' state, meaning that the candidate who gets the highest vote total, regardless of the vote distribution, gets the entirety of the electoral college votes (as is the case for all American states, sans Nebraska and Maine).

Now, you intend to vote for Turd Sandwich, however, you are well aware that Giant Douche is the favorite and that your state consistently votes for the party which President Douche represents. Do these variables change your vote? Of course it doesn't. Regardless of the fact that you are most certainly casting a ballot for a lost cause, you do it anyway because you do not support Giant Douche. It doesn't matter that Turd Sandwich's chances of getting elected are nigh impossible. You are going to vote for Turd Sandwich 2012 because that is the candidate you support.

There is nothing wrong with voting for a candidate who statistically cannot win. In fact, people constantly vote against the odds, especially those who vote along party lines. All of the democrats who supported Obama in Texas cast their votes knowing that Romney was going to get those electorates. Likewise, Any Romney voters from New Jersey voted with the knowledge that once the ballots were tallied that their home state was going to be represented during the election coverage in a shade of blue. If people really thought that the 'no chance in hell' was correct then shouldn't those have voted for whichever candidate was going to win their state?

Some may argue that their vote matters more with a major party candidate. That said candidate, by virtue of being backed by one of the 'big-two' always has the potential to win, assuming enough people go out and vote for them. This line of reasoning has two faults. Firstly, if that were true then direct your dedication, high hopes, and labors towards getting the candidate who you really support into office. If all it takes to get elected is to remain faithful and convince all your friends

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Crackpot Authoritarian Behind the Keyboard

By Jay Edgar

In a [recent Star Ledger column](#), Paul Mulshine, argues that opponents of the current bill that raises the legal purchase age of tobacco products from 19 to 21 are "crackpot libertarians." He makes an accurate and convincing argument that tobacco use is not good for anyone, and I certainly don't condone the use of tobacco by anyone, regardless of age. However, mandating the use of government power to control the behavior of consenting adults is wrong.



The age of majority has traditionally been 18 in the United States. At 18 you can vote, be treated as an adult in the criminal justice system and be shipped off to a foreign country to fight a war for our politicians (even forcibly via conscription). Yet at the age of 18 one cannot make the choice of what they can

do with their own bodies? It doesn't matter if the age of adulthood and responsibility is being dictated by the State or by the Federal Government. Either you own yourself, or as Mulshine is arguing, the government owns you.

Former Libertarian candidate for Governor, Murray Sabrin, has written a response to Mulshine's call for a nanny state in "[Ouch! Call Me a Crackpot Libertarian](#)." In it he states:

"The correct policy on smoking or any other medical issue is for the government to get out of the healthcare sector. Period. That would force individuals to make better decisions about their lifestyle choices. Currently, the government has created a huge moral hazard by subsidizing smoking, in effect telling people that taxpayers will pay for their healthcare if they get ill because of smoking, excessive drinking, overeating, etc.

The solution to create better outcomes in healthcare among other areas of our society is liberty, individual responsibility and voluntary charity, not the twisted logic of the Senator Codey and now Paul Mulshine."

The proposed bill will do nothing to lower the impact or precedence of tobacco use in our society. It will only create a larger black market in tobacco. Smoking is just as dangerous to an 18 year old as it is to a 21 year old. Banning a desired substance has no effect on its use or availability.

Our society has a bad habit of babying our children and young adults too much. Employment of our youth is practically forbidden. Regulations and minimum wage laws have made the teen job market non-existent. Minors under 14 are prohibited from working while minors from 14 to 16 are severely limited in the jobs they are allowed to work and the hours they can work. When I was 12 years old I had a paper

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Voting 3rd party continued...

to vote the same as you then you might as well support a great candidate.

Why not try to have your cake and eat it too?

In reality, however, your vote amounts to nothing more than a glorified confidence claim, which has as much impact on someone getting elected as wearing a sport team's appeal has on said team winning the big game. Statistically, your vote, your friend's vote, and the votes of everyone you have or will ever know amount to nothing, even if all cast for the same person. Elections are won by vast numbers of ballots. Even swing states are decided by tens, if not hundreds of thousands of votes. And that's when they are real nail biters.

Clearly, your vote has no real impact on the election, and you still vote regardless of the fact that it is meaningless.

Furthermore, as was shown above, people consistently vote for people which are guaranteed to lose.

So why not vote for the person you believe in?

