



LIBERTY TREE

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It's no secret that our ship of state is on the wrong course; hopefully, we're all working to help make the necessary corrections to turn it around. That is exactly what Liberty Works Radio Network is all about — equipping Americans to understand the nature of the problems we face and the solutions needed to remedy them.

As it moves into its second year of operation, we pray for God's continued provision and protection of Liberty Works, as well as your faithful support, that it might be able to educate ever more people to the idea that the government is not the solution to our problems — indeed, it is the cause of many of them. Rather, a return to 'binding government down with the chains of the Constitution' is the only real solution.

No thinking person would consider this a simple task, because just like with huge ships, inertia tends to keep things going in the direction they were traveling for quite some time, and it takes a lot of effort to overcome it. Yet there's more at work than just inertia. There's another aspect to this reversal of direction that began to intrigue me when I read a thesis some years ago on tax withholding, written by Charlotte Twight, an economics professor at Boise State University.¹ The issue concerns what she referred to as the manipulation of 'transactional costs.' She explains:

If [political officeholders] can raise the transaction costs to voters of opposing a policy that the officeholders (or influential constituents) favor, the officeholders' policy preferences are more likely to prevail. Clearly, if government officials make it harder for most citizens either to perceive an unwanted policy (e.g., a tax or special-interest legislation) or to organize to resist it, public opposition is less likely to materialize.

In essence, this is just expressing a simple economic principle: the higher the price, the fewer the buyers. So the more expensive (whether in physical and mental effort, time, money, penalties, or even procedurally) the government can make opposing its plans, the fewer people who will be willing to do so. On a deeper level, there's potential for real abuse here: all the government needs to guarantee its schemes will come to fruition is to erect blockades in the way of those who would challenge them.

Those who oppose pay through the nose.

In fact, the very act of classifying some action as a crime works to minimize opposition to its declassification. After all, if you think drug prohibition is wrong, then you must be *for* drugs, and if you're *for* drugs, then you must be a criminal. This sort of prejudice is present when you merely advocate against the "crimes" generally. It's even worse if you actively seek to have such laws struck down.



The cost of reversing course

Editorial by Dick Greb

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1. *Evolution of Federal Income Tax Withholding: The Machinery of Institutional Change*, <http://www.cato.org/pubs/journal/cj14n3-1.html>.

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First, you must get past the ‘standing’ hurdle.² To do that, you must suffer some harm more particular than the general harm suffered by everyone from unconstitutional laws. Presumably then, you must be charged with the crime to challenge its validity. Thus, if you lose your constitutional challenge, instead of getting rid of a bad law, you get a criminal conviction — not a good trade-off. For example, according to New York Penal Law §235.03:

A person is guilty of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree when:

... (3) such person possesses any loaded firearm. Such possession shall not, except as provided in subdivision one or seven of section 265.02 of this article, constitute a violation of this subdivision if such possession takes place in such person’s home or place of business.

Criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree is a class C felony.

So possession of a loaded firearm³ anywhere in New York, except in your home, subjects you to a felony conviction with possible prison time of 1 to 15 years, as well as denial of your right to vote, serve on juries, or possess firearms. In other words, no more ballot box, jury box, or ammo box for you; just a prison cell. That is the potential price you must be willing to pay in order to challenge the validity of this restriction on your right to keep (let alone bear) arms.

It would be naïve to think that such a dear price results from happenstance. Instead, it should be obvious that it’s a direct result of transaction cost manipulation by government. And as is so often the case with government tyranny, incrementalism is also a factor. First governments deny rights to felons, then they eliminate any route of legal challenge to the crimes except through defense against conviction, and finally, they make more and more crimes felonies.

Shifting burdens to the abused and accused.

A different type of transaction cost manipulation is found in the Supreme Court’s declaration that the validity of the ratification of the 16th Amendment is a political question — that is, it’s up to the people to remove the amendment, not the courts. In doing so, the court took the difficulties designed into the amendment process, and shifted them to the process of reversing a fraudulent declaration of ratification by a single per-

son.⁴ So even though the required three-fourths of the states never agreed to the amendment in the first place, the court is forcing the people to get that number of states to repeal it now.

A similar shift can be seen in the current practice of declaring mistrials whenever a jury fails to unanimously find a defendant ‘not guilty.’ Thus, the intentionally harder condition of finding unanimous *guilt* is wrongly placed upon the finding of innocence instead, virtually guaranteeing convictions through the companion practice of multiple retrials in cases of such ‘mistrials.’

The final straw (vote).

The most pernicious of the government’s transaction cost manipulations, however, has the potential to virtually destroy the ability of the people to correct legislative misdeeds. Governments at all levels are pushing for computerized voting machines, which not only leave no verifiable paper trail, but are subject to improper programming routines — whether willfully malicious or woefully incompetent — embedded in the computers’ software. According to Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman:

An analysis of Diebold software by researchers at Johns Hopkins and Rice Universities found it both unreliable and subject to abuse. A later report commissioned by the state of Maryland apparently reached similar conclusions. (It’s hard to be sure because the state released only a heavily redacted version.)

