

RENT CONTROL - AN ATTACK ON FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY

Rent control laws, developed during WWII, are typical of most laws passed in response to a "public emergency". They intensify the "emergency" and also outlive it. These immoral laws, which violate the rights of property and free trade, were created to prevent the inflationary rise of rents. But high rents are caused by a shortage of available dwellings - and rent controls, just as everyone has seen with other price controls (e. g., of meat), only serve to cause more severe shortages of the product controlled.

Basically, housing shortages (and high rents) are caused by numerous government-imposed restrictions on free trade - for example, the zoning laws which prohibit multiple dwellings in many portions of Nassau County, and the high construction costs due to government fiscal policies, government restrictions on free production, and government granting of near monopoly status to unionized labor which then engages in inefficient practices.

Abnormally high rents are caused by government's interference with free production and free trade. The government's "answer" - to impose the further chains of rent control - only aggravates the problem by creating more shortages. The Libertarian answer is to remove the government chains (in the area of housing and in all other areas of production).

When men are free to produce, they will produce.

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