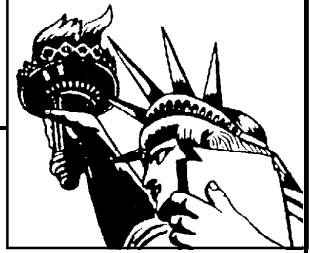


LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE



Government Groundhog Sees Shadow: Tax Freedom Day Later in 1997

Tax Freedom Day arrives on May 9 this year, two days later than last year, and more than and three weeks after the deadline for paying your 1996 taxes. Tax Freedom Day is calculated by the non-profit Tax Foundation as the day when most Americans will have earned enough money to pay all their state, federal and local taxes for the current year. For the first 128 days of 1997, all of the money you have earned since January 1 will have to be paid to a government agency at some level by next year's tax deadline, April 15, 1998. Beginning May 9, the money you earn from that day until December 31, 1997 is yours to keep.

Tax Freedom Day has been moving steadily farther down the calendar, and has been pushed back a full week since 1993. "If the economy's going to grow and you're going to have a progressive tax system, then Tax Freedom Day, however you measure it, is going to go later ... each year," said J.D. Foster, executive director at The Tax Foundation. "It's one of the consequences."

But California taxpayers should count their blessings. May 9 is the Tax Freedom Day averaged across the entire country. Individual states have different Tax Freedom Days depending on their respective tax laws. A taxpayer in New York will not be able to celebrate Tax Freedom Day until May 23, while residents of states like Washington and Texas, which have no state income tax, have their Tax Freedom Days in early April, a full month before most of the rest of the country.

We should nevertheless consider ourselves fortunate to live in such a wonderful country, and learn from the bitter lessons experienced by other industrial nations. According to the Fraser Institute, a Canadian think tank which sponsors a study similar to the Tax

Foundation, our neighbors to the north will not see their Tax Freedom Day until *June 24!* Such are the consequences of "free" health care.

It was recently reported that two of Italy's top fashion designers have been indicted on charges of bribing tax collectors, apparently finding it less expensive to bribe a few low level bureaucrats in the tax office than to pay the full tax bill levied against successful businesses. What difference does it make in the long run? Bribery, extortion and robbery all amount to the same thing when you view them in the context of our present tax system.

East Bay Libertarians spent another April 15 (two days after Thomas Jefferson's Birthday) outside a major Post Office last month expressing our displeasure at the current tax system and encouraging other frustrated taxpayers to join us in protesting wasteful government spending. Many late-filers were sympathetic to our cause, and let us know that they shared our frustration. "I'm sure glad somebody is out here to make a statement," remarked one taxpayer as he drove by our peaceful gauntlet. "You folks keep up the good work. We can't go on like this."

Of course, there were a few others who did not share our opinions. The sign reading "Honk if you LOVE Paying Taxes, Vote LIBERTARIAN if you DON'T" did generate some noise. One fellow leaned out of his pickup truck window, after a few taps on his car horn and shouted, "Stop whining! You get what you pay for! There's no free ride in this country!"

While he did not stay long enough to engage us in a friendly debate, the irony of his statement is that there is, in fact, a free ride in the United States. Politicians and government bureaucrats, the caretakers of our public trust, enjoy the benefits of spending your money for their own pet projects with hardly any accountability at all. Take just about any example at random (e.g., the EPA's Superfund Toxic Cleanup Program, the California DMV's new \$400 million non-functioning computer system, etc.) and you will find waste, greed and buck-passing when the program fails to achieve any of its lofty objectives.

Harry Browne popularized the phrase Government Doesn't Work. Perhaps next year, we will be able to persuade taxpayers that smaller government doesn't work any better than bigger government, but it sure is a lot less expensive! □

ACCEPTABLE TARGETS

by Denise P. Kalm

"In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time, there was no one left to speak up."

— Martin Niemöller

What do David Koresh, Timothy McVeigh, the Mafia, Randy Weaver, militia members and some urban landlords have in common? They are all "acceptable targets" people whose rights have been suspended by the U.S. government purportedly for the good of the people. In some cases, laws have been enacted specifically to target these groups. The RICO (Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations) Bill is a prime example, as are the recent anti-terrorist bills. What is a terrorist? A racketeer? Consider the humorous allegation that after anti-terrorist legislation becomes effective, the Democrats will define the Republican Party as a terrorist faction. Using the specter of criminal, religious fanatic and

white supremacist, Congress passes laws so general, all of us are potential targets. In the 60's, Attorney General Robert Kennedy pushed RICO through Congress to strangle the Mafia, believing that their deep coffers allowed them to avoid prosecution. Take the money and you've got the man!