You don't cheer for whichever team is in the lead, you cheer for whichever you support. So next election, vote for whichever candidate most speaks to you.

After all, your vote is essentially powerless. ♦

NJ DOT releases red light camera report

By Jay Edgar

The State of NJ Department of Transportation [released a report today](#). The report studied accident data of various red light installations of a year prior to installation to one year after. It found:

Combining all RLR locations and comparing the Pre-Camera installation 12-month time period versus the Year 1 installation 12-month time period, the data indicate that total crashes are up 0.9%, however, more sever right-angle crashes are down 15%, while same-direction (rear-end) crashes are up 20%. Crash severity cost increased by an estimated \$1,172,800.

The crash severity cost was based on a five categories: fatality, disabling injury, evident injury, possible, injury, and property damage only (no injury) with each of these categories assigned a dollar figure.

Is the small increase in revenue worth the loss of privacy and increased rear-end collisions? Two of the original sponsors of the 2007 bill are still in the Assembly, Brian Stack (Senate, District 33) and John Wisniewski (Assembly, District 19). Perhaps they thought that Orwell wrote 1984 as an instruction manual?

Our society is growing more and more totalitarian. The government [tracks our air travel](#), [routinely scans our license plates](#), tracks and analyses our financial lives, collects our calling records, [tracks our social networking activities](#), and tracks and reports our political donations. With our personal data being digitized, government and businesses alike will be tempted into gathering and using this data. We should not tolerate politicians who do not protect our privacy. ♦

Thanks, But No Tanks

By Jay Edgar



Armored car in use in Somerville, NJ

The Gloucester Township Municipal Council recently solicited for bids for the purchase of an armored vehicle. Only one bid for \$277,986 was received.

Camden County already owns an armored vehicle and keeps it parked right in the township. The County purchased their tank for \$289,000 using federal funds in 2009. The Township claims that they need their own in case the County vehicle is already in use.

The county disagrees with the township, claiming that the vehicle has always been available whenever needed.

In addition the federal funds came with a requirement that the vehicle be available to townships in the region. Most likely the most use any of these vehicles will ever get is during parades.

In the past decade numerous federal grants have funded the militarization of small and large police departments to around \$34 Billion. Much of this equipment is warehoused and never put to use.

In 2010, Gloucester Township residents saw a \$0.235 per \$100 increase in their property tax bills.

Since then property taxes have remained flat, but spending has ballooned thanks to \$10 million in state aid given to the township. ♦

“Full repeal of FISA, the Patriot Act and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and massive downsizing of federal spy agencies is the only answer. Not maybe. Not later. Now. This will stop the incremental yet rapid decline of our privacy and civil liberties, put a check on government power, and help to ensure that every American is afforded due process and justice if charged with a crime.”
– Geoffrey Neal, Chair of the National LP

2013 NJLP 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)

well over 300 million guns in private hands in America. I, for one, rejoice in that fact.

We Libertarians have long known that if the Second Amendment can be taken away or weakened, all of the other parts of the Bill of Rights can be as well. Don't let the media and government liars use a tragedy to make you part with your freedom!

Mark Richards,
West Milford

The nation's greatest criminal

Dear Editor:

I agree with the letter published Jan. 26, "[Gun laws won't work, just like drug laws don't.](#)"

If President Obama and others really want to reduce gun violence, they should focus on what government already controls: itself.

Virtually all private, law-abiding gun owners in this country are peaceful, nonviolent people.

On the other hand, the government routinely kills people in this country and around the world. Thousands of innocent civilians worldwide have been killed by American drones and what Obama euphemistically calls "kinetic military action."

The crime at Sandy Hook Elementary School was truly a tragedy, but an even greater tragedy took place 20 years ago in Waco, Texas, when Attorney General Janet Reno's FBI killed 76 men, women and children. That doesn't include the six people killed two months earlier by the dysfunctional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Although Reno claimed she took "responsibility," she is still walking around free instead of occupying a prison cell for committing mass murder.

Gun control is not about reducing violence; it is about reducing the ability of peaceful citizens to defend themselves against criminals. And the greatest criminal in our time is government, which explains its zeal to disarm us all.