Meanwhile, leaked internal Diebold e-mail suggests that corporate officials knew their system was flawed, and circumvented tests that would have revealed these problems. The company hasn’t contested the authenticity of these documents; instead, it has engaged in legal actions to prevent their dissemination.⁵

The bottom line is that relying on such an easily manipulated method to determine the outcome of elections, political issues, and citizen initiatives relegates our republic to the trash heap of history. Any candidate could be installed, regardless of how many people actually voted for him; any issue could be decided by whatever margin suits the insiders, providing the oft claimed ‘mandate’ for action. The fact is, *any* pre-selected result could conceivably be arranged through software manipulation, totally unseen and unverifiable. The worst part is that once in place, it becomes nearly impossible to reverse, since any vote to revert to the old methods

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2. See “Do you have standing to sue?” in the November 2008 *Liberty Tree*.
3. §265.00(15): “Loaded firearm” means any firearm loaded with ammunition or any firearm which is possessed by one who, at the same time, possesses a quantity of ammunition which may be used to discharge such firearm.

4. See Bill Benson’s *The Law that Never Was*. In 1913, Secretary of State Philander Knox appears to have fraudulently certified that the 16th Amendment was ratified.

5. “Hack the Vote,” *New York Times*, December 2, 2003. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/02/opinion/02KRUG.html>



JOIN, or DIE?

Patriot Randy Gearhart recently penned an email to an ABATE (a motorcycle group "Dedicated to Freedom of the Road") member which eloquently addressed the need for groups who support Liberty to unite to accomplish their goals. We have adapted his email in order to share it with you, and it is our hope at Liberty Works Radio Network that you will share his thoughts with others who are actively involved in the patriot movement one way or another, to help them understand why we need them to join and support Liberty Works Radio Network — we must, Randy says, Join, or Die.

I haven't forgotten about you guys at ABATE. I have been taking a Wednesday night course on the Maryland Constitution at the Institute on the Constitution in Pasadena. I also run into a conflict with the Campaign for Liberty meetings that are also on Wednesday nights. Needless to say; there are several other groups that I inflict my presence on as well. 😊

We really need to get all of these groups together. Not just ABATE, but all of the fractional groups that make up the TEA party and Liberty movements. We need to realize that the underlying issue is the same for all of us — government's constant overreaching into every area of our lives will ultimately reduce us all to a state of slavery. When government is allowed to set the limits on such basic decisions as how we protect ourselves (helmets and seat belts), what combinations of activities we are allowed to perform (like eating and driving), and what we are allowed to think ('hate' speech and political correctness), the natural result will always be a tightly restricted and highly controlled range of 'allowable' daily activities.

State-run schools brainwash our children with immoral lies and propoganda,

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would be tabulated through the same corruptible computer software.

Voting machine fraud, then, is the ultimate in transaction cost manipulation. It also fits right in with the constant barrage of propoganda that the United States is a democracy, which, as we all know, means "mob rule." Since majority rules in a democracy, and computer voting can produce any desired majority on any issue, it delivers the perfect storm of tyranny. Any amount of oppression can be justified, because it'll always be "what the people wanted."

As we begin to understand and recognize the various forms of transaction cost manipulation, we are better

teaching them that it is alright to steal away someone else's life, liberty, and property for some 'higher social agenda.' My God says "Thou Shalt Not Steal," but obviously the men that run the government — the 'State' — do not have the same God that you and I have.

It is essential to recognize that so long as we tolerate infringement of the rights of any one group among us, we are supporting a system that can and WILL BE used to infringe our own rights as well.

There is only one issue — whether or not we are going to allow government to make our personal decisions for us; whether or not we will allow them to take away our right to choose freely from the infinite number of choices that freedom under God's laws allows us. Our members [of each patriot group] must be made to recognize that allowing government to force 'multiple choices' on us is not freedom; it is an implicit agreement that government has the authority to control that area of our lives. And each time we tolerate government intervention in any area, it is like opening 'Pandora's Box' until they have expanded into every other aspect of our lives.

The men running our lives today do so by dividing and distracting us with diverse 'issues.' We have groups that are fighting for gun rights, helmet rights, 'tax freedom,' 'home schools,' and now, even the right to decide what fruits and vegetables we can grow in our own yards! All of these groups are in the right, but they are divided and fractional. At the same time, on the government's side, there are groups fighting for 'false rights' — that is, rights that are usually hidden under an agenda of 'social responsibility'



Unless patriots join forces, the federal Nazis will destroy every vestige of freedom in their zeal to remake the world in their image.

