



November, 1972

I know of no method by means of which the nature of liberty can be explained without contrast. We learn by comparison. To understand the nature of beauty, we must be acquainted with ugliness. To grasp the significance of virtue, we must also understand the implications of vice. Thus, to know liberty means that we must know what non-liberty is all about.

Liberty is not advanced by government; it is curtailed and destroyed by government. This fact can be explained and demonstrated. As government has enlarged with each new election, and as political power has accelerated with each new law and each new thrust toward enforcement, the lesson has become inescapable. The sorriest dunce can now recognize his enemy: unbridled legal power in the hands of other men.

At this point, the teacher of liberty faces a major obstacle. When the student learns how his freedom has been eaten away, how he has been cozzened and seduced politically, how he has been bribed with promises of favors and coerced with each new regulatory and fiscal burden, it is inevitable that he will become angry. And the mind that is angry, like the heart that is filled with hate, has already, through emotional involvement, become less than its potential. To be libertarian does not mean to hate the right people. Hatred and ire are for the unenlightened and the immature. To be libertarian is to favor a philosophy that will lead to freedom in a way that neither anger nor hatred can ever make possible.

The election of 1972 is now history. Although it is certain that more people favored one of the major contenders than the other, the fact remains that still more (those who opposed actively and those who opposed passively added together) favored something other than what they got. So the result, however it can be made to appear, is not a popular, but an unpopular outcome. This will engender anger. Frustrations will mount. And hatred. And fear. And these are dark emotions which will do little to advance the cause of liberty.

In the interest of conserving energy and of making full use of our talents in constructive action, it would be helpful if we refrain from name-calling and opprobrium, however emotionally gratifying such indulgences seem to be.

It is not Republicans who are the enemies of liberty; nor Democrats; nor any other man by any other name. The enemy of liberty is a false philosophy; a fraudulent belief that has been foisted on mankind. If you must hate, hate wrong ideas. If you must be angry, vent your spleen on stupidity and error, not on people who wear political labels. Those people, Republicans and Democrats alike, are libertarian under their politically acquired coatings. They, too, like you and me, want freedom. They have accepted the notion that somehow, by placing power in the "right hands," their freedom can be attained. It is a delusion. There are no "right hands" when it comes to imposing one set of values (even the value of liberty) upon another. Power is not the product of liberty; it is at once the tool and the product of coercion. The uses of power beget further uses of power. Violence breeds violence.

The product of freedom is love and peace. The product of violence is hatred and war. There is no political legerdemain by means of which power exercised by some over others can produce either love or peace. The political hustings, for all the wishes of those who participate, is an improper means, although it may be aimed at achieving a desirable end. It is axiomatic to the philosopher that ends and means must harmonize.

For many years, those teaching liberty have been prone to contrast it with slavery. This seems right and proper superficially, for surely liberty and slavery are contrary terms. But they are not precisely opposite. The true antonym of liberty is tyranny. The slave is not the enemy of freedom, but the victim of a lack of freedom. It is the tyrant, not the slave, who creates hatred and war, the conditions of non-freedom. If you would be libertarian in a total sense, you cannot be a tyrant even in a partial sense.

We cannot create a free society by force and power. We can only assist in providing a free society when we stop preventing it. We stop preventing freedom when we totally abandon hatred and anger as libertarian tools. You do not have to destroy government. All governments are on a collision course with reality and will, sooner or later, destroy themselves. As libertarians, our job is to refrain from interfering with the inevitable regicide of all political and coercive forms.

-- Robert LeFevre

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TRUST IN GOVERNMENT NOSEDIVES 20%

A detailed testing of people's trust in government reveals a significant decrease (20%) in six years (1964-1970).

The U. of Michigan Survey Research Center has measured political cynicism using a national cross-section of eligible voters. According to Arthur H. Miller, Ohio State U., in a paper prepared for the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (September, 1972), "This study has demonstrated that feelings of political powerlessness, that is, the feeling that one has no influence on the government, are directly related to distrust of the government...."

It is clear in reading this survey that much of the growing cynicism relates to government's failure to accomplish what voters (and non-voters) would like to see it do. Apparently there was no query - or perhaps no response - as to whether those surveyed are disillusioned with the political process per se.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY OF TRUST/DISTRUST

You are invited to participate in this brief post-election survey being mailed to 50,000 readers. We want to publish the results, and hope to have at least a 10% return.

1. Now that the November elections are over, do you feel that the political structure of this country is in safe hands or unsafe hands?

\_\_\_ SAFE \_\_\_ UNSAFE

2. If the losing candidate had won, would the political structure be in less safe or more safe hands?

\_\_\_ MORE SAFE \_\_\_ LESS SAFE

3. Did you vote?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

- A. Reason for non-voting

\_\_\_ Apathy  
 \_\_\_ Circumstances (in personal life)  
 \_\_\_ No Favorite Candidate  
 \_\_\_ Contrary to Principles Believed in

4. Would you have voted "None of the above is acceptable" if the ballot had contained such an option?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

5. Did you believe you were selecting the lesser of two evils?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

(See Next Page)

Newsletter Survey of Trust/Distrust (continued)

6. Did you employ the write-in method?

\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_ NO

7. Are you disappointed because the government is not doing things you think it should be doing?

\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_ NO

8. Are you disappointed because the government is doing things you think it should not be doing?

\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_ NO

9. What services is government presently rendering that you believe only government can and should render?

Please list. (Use separate sheet if desired.)

The results of this survey will be reported in a future newsletter. Send your response to Rampart Newsletter in time to meet a December 15 survey deadline.

PERSON-TO-PERSON DIRECTORY (open for your personal listing when space permits)

D. Miller, 1417 Second St., G-303, Coronado, California 92118, would like to hear from libertarians in the Reno, Sparks, and Carson City area of Nevada.

### California Libertarian Conference - IDEAS WANTED

The California Libertarian Alliance wants ideas, suggestions for workshops, panels, rap sessions, etc., in planning the conference to be held at USC February 17-18. Speakers will include Thomas Szasz, Robert LeFevre, Nathaniel Branden, and Al Ross. The conference theme is VICTIMLESS CRIME LAWS. Advance ticket prices: \$6.00 non-student, \$4.00 student (door prices will be higher). If you want to offer a workshop or present a topic for discussion, the CLA wants to hear from you. Send ideas (and/or ticket orders) to CLA, 3710½ S. Grand, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

### PARENT/CHILD COURSE "PRICELESS"

There are innumerable courses on "how to" raise cabbages, corn, and children. Rampart College offers a home-study course for parents who want to raise their own sights and thus enjoy rather than suffer through the opportunities of parenthood.

Edward M. Obele, Sr., of Scottsdale, Arizona, president of Guadalupe Exploration Corporation, and his wife, Carol, purchased Rampart's RAISING CHILDREN FOR FUN AND PROFIT in February, 1972. Now here is Mr. Obele's evaluation: "The course is priceless! We have benefited greatly from it, and so have our two children. We can report that we have altered our child-raising philosophy about 180 degrees. We are so very grateful to Rampart College for the work you are doing to teach us and our children and thousands of others the meaning of liberty and morality and human communication."

Parents interested in helping their children develop their maximum potentials as responsible, intelligent, creative human beings are buying the home-study course developed by Rampart College. Write for descriptive material.

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