Dan Maiullo

Tinton Falls

Future Meetings & Events

Saturday, July 13th 12:00 PM - NJLP General Meeting and Picnic

Sunday, August 11 1:00 – State Board Meeting, Omega Diner, New Brunswick

Sunday, September 15– Steering Committee Meeting, location TBD

Sunday, October 13– State Board Meeting, Omega Diner, New Brunswick

Sunday, November 10– NJLP General Meeting, location TBD

Even in tragedy, cherish freedom

Dear Editor:

As expected the media, the politicians, the simple-minded Hollywood celebrities, and countless others have all jumped on the anti-gun bandwagon in the wake of the tragedy in Newtown, Conn.

When a school shooting happens, they no doubt see another golden opportunity to demand that the American people part company with their Second Amendment liberties! Suppose those school children had been on a bus going on a class field trip and the bus was involved in a horrific highway accident, would the media, President Obama, Mayor Bloomberg, Senators Lautenberg, Feinstein and Schumer all be carrying on as they have been for the past week? I think not! Those innocent children would still be dead and their families grieving, but to the anti-gun crowd their deaths wouldn't be that tragic since it was a highway accident and no guns were involved!

Their maudlin concern over dead children is enough to make one ill. Our government enforced United Nations sanctions against Iraq in the 1990s and thousands of Iraqi children died. During World War II, the U.S. and its allies incinerated thousands of German, Japanese, and Italian children during air raids on non-military targets. Nobody seems to be upset over that then, or now. Or how about Waco in 1993 when the Federal BATF and FBI killed kids who were in the Branch Davidian compound along with their parents? Oh well, they were just weird religious nut-jobs anyway! Care to go back further? How about December 1890 when the U.S. Seventh Cavalry shot down members of the Sioux tribe of the Lakota Nation at Wounded Knee, S.D.? Most of the dead were women, children, and old men.

There is a pattern here, namely that governments (most assuredly including our own) have lots of blood on their hands. Tragic as these school shootings are, they pale in comparison to the body counts racked up by governments throughout history. Guns do not cause crime or murder anymore than knives, forks, spoons, and plates cause obesity! Inanimate objects such as guns have no ability to act on their own, so who then should determine who can have guns and who can't?

Given the huge amount of people who have been killed by governments through the ages, it's a pretty safe bet to say that the military and the police shouldn't be the only ones to have firearms. The anti-gun zealots bemoan the fact that there are

A Well Regulated militia

By Joe Siano

Gun control advocates of use the “*well regulated*” phrase in the Second Amendment as a pretext to assert that the government reserves the right to dictate what if any arms its citizens may own and under what conditions they are permitted to acquire, use and dispose of them

By employing textual criticism, this argument can be easily debunked.

Textual criticism involves understanding the words of antique documents in the sense that they were used in the era that the document was authored.

For instance if writer of century ago were to refer to the decade of the 1890s as the “gay ‘90s” or the capital of France as “gay Paris”, we understand that this has nothing to do with same sex relationships. Gay in this sense conveys the notion that this decade and this city were exuberant, happy and high spirited.

In such a fashion, a recent reading of Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* shed new light on the Second Amendment for me.

Although Smith was a stout proponent of free markets, he was no anarcho-capitalist. Smith believed that there were legitimate functions for government to undertake. One of these functions was the common defense of the citizenry from foreign invaders.

Defense requires a fighting force and Smith segregates these forces into two broad classes. These are standing armies and militias. Standing armies are professional forces, whose sole profession is fighting and who continually, drill, study and practice the arts of warfare in preparation for battle. Militias by contrast are amateur armies composed of tradesman, merchants, farmers, mechanics, etc, etc. These forces come together only periodically, like our National Guard and Reservists, as their livelihoods depend on the practice of their sundry occupations. They cannot afford much time away to foe martial exercises.

Smith uses the word “*regulated*” to convey a condition cohesiveness, discipline and preparation for combat on the part a fighting force. In one passage he observes: “*Regularity, order, and prompt obedience to command, are qualities which, in modern armies, are of more importance towards determining the fate of battles, than the dexterity and skill of the soldiers in the use of their arms.*”

Further on he returns to the concept of “*regulated*” when he concludes that in, “*the history of all ages, it will be found, hears testimony to the irresistible superiority which a well regulated standing army has over a militia.*” Thus he contends that a well trained and disciplined (i.e. regulated) army will be superior to a group of rag tag amateurs. Hence we often hear this well trained / disciplined / regulated force referred to as the “*Regulars*” as opposed to the “*Reservists*” even to this day.

