



June, 1973

THE GOVERNMENT VS. THE COUNTRY

"Say, who is the country? Is it the government? In a republic the government is merely a servant; a temporary one. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them." ... Mark Twain

"It can never be unpatriotic to take your country's side against your government. It must always be unpatriotic to take your government's side against your country." ... Benjamin Tucker

In so much of the writing about Nixon and the Watergate mess, a trend has emerged toward the attitude that even though things look bad for the President, the Administration, and the Republican Party, "our system of government is being strengthened rather than weakened," or "it shows that our government is strong no matter how corrupt some of its officials might be."

Such conclusions assume that it is democracy, or political government, which creates and sustains the orderly progress of a society. But in fact it is the individual men and women, acting to further their mutual interests as they see them, who keep the society running. The proof of this is that even with a crisis of this particular Administration, our private lives are largely unaffected. It is not the government which is strong, it is we, the individuals who live and work in this country, most of us proceeding with our daily lives in a peaceful and responsible manner. And we can maintain that strength if we continue to make the distinction between "the government" and "the country."

In our schools and institutions, we have been taught that it is democracy which keeps us free. It is time to challenge that belief. (And the growing popularity of libertarian thought indicates that such a challenge is well under way.)

Governments do not promote the freedom of the individual, they limit and control it. As human beings we are free by our very nature, possessing the inalienable characteristic of free choice and its economic concomitant, free exchange. We are free to think our own thoughts and hold our own views; free to choose and to act upon our choices.

When government enters the picture, it does so in a way which inevitably interferes with that natural freedom. It begins by making laws which seem to promote the well-being of citizens; harmless laws which simply embrace commonly accepted values, such as those embodied in the Golden

Rule, the Ten Commandments, and humanitarian principles of behavior. Thus the government aligns itself with "law and order" in the minds of people, and freedom becomes associated with "anarchy and chaos." But these are false classifications.

It is the nature of government to protect and sustain its own existence, and the function of the state is to exert coercion in the enforcement of laws. So it stands to reason that any growth in the size or substance of government translates into an increase in power -- power to use force against threats to itself.

And this is what we are seeing in the Watergate affair. Who can say how many persons are engaged not in protecting individual Americans from the illegitimate uses of force, but in protecting all administrations, past, present, and future, from being exposed for what they are: parasitical mechanisms designed to nourish and enhance their own existence at the sacrifice and expense of the host populace under the illusion of the "general welfare" or the "national security."

It is said that all America needs is strong leadership. But that is what America has had, in ever-increasing amounts. Perhaps what we really need is not leaders, nor followers either, but individuals running their own lives and dealing voluntarily and cooperatively with one another. Then we will have a country which is truly strong.

-- Riqui and Seymour Leon

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Hung Fung
was a Chinese
philosopher of well
nigh a hundred years
old. The Emperor once
said to him: 'Hung, nine-
ty years of study and obser-
vation must have made you wise.
Tell me, what is the great danger
of government?' 'Well,' quoth Hung,
'It's the rat in the statue.' 'The rat
in the statue!,' repeated the Emperor.
'What do you mean?' 'Why,' retorted Hung,
'you know we build statues to the memory of
our ancestors. They are made of wood, and are
hollow and painted. Now, if a rat gets into one,
you can't smoke it out -- it's the image of your
father. You can't plunge it into the water -- that
would wash off the paint. So the rat is safe because
the image is sacred.'" Wendell Phillips

COMPREHENSIVE COURSEAugust 19-26, 1973CARMEL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Robert LeFevre will conduct this famous course at the beautiful Carmel Valley Inn, near California's Monterey Peninsula. It will run for eight days, beginning Sunday afternoon and continuing through the next Sunday.

COURSE CONTENT

I. THE NATURE OF MAN

- a. the uses of the mind
- b. the physical being
- c. the moral imperative

II. ACTING MAN

- a. individual actions; consumption
- b. cooperative actions; production
- c. the meaning of property and its relation to man

III. THE NATURE OF THE MARKET

- a. ownership - private, joint, and collective
- b. exchanges
- c. fears of a free market examined

IV. THE HUMAN RECORD

- a. pre-history; savagery; barbarism; post-barbarism
- b. history and the meaning of freedom
- c. the rise of socialist thought; the rise of individualism

V. THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT

- a. management organizations as opposed to political organizations
- b. the uses of force
- c. protection; defense; retaliation

VI. THE NATURE OF A FREE MAN

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Occupation _____ Sex _____ Age _____

DEFINITION: Gross Incompetence = 144 Politicians.

PERSON TO PERSON DIRECTORY

P. K. Slocum, libertarian bookseller specializing in free market economics and political science, announces her new list of used and out-of-print titles, including many scarce items, such as unusual collections of books by Rose Wilder Lane, Albert Jay Nock, and Garret Garrett. Write to her at 7733 Corey Street, Downey, CA 90242.

Dean R. Hyatt is interested in starting a "Libertarian Alternative" chapter in Orange County (California). If you are looking for ways to become active in helping to promote libertarian thought while meeting like-minded people, contact Dean for further information at (714) 586-1300.

Kenneth W. Kalcheim, executive director of the Nat'l Tax Strike Coalition, asks that anyone interested in joining or helping form a tax rebellion committee please contact him at 349 E. 65th St., New York, NY 10021.

Prof. Raymond H. Forbes, Box 981, St. Cloud, MN 56301, wants to correspond with teachers (secondary or college level) who are also fellow libertarians, to share ideas and experiences.

Michael Washburn, 3126 W. 46th Ave., Kansas City, Kansas (913) 362-1260, wants to meet libertarians and individualist anarchists in the K.C. area.

GEORGE SMITH LECTURE

On Wednesday, June 20, 8:00 p.m., George Smith will present a talk on "The Psychology of Statism" at Rampart College's quarters in Santa Ana -- 6th floor, 104 W. Fourth St. \$2.00 fee payable at the door. Please arrive by 7:45 p.m. (For information, phone Dean Hyatt - 714/586-1300.)

RAMPART NEWSLETTER ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER

Due to increased mobility and decreased readership during the summer months, we will not publish the newsletter in July and August.

Summer Travelers to Southern California - Friends of Rampart who plan to be in our area this summer are invited to drop in for a visit with us. If you can't stop by, call us at (714) 835-2505. LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH.

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104 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana, Calif. 92701

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