



ROSSMOOR NEWS

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

The newspaper serving the senior adult community of Rossmoor. For more information, go to the Web site at www.rossmoor.com

Republican Perspective

By Tom Hensley

A Conservative Rambling

I am the newest and hopefully regular contributor to the “Republican Perspective” column. I plan to write a number of columns about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with its 27 amendments. It will be from a layman’s and decidedly inexpert point of view. In fact, it will be “kind of thinking out loud.” I am not a constitutional scholar, just an electrical engineer with a passion for our Founding Fathers’ masterpiece. Current events may, of course, cause me to write about those things, too. In this article I hope to acquaint you with my philosophy of government and policy.

Conservatism

I am a conservative through and through, both fiscally and socially. I believe big government is confining and stunts our own and our country’s ability and opportunity to grow. I am not a compassionate conservative. I am an enthusiastic conservative. I believe the glass is half full. Compassion is for those who are disabled or can’t otherwise cope with today’s world. They need and deserve our help and government (which is us) should provide that help. But being poor and down on our luck should not be disabling; it should be challenging.

Fiscal policy

I believe as many conservatives do that people do best who do for themselves. They not only are proud of themselves but also are happier for it. Doing for one’s self means the government must get out of the way and let we the people grow and expand our enterprises. The government’s only role in commerce is to keep the playing field level with such things as anti-trust laws and interstate commerce rules. Other than that, they need to stay out of business. The government’s powers are enumerated and limited to those enumerated in the Constitution.

We don’t need thousands of pages of environmental rules, banking rules and other commerce rules. All we need are a few simple, easy-to-understand rules that allow us to compete equally. These rules of commerce should have sunset clauses that insist the law

be revisited periodically to see if the law is still relevant and that it is doing what it was intended to do. Otherwise it should expire and die a happy death.

I believe the Federal Reserve System or FED is a necessary evil. So far I think Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is doing a good job. It is a tough job of balancing the need for liquidity in the money market place and negotiating between inflation and deflation. During this last recession he has prevented, I think, a repeat of the fiscal policies before the Great Depression, where liquidity froze up and deflation took off and was virtually unstoppable. In the early to mid-1970s we had the opposite situation where easy money and a world oil shortage caused inflation and a stagnant economy. It took Paul Volker, the FED chairman, to institute tight money and bring the economy under control.

Social policy

I believe in family and the importance of the family unit to our country's mores. Without close, intact families it is difficult for children to grow up to be good people and to be successful. Not impossible mind you, but difficult. I think our divorce rate and the birth of out-of-wedlock children are contributors to this difficulty. Infanticide is no cure for this difficulty either.

I believe in live and let live in all its connotations, including those with differing views of sexuality.

I won't ramble on anymore; I think you get the basics of my thinking.

Tom Hensley can be emailed at tomhlwedge@aol.com.