Now we know that America’s Founders were suspect of large standing military establishment. [George Washington writes](#), “*Altho’ a large standing Army in time of Peace hath ever been considered dangerous to the liberties of a Country, yet a few Troops, under certain circumstances, are not only safe, but indispensably necessary. Fortunately for us our relative situation requires but few.*”

In the same document he lays out his defense proposal for our new nation. The first two points are as follows:

“First. A regular and standing force, for Garrisoning West Point and such other Posts upon our Northern, Western, and Southern Frontiers, as shall be deemed necessary to awe the Indians, protect our Trade, prevent the encroachment of our Neighbours of Canada and the Florida’s, and guard us at least from surprizes; Also for security of our Magazines.

Secondly. A well organized Militia; upon a Plan that will pervade all the States, and introduce similarity in their Establishment Manoeuvres, Exercise and Arms.”

Thus he uses the word “*regular*” to describe well trained and disciplined forces in paragraph one. In paragraph two Washington employs the phrase “*well organized*” as a synonym for “*well regulated*”.

Thus when we read the Second Amendment that “*A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state*” it could just as easily read “*A well trained, ordered and disciplined militia, being necessary to the security of a free state*”. That makes complete sense. An untrained, undisciplined and disorganized force won’t do much good.

Hence the second clause, “*the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed*” clearly means what it says. It states with unqualified certainty that no governmental entity, be it federal, state or local, has the right to prohibit law abiding citizens from procuring, keeping, using and trading weapons for self defense or any other peaceful purpose. ♦

Crackpot authoritarian continued...

route. I would wake up well before sunrise, load up my bicycle with newspapers and deliver papers to several hundred subscribers. This was incredibly hard work and took dedication. I learned many lessons at that job. Soon after that I was working in any way I could for several small businesses. I had a job at a clothing factory cleaning up and cutting patterns for clothing, I pumped gas, cooked, and served customers all before the age of 16. At these jobs I learned how to work and how to provide a value to an employer – in return for a fair wage.

I believe that the principles that this bill violates is very important. As a society we must place more value on freedom and personal choice. We need to treat people as individuals who are capable of deciding what risks and what rewards each individual chooses to take. ♦

NJLP Amazon Associates Account

The NJ Libertarian Party earns a 4-6% commission on every sale. Make your shopping count. Enter through our portal at <http://njlp.org/amazon>

“If elected I will work to keep government out of citizens’ lives, legalize marijuana, and fight for increased individual freedom here in our great state of New Jersey.”
— Ken Kaplan, Libertarian candidate for NJ Governor

Dear Rand Paul: Keep Fighting the Fight on Drones

By Malou Innocent / Cato Liberty blog



Over a month after Senator Rand Paul, R-Ky., delivered a 13-hour filibuster of John Brennan’s nomination to head the CIA, questioning the legality of the president to kill an American on American soil, Paul appears to have backtracked. Appearing on Fox Business Network with Neil Cavuto, Paul referenced the Boston Marathon bombing and said he has, “never argued against any technology being used when you have an imminent threat, an active crime going on.” Paul continued,

“If someone comes out of a liquor store with a weapon and \$50 in cash, I don’t care if a drone kills him or a policeman kills him.”

Paul’s apparent openness to using such excessive lethal force against the “imminent threat” of theft drew a heap of condemnation among his most ardent pro-liberty supporters (and caused Paul to try walking back his comments). But to borrow a phrase from President Barack Obama, Paul’s foot-in-mouth kerfuffle could provide a “teachable moment.”

“Someone in Congress must argue repeatedly and consistently for why lawmakers must put an end the president’s limitless power to wage war indefinitely.”

What the Beltway foreign-policy commentariat latched onto most after Paul’s marathon filibuster was his grievance that a weapons- and surveillance-platform used against foreigners could be redirected back at American citizens. Unfortunately, Paul has run with that meme: hypothetical threat -mongering over drone-bombing cafés rather than a deep consideration of Congress’s abnegation of its responsibility to constrain executive power.

Nobody is perfect, and I would wager Paul would admit the same of himself. But whatever one makes of the excuses he’s made since his interview with Neil Cavuto, Paul has been, to his credit, one of the few voices on Capitol Hill calling for a return to the traditional system of Madisonian checks and balances. Lest we forget that he peppered his speech at CPAC

with admonishments over the powers wielded by our post-9/11 imperial presidents:

My question was about whether Presidential power has limits.