RICO is a license to steal. Police departments get to keep the loot. Only recently, they have had their hands slapped for seizing and selling property prior to indictment. Innocent until proven guilty? Not if you have seizable assets. Landlords and parents have had their property seized because of suspected drug trafficking on the part of their tenants/children. Just try to get your property back when the indictment fails. To expand their reach and assure public support, our government employs pejorative terms to describe "the enemy." Religious fanatic, white supremacist, militia member these terms demonize people without a trial. Randy Weaver was a separatist, not a white supremacist. The Michigan Militia disavowed Tim McVeigh ask yourself how well you know this man. Isn't this "terrorist" mostly a media creation? David Koresh ran a religious colony in Texas, much like the Amana colonies in Iowa. His guns represented a fairly typical Texas arsenal; none of the guns found were the illegal weapons cited in the complaint.

What happened to their day in court? Even if these individuals hold values you don't share or have chosen a life-style you find repugnant, our country was founded on the freedom to choose. Even if these people are as reprehensible and as guilty as the press has made them out to be, the BATF and FBI do not have the right to exempt them from equal protection under the law.

We all have a stake in putting the reins on our government and challenging the creation of knee-jerk laws. If we stand silent in the face of our neighbor's persecution, we may well become the next "acceptable target."



LIBERTARIAN LIFELINE

Copyright© 1996 by the Libertarian Party of California, East Bay Region, 20993 Foothill Blvd., #318, Hayward, CA 94541-1511. Articles, except copyrighted articles, may be reproduced with credit. All submissions for publication accepted under these terms. Opinions are those of the signed authors or, if unsigned, of the editor.

Editor: Terry Floyd

Printed by: East Bay Region LP

Chair: Doug Ohmen (510) 820-0812

Alameda Co. Vice-Chair: Jeffrey Sommer

Contra Costa Co. Vice-Chair: Jean Marie Walker

Treasurer: John Taylor

East Bay Party Line: (510) 531-0760

The Common Sense BBS: (510) 713-7336; 1200-33600, 8-N-1

Now on the World Wide Web!!!

<http://cmnsens.zoom.com/lifeline>

News & Events deadline: 15th of the month. Send to Editor, 240 Sybil Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 or call (510) 351-0973. Submit on paper, diskette, or internet e-mail to: Terry.Floyd@cmnsens.fidonet.org or upload submissions to the Lifeline File Drop area (Local.Political.Lifeline.sub) of the Common Sense BBS. For subscription info, see page 7.

From the Chair

April 15 has come and gone. About a dozen people came to the Walnut Creek Post Office to hold out banners and signs advertising the Libertarian Party. It was fun to do.

Hopefully, some of the people who saw us will realize that the Libertarian Party would make a difference when it comes to tax time. Our first project must be to get Libertarians elected to offices where they can vote out some of the many ways that politicians spend our money. That must always be our goal: GET PEOPLE ELECTED!!

Remember the most basic premise: Politicians get elected by promising--and giving--things to specific groups of people. Then the people in the favored groups vote for the politicians. Of course, the money has to come from everyone else, or it has to be borrowed from our children in the future. But the politician knows that the few dollars a year from each taxpayer for the National Endowment for the Arts is probably not enough to get the politician thrown out of office, but the NEA recipients will definitely vote against anyone who tries to take away their largesse.

The same is true of every other special interest group, whether it is people who want "free" schooling for their children, "free" roads, "free" retirement, "free" unemployment, "free" medical care, "free" parks, "free" business assistance, "free" union decisions, etc. The politician gives to specific groups and then taxes broadly so that each benefit is only a small percentage of the total tax bill. The public is told that if the politician tries to eliminate the giveaways that the taxpayer does not want, the taxpayer will lose the "benefits" that he or she does want.