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The game changer: once electronic voting machines are in place, how can they or their legislative supporters be voted out?

able to combat attempts to implement them. We can work on strategies around them to regain lost ground. But most importantly, we need to think about ways to integrate their use in our own efforts to restore the Constitution — so that it will be future usurpers and secessionists who will have to pay dearly to set it aside again. And since an educated citizenry is essential to this goal, Liberty Works Radio Network plays an important role in accomplishing it, too. So, as you educate yourself, please also support Liberty Works in our efforts to awaken your fellow Americans to the call of freedom.





Don't wait for ObamaCare to finish you off, the Food & Drug Administration may get you first.

The latest salvo in the 100-year war to force Americans into medical slavery¹ is against the freedom to obtain "ear candles." Generally made from muslin and beeswax, ear candles (when used properly) are said to gently heat and relax the ear canal. Debate on the efficacy and safety of ear candles can easily be found across the Internet — where it should be, safe in the hands of those who want to make informed choices for their own health.

In February, the FDA terrorized at least fifteen companies who market ear candles by threatening them through the U.S. mail, "requesting" that the companies "immediately cease marketing, promoting and distributing" such candles.

In a letter to Harmony Cone,² one such maker, the FDA claims:

... the ... ear candle is a device because it is intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or is intended to affect the structure or function of the body ... A review of our records reveals that you have not obtained marketing approval or clearance before you began offering your product for sale ... Your devices are misbranded ... because [they] are dangerous to health when used in the manner or with the frequency or duration prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling, including reports involving ruptured tympanic membranes and burns as a result of the use of ear candles.

"It is a sad day when the government is so threatened by hand-crafted manufacturers and small industry, to attack them and put more people out of business for their billion-dollar drug cartel," says Doc Harmony of Harmony Cone.

Several threatened companies have banded together and filed suit against the FDA on April 12, 2010.³ According to Harmony, they requested physical evidence of the FDA's claims and copies of event reports. Instead of providing them, the FDA threatened location audits and legal action.

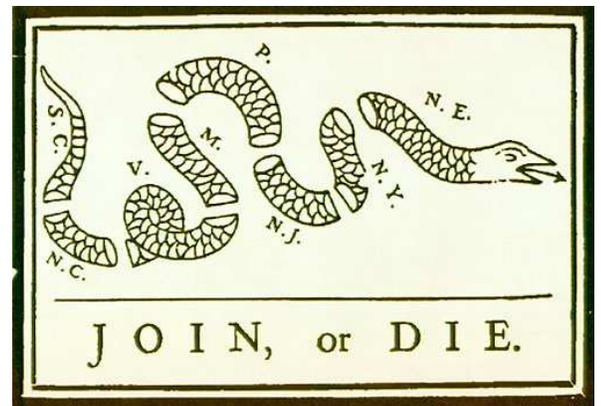
Approximately 10 million ear candles are sold per year in the U.S., with only three reports of injury in 20 years, says Harmony. Shutting down U.S. ear candle manufacturing could cost as many as 150,000 jobs and lost tax revenues of some \$1 million dollars, she says.

You can help the ear candlerers by signing their petition⁴ and contacting your congress critters to put pressure on the FDA.

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ity,' that cannot exist without taking away the rights of others. For instance, the attack on your right to choose to wear motorcycle helmets is based on some vague idea that there is a 'social responsibility' to protect riders from their own decisions. This agenda of government intervention to protect us from ourselves is at the root of so many issues today. The government speech writers not only steal our rights, they steal our words such as 'freedom' and 'liberty,' and use false phrases like 'social responsibility' to help steal them. And of course, there is always some tax needed to support each new program used to oppress our rights! It is always the same — a 'social agenda' that is soon followed by massive theft of our property and freedom.

We need to stop allowing the 'State' to divide us; we need to stop government from claiming powers we never gave it. To do this more effectively, we need to unite our various groups. If we will not work together, all will surely fall to the tyranny of this system which seeks to prevent us from exercising any personal freedom in our lives and from the enjoyment of our own property without their obstruction and interference. Let's not forget, Benjamin Franklin penned a political cartoon depicting a snake — divided into sections representing the separate colonies — with a caption that read: "Join, or Die." But the symbol of the rattlesnake became most well-known on the Gadsden Flag, prefaced by the words "Don't Tread on Me."



Well, we have failed to live up to those words we love. We have permitted our lives and rights to be trampled. So, it is time to get back to basics. We need to restore freedom and liberty. In short, we must "Join, or Die."

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you.

Yours in Liberty — Randy Gearhart



1. The war, waged on behalf of big pharma and big medicine, began in 1906 with the passage of the Pure Food and Drugs Act.

2. Harmony Cone's website is www.harmonycone.com.

3. The complaint is posted at http://www.healthfreedomusa.org/?page_id=5209.

4. The petition can be found at salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/568/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=2521.