If we allow one man to charge Americans as enemy combatants and indefinitely detain or drone them, then what exactly is it our brave young men and women are fighting for?

Montesquieu wrote that there can be no liberty if you combine the Executive and the Legislative branches. Likewise, there can be no justice if you combine the Executive and Judicial branch into one.

Yes, the filibuster was about drones, but also about much more. Do we have a Bill of Rights or not? Do we have a Constitution or not and will we defend it?

To have a sitting U.S. senator directly impugn the constitutionality of America’s bipartisan-foreign policy interventionist-love fest — much less have his censure greeted with rapturous applause — was nothing short of astounding.

How quickly we forget the widespread support of the “everything goes in foreign policy”-era under Vice President Dick Cheney, who in 2008, on the president’s use of nuclear weapons, said, “He could launch a kind of devastating attack the world’s never seen. He doesn’t have to check with anybody. He doesn’t have to call the Congress. He doesn’t have to check with the courts.”

Since 9/11, that bipartisan consensus has greased America’s slippery slope from targeting al-Qaida senior leaders and their associated forces to transmogrifying the structure of the institutions dedicated to protecting our liberties. The Founders warned against one branch of government becoming too powerful for that very reason, particularly when it comes to the significant unilateral authority waged in times of war.

Today, our commander in chief, through a secretive decision-making process based on classified evidence, has declared the right to use lethal force against anybody, anytime, anywhere on earth. Although Paul’s effort to shine a harsh light on targeted killings has thus far been commendable, he has squandered many opportunities to explain how we get back to the constitution-based system he champions. In this respect, the liberty movement has been right to hold his feet to the fire. Thus, here comes the “teachable moment.”

As American University Washington College of Law professor Stephen I. Vladeck argues here, and as my colleague Benjamin Friedman argues here, and as Georgetown University Professor Rosa Brooks argues here, it all comes down to Congress reasserting its constitutional war powers, restoring some semblance of transparency, and rewriting the obsolete Authorization for the Use of Military Force. As these scholars made painfully clear this past Monday at a Cato Institute policy forum on drones, it does not get much simpler than that.

Of course, powerful bureaucratic and political incentives push against such aspirations. But that is precisely why someone in Congress must argue repeatedly and consistently for why lawmakers must put an end the president’s limitless power to wage war indefinitely. Enter, Senator Rand Paul. ♦

Schools Miss Mark with Crackdown on Imaginary Gun Play

By Matthew Turner

Originally published in The South Jersey Times

Since the school shooting in Newtown, Conn., school administrations across America have harshly and irrationally began to crack down on imaginary weapon play by students.

The schools have been overreacting by suspending students, mostly young boys, for harmless imaginative behavior.

In February, a 7-year-old boy from Colorado was playing an imaginary game he called "rescue the world." Alex Evans threw an imaginary grenade in to a box on his school playground. Evans was then suspended by for breaking school policy, "no weapons, real or play."

"I was trying to save people and I just can't believe I got 'dispended' " said Alex, to Fox 31 TV in Denver.

More recently in Maryland, another 7-year-old boy was suspended for two days for eating his breakfast pastry into a shape that resembled a gun. The event has become known as the "Pop Tart pistol" case.

When I recently discovered this phenomenon my first reaction was: What the hell is going on? Why are schools treating 7-year-olds like suspected gunmen?

My thoughts then drifted to my own childhood. It was 16 years ago now, back in 1995, that I was 7 years old.

When I was a child, playing imaginary army or cops and robbers games was a normal thing for me and the other boys at my elementary school in Weymouth Township, Atlantic County. I even played a game that was far worse by today's insane standards.

Needless to say, I eventually grew out of this behavior without the criticism of any teacher, school administrator or parent.

Four years later in 1999, two evil students in Colorado massacred their fellow students at Columbine High School.

I remember the atmosphere of my own school at the time. The halls were somber and gun violence was on many of our young minds. More importantly, I didn't know how rare mass shootings were.

I remember thinking about how I would react if a gunman came to our school. Would I run out the door? Or hide in a closet?

I felt defenseless and helpless. I remember being afraid to hear the word "gun" or to see a picture of a gun.

Hoplophobia is known as the irrational fear of weapons. There is no other way to describe the type of behavior being displayed by some school administrators as anything but an irrational fear.