This system of giveaways is what has led to the dreadful stench of money flowing into the current ruling parties: money from China, Indonesia, Canada, businesses, unions, teachers, lawyers, elderly organizations, think tanks, etc. The list goes on endlessly. Every one of these groups expects to make ten or a hundred times as much from the government as they have given to the politicians. It is a good investment! Sometimes it does not work, as when poor Native Americans gave \$107,000 to the Democratic Party and were treated like dirt in return. But usually it works like a charm—if enough is given. Small investors need not apply. The game requires tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars to ante before you can even play a hand. Guess who gets skinned in this game. Obviously, it is all the other players who cannot win, cannot break even and cannot even get out of the game. They are systematically taken for as much as they can be. The worse side is that, usually, the taxpayers do not even know how badly they have been had.

Tax freedom day is now the middle of May and people are paying about 45% of their income in taxes of all kinds. But people do not lose money only when they are taxed. People also lose money when they have to pay inflated prices for

3

milk, sugar or oranges because of government price fixing. People pay more for buildings because of government mandated construction wage rates. People pay more for medical care because when the government picks up the bill, people use more of it and they don't question the cost. People pay more for additional schooling because the schools do not teach our students the basics. People pay more for hamburgers because of government mandated minimum wages. People pay more for everything else because all the other workers insist on being paid more than the government minimum wage. People pay more for everything because government requires licenses of people like barbers, beauticians and morticians, to name but a very few. People get a lot less for their retirement than if they invested their Social Security taxes (and the employer matching funds) in a private investment plan.

What is the answer? The Libertarians have the answer: Get the government out of all of these things and the entire system of bribery (to give it the proper blunt name) collapses. Why bribe a politician if you can get nothing in return? Get the government out of farm subsidies. Get the government out of private agreements between labor and management. Get the government out of health care and welfare. Get the government out of schooling. Get the government out of retirement. The need to bribe politicians just to break even would no longer exist.

Without all these government mandates, people would have an incredible amount of their own money that they could spend at they chose: To invest for retirement, to educate their children, to purchase necessities they need and luxuries they want. And they could do it without the government meddling in the process.

What an idea: Get corruption out of politics and give everyone a lot more money. All we have to do is shut down the government departments that are doing things that could be done better by people themselves or by charity organizations. Of course anything so reasonable is going to have a lot of people who do not like the idea: All of the people receiving our money from the government and all of the people in the business of giving it away. We have to elect Libertarians to office who will return the money to the people who earn it. This must be our goal, our quest, our crusade! We must get elected to office. We must never forget that!

For freedom,
Doug Ohmen

Common Sense

This is the second installment of Thomas Paine's most famous and influential essay. Many of the following comments demonstrate Paine's "educated atheism," an unpopular position that caused him great suffering later in his life.

MANKIND being originally equals in the order of creation, the equality could only be destroyed by some subsequent circumstance; the distinctions of rich, and poor, may in a great measure be accounted for, and that without having recourse to the harsh, ill-sounding names of oppression and avarice. Oppression is often the consequence, but seldom or never the means of riches; and though avarice will preserve a man from being necessitously poor, it generally makes him too timorous to be wealthy.

But there is another and greater distinction for which no truly natural or religious reason can be assigned, and that is, the distinction of men into **KINGS** and **SUBJECTS**. Male and female are the distinctions of nature, good and bad the distinctions of heaven; but how a race of men came into the world so exalted above the rest, and distinguished like some new species, is worth enquiring into, and whether they are the means of happiness or of misery to mankind.

In the early ages of the world, according to the scripture chronology, there were no kings; the consequence of which was there were no wars; it is the pride of kings which throw mankind into confusion. Holland without a king hath enjoyed more peace for this last century than any of the monarchical governments in Europe. Antiquity favors the same remark; for the quiet and rural lives of the first patriarchs hath a happy something in them, which vanishes away when we come to the history of Jewish royalty.

Government by kings was first introduced into the world by the Heathens, from whom the children of Israel copied the custom. It was the most prosperous invention the Devil ever set on foot for the promotion of idolatry. The Heathens paid divine honors to their deceased kings, and the christian world hath improved on the plan by doing the same to their living ones. How impious is the title of sacred majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendor is crumbling into dust.

As the exalting one man so greatly above the rest cannot be justified on the equal rights of nature, so neither can it be defended on the authority of scripture; for the will of the Almighty, as declared by Gideon and the prophet Samuel, expressly disapproves of government by kings. All anti-monarchical parts of scripture have been very smoothly glossed over in monarchical governments, but they undoubtedly merit the attention of countries which have their governments yet to form. 'Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's' is the scriptural doctrine of courts, yet it is no support of monarchical government, for the jews at that time were without a king, and in a state of vassalage to the Romans.

