IDEAS ON LIBERTY

True Function Of Money

The function of monetary system is not to manipulate the flow of credit and banking transactions to maintain a given, or even stable, price level; nor is the function to create employment. The money system should be managed neither in the interest of creditors nor of debtors; neither in the interest of producers nor consumers; neither in the interest of government nor of taxpayers. The function of government is to maintain the integrity of the standard; its function toward money is the same as toward the measure of length or of weight or of quantity. It is as corrupt to vary the standard of value and deferred payments as to change the length of the yard in the interest of cloth merchants, or the content of a bushel in the interest of wheat farmers.

The means of maintaining the standard is the definition of the dollar in terms of a given weight of silver or gold; since 1900, the sole metal of the standard has been gold; the dollar is still by law and statute defined in terms of gold. The regime under which the money system has been corrupted came to a climax in 1934 when the mint was closed to the free coinage of gold. The mechanism by which the circulation is always adequate to the needs of trade is that of free coinage. Under free coinage anyone can bring gold to the mint and have it coined only for the cost of mintage. Under this system the free market, rather than a bureaucracy, determines the amount of circulating media.

—Elgin Groseclose, The Freeman

Maturity

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction.

Maturity is the patience, the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of the long-term gain.

Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in spite of opposition and discouraging setbacks.

Maturity is unselfishness - responding to the needs of others, often at the expense of one's own desires or wishes.

Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse.

Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And when right, the mature person need not say, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and stand by it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities; then do nothing.

Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word, coming through in the crisis. The immature are masters of alibi-confused and disorganized. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions which cannot change.

You are only young once but you can stay immature indefinitely.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

What Our Founding Fathers Said About Guns

Patrick Henry declared, "The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able may have a gun."

Samuel Webster in 1777: "Tyrants always build their government on standing armies, and if possible the people are disarmed."

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed and equipped."

Alexander Hamilton

"The Constitution can never be construed to deny those citizens which are peaceful the right to keep their own arms."

Samuel Adams

"Besides the advantage of being armed, which the American people possess over the people of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments to which the people are attached, and by which the militia officers are appointed, forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable...Notwithstanding the military establishments in the several kingdoms of Europe, which are carried as far as the public resources will bear, the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."

James Madison.

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Teacher: "Stevie, do you believe that George Washington could have pitched a dollar across the Potomac River as the saying goes?"

Stevie: "I guess so. Our history book says he pitched his camp across the Delaware River when the British were pursuing him."

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If offence be taken at the truth, it is better that scandal should arise than that the truth be abandoned.

—St. Gregory

Amid The Sliding Sands

The men who laid the foundations and reared the soaring arches of our great Republic had a vigorous, indomitable, and all-incompassing belief in God. Faith permeated their thoughts, their words and deeds. We see Thomas Jefferson's hand guiding the quill which wrote, "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man." We see George Washington, when the fires of hope had flickered to embers, kneeling in the snow at Valley Forge. And we see wise old Ben Franklin suggesting to a Constitutional Convention, deadlocked time after time, that "we have prayers every morning."

This nation was born out of faith in God. It can continue to exist in freedom only as that faith remains forthright and strong. A statesman of a past age said, "Despotism may govern without faith, but Liberty cannot."

Faith in God remains the solid rock that stands unmoved amid the sliding sands. The antithesis of cynicism, it is the dynamo which sparks the minds and actions of men who think beyond the pettiness of self. It is the tie which binds mankind in mystic unity, exalting the human creature until, indeed, he is "little lower than the angels." And it is the balm which salves the sting of time and death.

Faith in God has meant to me the enjoyment of those manifold "blessings of liberty" which the Founding Fathers sought to secure for all posterity. It is a fathomless source from which to draw strength in times of adversity. And it has helped me to catch a glimpse of the wisdom implicit in those immutable laws by which He rules His universe.

—J. Edgar Hoover

Founding Fathers Believed In God

There are many recorded statements by the Founding Fathers which prove that they believed in the existence of God. One of the best is the one made to the Constitutional Convention by Benjamin Franklin. He said: "In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, sirs, were heard and they were graciously answered. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

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I would like to hear some of the members of this House give more credit to Providence and to God Almighty than they do for saving the Union. I recall an anecdote of the War of 1812 that bears on providential interposition. On the evening before the battle of New Orleans, a British and American picket came near enough to hold a colloquy when the Britisher ventured the prediction that a battle would result the next day. Forecasting events, he said, "On our side we have General Keane, General Gibbs and Lord Pakenham, and we will be bound to whip you." The Kentuckian replied, "Well on our side we have the Lord God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ, and Old Hickory Jackson, and if we don't whip you, I'll be damned!"

—South Carolina Representative W. Jasper Talbert, 1900

Only In America

"He drove his German car made of Swedish steel and interior of Argentine leather to a gasoline station, where he filled up with Arab oil shipped in a Liberian tanker and bought two French tires, composed of rubber from Sri Lanka.

"At home, he dropped his Moroccan briefcase, hung up his Scottish tweed wool coat, removed his Italian shoes and Egyptian cotton shirt, then donned a Hong Kong robe.

"More comfortable now, he poured a cup of hot Brazilian coffee into an English coffee mug, set a Mexican placemat on an Irish linen tablecloth atop a Danish table varnished with linseed oil from India. Then he filled his Austrian pipe with Turkish tobacco, lit it, and picked up a Japanese ballpoint pen with which he wrote a letter to his congressman demanding to know why the United States has an unfavorable balance of trade."

—The American Legion

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There is nothing mysterious about criminal laws. Such laws are but logical expressions of social conscience that, in essence, codify the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.

—Judge Clifton M. Kelly

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Not too long ago; the cause celebre was bilingual education in our schools. Today, it is bilingual ballots for elections. Tomorrow, will it be different tongues for the general population? The Constitution of the United States is written in English. English is the mother tongue of the Country. Let us keep it that way!

—Joseph DiMattina