The atmosphere the school administrators are helping create with zero-tolerance policies is not conducive to the learning process and not fair to students.

It's important for us to remember that schools are safe. Violence in schools has decreased since the 1990s. And police officers across the country have begun a new type of training known as active-shooter training, designed to stop mass shootings.

But what has increased is the news coverage of these events, thanks to a 24/7 news cycle and the hot issue of gun control.

Don't let your children get the wrong impression like I did. ♦

Petitioning Honor Roll

By Jay Edgar

Ken Kaplan's petitions to get him on the ballot as the Libertarian candidate for Governor have been filed. We had a total of 1,033 signatures of the 800 required. This is most likely enough to survive any challenge.

I send a BIG thanks to everyone who helped collect signatures! I also thank our candidates, Ken Kaplan, Sean O'Connor, Patrick McKnight, Don DeZarn, and Steve Uccio. Sean, Patrick, Don, and Steve got themselves on the ballot with no assistance from the Party.

It was encouraging to see lots of people collecting a relatively small number of signatures rather than just a few collecting hundreds of signatures. This also helps us to stay on the ballot - there is always the possibility that an entire petition could be rejected due to problems with the notary, the cover page, or some technicality. Many petitions make it much harder to throw out lots of signatures at once. The following is a list of our petitioners and their totals.

Honor Roll of Petitioners

Ken Kaplan	214	Daryl Brooks	199
Steve Uccio	74	Jay Edgar	53
Kyler Dineen	42	Darren Young	41
Dorit Goikhman	40	Calvin Beatty	40
John Ordille	33	Ann Philhower	34
Craig Chapman	30	Betty Florentine	29
Judy Schubert	25	John Taylor	24
Louis Buonomo	20	Dave Schneck	20
Robert Jenkins	19	Len Flynn	15
Liz Macron	14	Jim Tosone	13
Ray Cragle	13	Judith Anderson	10
Todd Bennett	8	Elizabeth Macron	6
Melissa Edgar	6	Corey Tower	6
Emerson Ellett	6	Bill Howcott	5

Liberty picnic and NJLP regular meeting



Saturday, July 13, 2013 12:00 PM

NJLP Chair Jay Edgar's House

8 Arneytown-Hornerstown Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

The NJLP Summer General Membership Meeting will be on Saturday July 13th starting at 12:00 Noon at Jay Edgar's home in Cream Ridge. The general membership meeting is scheduled to begin at 12:00 PM and the picnic will start around 2:00 PM.

Come hang out with fellow freedom lovers. The Campaign for Liberty will also be holding a picnic and meeting at the same date - on the same location! A Libertarian Trivia game is in the planning.

Please bring: Your own meat plus one dish to share. Gas grill and tubs of ice with cold soft drinks will be provided along with snacks and picnic utensils. Extra lawn chairs would help.

There will be room to set up tents and a movie at night for those who want to stay late. There is also a hot tub on the premises!

Jay's house is five miles west of Great Adventure near the intersection of Routes 539 and 537. Call 609-758-0975 if you get lost.

Directions to Picnic Location:

Take the Parkway exit to exit 98 and follow Route 195 West to Exit 16. Or take the Turnpike exit 7A to Route 195 East to Exit 16. Then follow Route 537 West for 6 miles (passing Great Adventure). Make a right at the light onto Route 539 North. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is your next left in ½ mile. House is on the right across from the church.

Alternative from the West, the NJ Turnpike, or Route 295:

After getting on 195 East take exit 8 (Route 539/Hightstown/Allentown). Keep right for 539 South towards Allentown. Make the first left (539 Bypass/526 East). At the stop sign make a left onto Allentown-Lakewood Road. In 1.8 miles turn right at the light onto Sharon Station Road. Arneytown-Hornerstown Road is 4.6 miles on the right. House is on the right across from the church.

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New Jersey Libertarian Party - - - - -

Are you a current member? **Please consider joining.**

I'd like to join the NJ Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

(Signature required for membership only) X _____

Check here to use address from mailing label

Name: _____

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City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

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\$500 Life Membership

\$100 Patron Membership

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\$35 Supporting Membership

\$15 Regular Membership

Newsletter subscription is included with membership. Check here to only receive the newsletter on line.

Make checks payable to NJLP and send to NJLP, PO Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

You can also renew on-line at <http://njlp.org/joinus>

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