Near three thousand years passed away from the Mosaic account of the creation, till the Jews under a national delusion requested a king. Till then their form of government (except in extraordinary cases, where the Almighty interposed) was a kind of republic administered by a judge and the elders of the tribes. Kings they had none, and it was held sinful to acknowledge any being under that title but the Lords of Hosts. And when a man seriously reflects on the idolatrous homage which is paid to the persons of Kings, he need not wonder, that the Almighty, ever jealous of his honor, should disapprove of a form of government which so impiously invades the prerogative of heaven.

Monarchy is ranked in scripture as one of the sins of the jews, for which a curse in reserve is denounced against them. The history of that transaction is worth attending to.

The children of Israel being oppressed by the Midianites, Gideon marched against them with a small army, and victory, thro' the divine interposition, decided in his favor. The Jews elate with success, and attributing it to the generalship of Gideon, proposed making him a king,

saying, Rule thou over us, thou and thy son and thy son's son. Here was temptation in its fullest extent; not a kingdom only, but an hereditary one, but Gideon in the piety of his soul replied, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you, **THE LORD SHALL RULE OVER YOU**. Words need not be more explicit; Gideon doth not decline the honor but denieth their right to give it; neither doth he compliment them with invented declarations of his thanks, but in the positive style of a prophet charges them with disaffection to their proper sovereign, the King of Heaven.

About one hundred and thirty years after this, they fell again into the same error. The hankering which the jews had for the idolatrous customs of the Heathens, is something exceedingly unaccountable; but so it was, that laying hold of the misconduct of Samuel's two sons, who were entrusted with some secular concerns, they came in an abrupt and clamorous manner to Samuel, saying, Behold thou art old and thy sons walk not in thy ways, now make us a king to judge us like all the other nations. And here we cannot but observe that their motives were bad, viz. that they might be like unto other nations, i. e. the Heathens, whereas their true glory laid in being as much unlike them as possible. But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, give us a king to judge us; and Samuel prayed unto the Lord, and the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee, for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, **THEN I SHOULD NOT REIGN OVER THEM**. According to all the works which have done since the day; wherewith they brought them up out of Egypt, even unto this day; wherewith they have forsaken me and served other Gods; so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice, howbeit, protest solemnly unto them and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them, i. e. not of any particular king, but the general manner of the kings of the earth, whom Israel was so eagerly copying after. And notwithstanding the great distance of time and difference of manners, the character is still in fashion, And Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people, that asked of him a king. And he said, This shall be the manner of the king that shall reign over you; he will take your sons and appoint them for himself for his chariots, and to be his horsemen, and some shall run before his chariots (this description agrees with the present mode of impressing men) and he will appoint him captains over thousands and captains over fifties, and will set them to ear his ground and to read his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots; and he will take your daughters to be confectioneries and to be cooks and to be bakers (this describes the expense and luxury as well as the oppression of kings) and he will take your fields and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants; and he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give them to his officers and to his servants (by which we see that bribery, corruption, and favoritism are the standing vices of kings) and he will take the tenth of your men servants, and your maid servants, and your goodliest young men and your asses, and put them to his work; and he will take the tenth of your sheep, and ye shall be his servants, and ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen, **AND THE LORD WILL NOT HEAR YOU IN THAT DAY**. This accounts for the continuation of monarchy; neither do the characters of the few good kings which have lived since, either sanctify the title, or blot out the sinfulness of the origin; the high encomium given of David takes no notice of him officially as a king, but only as a man after God's own heart. Nevertheless the People refused to obey the voice of Samuel, and they said, Nay, but we will have a king over us, that we may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us, and go out before us and fight our battles. Samuel continued to reason with them, but to no purpose; he set before them their ingratitude, but all would not avail; and seeing them fully bent on their folly, he cried out, I will call unto the Lord, and he shall sent thunder and rain (which then was a punishment, being the time of wheat harvest) that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great which ye have done in the sight of the Lord, **IN ASKING YOU A KING**. So Samuel called unto the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God that we die not, for **WE HAVE**

ADDED UNTO OURS IN THIS EVIL, TO ASK A KING. These portions of scripture are direct and positive. They admit of no equivocal construction. That the Almighty hath here entered his protest against monarchical government is true, or the scripture is false. And a man hath good reason to believe that there is as much of king-craft, as priest-craft in withholding the scripture from the public in Popish countries. For monarchy in every instance is the Popery of government.

To the evil of monarchy we have added that of hereditary succession; and as the first is a degradation and lessening of ourselves, so the second, claimed as a matter of right, is an insult and an imposition on posterity. For all men being originally equals, no one by birth could have a right to set up his own family in perpetual preference to all others for ever, and though himself might deserve some decent degree of honors of his contemporaries, yet his descendants might be far too unworthy to inherit them. One of the strongest natural proofs of the folly of hereditary right in kings, is, that nature disapproves it, otherwise she would not so frequently turn it into ridicule by giving mankind an ass for a lion.

Secondly, as no man at first could possess any other public honors than were bestowed upon him, so the givers of those honors could have no power to give away the right of posterity, and though they might say 'We choose you for our head,' they could not, without manifest injustice to their children, say 'that your children and your children's children shall reign over ours for ever.' Because such an unwise, unjust, unnatural compact might (perhaps) in the next succession put them under the government of a rogue or a fool. Most wise men, in their private sentiments, have ever treated hereditary right with contempt; yet it is one of those evils, which when once established is not easily removed; many submit from fear, others from superstition, and the more powerful part shares with the king the plunder of the rest.

This is supposing the present race of kings in the world to have had an honorable origin; whereas it is more than probable, that could we take off the dark covering of antiquity, and trace them to their first rise, that we should find the first of them nothing better than the principal ruffian of some restless gang, whose savage manners of preeminence in subtlety obtained him the title of chief among plunderers; and who by increasing in power, and extending his depredations, overawed the quiet and defenseless to purchase their safety by frequent contributions. Yet his electors could have no idea of giving hereditary right to his descendants, because such a perpetual exclusion of themselves was incompatible with the free and unrestrained principles they professed to live by. Wherefore, hereditary succession in the early ages of monarchy could not take place as a matter of claim, but as something casual or complementary; but as few or no records were extant in those days, and traditionary history stuffed with fables, it was very easy, after the lapse of a few generations, to trump up some superstitious tale, conveniently timed, Mahomet like, to cram hereditary right down the throats of the vulgar. Perhaps the disorders which threatened, or seemed to threaten on the decease of a leader and the choice of a new one (for elections among ruffians could not be very orderly) induced many at first to favor hereditary pretensions; by which means it happened, as it hath happened since, that what at first was submitted to as a convenience, was afterwards claimed as a right. **CONTINUED**

OF MONUMENTS AND KINGS

The liberal mindset seems to be that if something is good for "the People" then that something will be better if it is bigger, grander, or even monumental. The consensus within the liberal establishment in Hayward is that it will be good for the community if Hayward taxpayers support a bigger completely new library building.

If public (government) schools are good for people then huge consolidated school districts are better. If libraries are good for communities then libraries encased in monumental structures are even better. The expensive failure of the San Francisco Library and the enormous and incredibly ugly Fremont Library should be enough to convince most people that we don't need huge to be good. A good library is one which is filled with books and reference materials. The "cover" has nothing to do with the quality inside.

What makes the Hayward proposal so silly is its enormous size. Let the numbers speak for themselves. The proposal is to impose a 2% utility tax in order to collect \$3 million per year for 30 years. This includes tearing down the existing library and putting up a new building which is more than twice the size of the original. In the proposal, the estimated cost of this new building comes to \$286.00 per square foot. The nationwide average cost for building a library is \$88.00 per square foot. To be fair, cost estimators add 20% to the average cost when preparing an estimate for building in California. So the average cost of building a library in California comes to \$106.00. This figure is not even half of the proposal for Hayward's new library. Remember, we are not talking cheap. We are talking average. Any amount above \$106.00 per square foot would be getting into fancy stuff.

It is not enough that the liberal establishment is making this absurd proposal. The consensus is that the people will vote for this tax because it is for a new library. The above facts were presented at a meeting to discuss the campaign for the tax proposal. No one in the room, in support of the tax, believed that the majority of voters would be influenced to vote against the proposal by these simple cost figures. All of the supporters of the tax expressed the need to "educate" the voters as to the value of libraries. None were concerned with the facts of the proposal and its incredible cost analysis.

It is surprising that educated people think so little of the reasoning ability of the average taxpayer. Our job as Libertarians is made so much easier by this strange attitude. We offer the taxpayer simple arithmetic. While the liberals are gnashing their teeth and talking about image we knock their feet out from under them. We denounce taxation and win every time. Look for your fellow Libertarians at your local anti-tax campaign. Coming soon to an election near you
 .--Marion McEwen

Redevelopment Debt: Play Now, Pay Later

by Lou Filipovich

It is troubling enough that redevelopment agencies divert property taxes from real public needs. But that is only part of the story. By law, for a redevelopment agency to begin receiving property taxes, it must first incur debt. In fact, property tax increment revenues may be only used to pay off outstanding debt. Pay-as-you-go is not part of bureaucratic philosophy or redevelopment law.

Debt is not just a temptation. *It is a requirement!*

That is why redevelopment hearings inevitably feature three groups of outside "experts": the blight consultants, the lawyers, and the bond brokers who help the agency incur debt so it can start receiving the tax increment. The bond brokers and debt consultants are easily located. They are listed in the California Redevelopment Association Directory. From city to city, they phone, fax, travel and make presentations to sell additional debt. Naturally, redevelopment staffs are supportive. More debt means job security and larger city/civil payrolls!

Currently, total redevelopment debt in California tops \$37 billion, a figure that is doubling every four years. Debt levels vary widely among agencies, but all must have debt to receive the tax increment. Debt levels have no relation with actual blight, as many affluent suburban towns have higher indebtedness than older, urban-core cities.

Table III and Table IV on the following page show California's top 20 cities' total and per-capita redevelopment debt. Per-capita property tax is the amount that must be paid to cover the principal and interest of existing debt. This amount must be diverted from the state, counties and school districts before these redevelopment agencies can shut down and restore the property taxes to those entities.

One would expect that if redevelopment agencies had been successful in eliminating "blight," they would

now be scaling back their activities and reducing debt. In fact, redevelopment indebtedness is growing rapidly draining investment money that could have gone into the private sector or to buy other government bonds.

These are two reasons redevelopment debt is so attractive: first, without voter approval; redevelopment agencies may sell bond debt; unlike the counties, state and school districts, the debts need not be justified to or approved by the taxpayers. All that is needed is a quick majority vote by the city controlled agency!

Second, bond brokers love to sell redevelopment debt. Their commissions are high and the buyers plentiful. Since the debt is secured against future property tax revenue, they are seen as secure and lucrative. If an agency over-extends, then surely the city's general fund will cover the debts.

Most agencies project that ever-rising property tax increments will cover future debt service. During the 1990s, much of California's commercial and residential real estate declined in value; however, property owners sought and received lower assessments, creating a crisis for those agencies banking on ever-rising property taxes. Some cities raided their general funds, just to service redevelopment debt. Legally, it is unclear whether the state, or individual cities are liable to bail out actually bankrupt agencies, but the expanding bubble of redevelopment debt must be a concern to all.

Footnote: Typically, redevelopment agencies issue "new" bonds to pay off existing ones. Thus, they borrow to pay off current debt, simply rolling over and compounding interest payments. This cannot go on indefinitely. Existing debt must eventually be paid with "real" tax dollars. Every dollar used to pay for this debt is a tax dollar that will not be spent on other, more urgent public needs: and without destroying the individual homeowner's property tax-producing systems or bankrupting renters! □

This is the fourth installment of a ten part series on the growth of Redevelopment Agencies in California. Part Five, entitled "Corporate Welfare," will follow in next month's **Libertarian Lifeline**.

TABLE III

Top 20 Cities by Total Redevelopment Indebtedness
(includes principal and interest of all outstanding debt)

City/Agency	Redevelopment Indebtedness
1 San Jose	\$2,205,140,180
2 Los Angeles	\$2,010,052,149
3 Fontana	\$1,509,941,789
4 Lancaster	\$1,176,635,953
5 City of Industry	\$952,810,685
6 West Covina	\$805,019,621
7 Chico	\$795,797,760
8 Burbank	\$749,356,165
9 Brea	\$661,976,870
10 Huntington Park	\$653,090,326
11 Long Beach	\$556,224,019
12 Sacramento	\$553,241,767
13 Rancho Cucamonga	\$536,728,079
14 Oakland	\$493,023,902
15 Anaheim	\$491,020,231
16 Santa Ana	\$486,331,056
17 San Francisco	\$459,957,010
18 San Marcos	\$418,354,903
19 Poway	\$416,697,854
20 Cerritos	\$402,949,173

SOURCE: California State Controller's Office; all figures are from 1993-94 Fiscal Year

TABLE IV

Top 20 Per Capita Redevelopment Indebtedness by City
(includes principal and interest of all outstanding debt)

Per-Capita Redevelopment Indebtedness	City/Agency	Population	Total Redevelopment Indebtedness
\$1,401,192	City of Industry	680	\$942,810,685
\$303,832	Irwindale	1,080	\$328,144,953
\$47,384	Brisbane	3,130	\$146,889,850
\$37,382	Indian Wells	3,100	\$115,886,139
\$19,132	Brea	34,600	\$661,976,870
\$16,412	Chico	48,450	\$795,797,760
\$16,085	Emeryville	6,500	\$104,552,578
\$15,688	Commerce	1,200	\$188,263,953
\$14,589	Fontana	103,500	\$1,509,941,789
\$14,368	Sand City	200	\$2,873,567
\$11,126	Huntington Park	58,700	\$653,090,326
\$10,978	Millbrae	21,200	\$232,729,713
\$10,950	Adelanto	12,000	\$137,385,349
\$10,974	Rancho Mirage	10,750	\$116,033,331
\$9,929	Lancaster	118,500	\$1,176,635,953
\$9,415	Culver City	39,400	\$367,213,132
\$9,095	San Marcos	46,000	\$418,345,903
\$8,923	Poway	46,700	\$416,697,854
\$8,116	California City	8,900	\$72,229,384
\$8,005	West Covina	99,700	\$805,019,621

SOURCE: California State Controller's Office; all figures are from 1993-94 Fiscal Year

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(For those joining the LP as a voting member)

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the **initiation** of force as a means of achieving social or political goals.

Libertarian Party

of California

20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP+4 _____

(Optional)

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

email: _____

☐ Recorded in database

- ☐ Basic LP Membership
(includes *LPC Monthly*,
LP NEWS+ Lifeline) \$25
- ☐ Household Membership
(for joint households) \$35
- ☐ Subscription only to
Libertarian Lifeline \$10
- ☐ Donation (Thank you!)

Please make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of California

CALENDAR OF EVENTS **MAY**

Friday, May 9, 1997: Tax Freedom Day! Celebrate a day we shouldn't even have to keep track of by spending your own money. Make a tax-free purchase either by mail order from a state that doesn't demand extortion from consumers, or plan a weekend trip to Nevada. Enjoy the products of your own labor!

Sundays, May 4, 11, and 18, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.: Ayn Rand's Ethical and Political Theory: A Critical Introduction. Presented by George H. Smith, this series is an unblinking examination of Rand's controversial ideas and their practical application to modern society. "If you're looking for an orthodox catechism of Ayn Rand's moral and political theory, this series is *not* for you," Smith advises. Cost for the series is \$100 pre-paid (\$125 at the door). For more information, contact Resources for Independent Thinking, 484 Lake Park Avenue, #24, Oakland, CA 94610-2730 or call (510) 601-9450 (<http://www.well.com/user/rit>).

Tuesday, May 20, 1997: General Meeting of the East Bay Region Libertarian Party. The May dinner meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Vincenza's, 35760 Fremont Blvd, Fremont. The restaurant features homemade pasta, pizza and "incredible" desserts. To join us take highway 880 to the Decoto exit east, turn right on Fremont Blvd. to the Brookvale Shopping Center. Our invited guests include the newly elected Northern Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of California and three of the Executive Committee Representatives. Your hostess for this meeting is Marion McEwen, coordinator for the 20th Assembly District. RSVPs are not necessary but will be helpful as we will be in the restaurant's banquet room. Leave your acceptances on the answering machine at 889-1544.

Sunday Afternoons, 5:30 p.m.: The Libertarian News Hour on Free Radio Berkeley, 104.1 FM, hosted by Jeff "Zippy the Yippie" Sommer, the voice of freedom on the airwaves originating from one of the last bastions of socialism in America, Berkeley, California. If you have internet access, check out the Free Radio Berkeley Web Site at <http://www.freeradio.org>

Libertarian Party of California
20993 Foothill Blvd., #318
Hayward, CA 94541-1511

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 34

