

Privatization

31 Dec. 2005

Lest there be any confusion engendered by the end of year celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, the god of our supreme leaders is named "The Market". The new God promises neither celestial justice nor eternal life, but unprecedented wealth here on earth for the chosen people, and one of the main tenets of our new faith is that privatization must be the primary goal of our evangelical missionaries in Congress and in other positions of power and influence. Huge strides have been made in the US, in services ranging from garbage collection to primary education, and the World Bank is winning its crusade to convert the heathen in unevolved parts of the world. There remain many opportunities for further transformation. Logistical activities in the military are increasingly being taken over by private contractors, just as private security guards have replaced the police in gated residential communities. There's no reason why Fire Departments shouldn't be privatized as well. Our private medical system has produced cutting edge quality at the top and, in addition to generating huge profits, it has allowed some of that excellence to trickle down to even the most humble of people in our midst. School districts, facing court decisions mandating equal public funding for all races and classes of students, have had their public funding stripped to the bare bones while computer labs and hockey team equipment in affluent districts are now funded by Local Educational Foundations. Thus, the defacto privatization of our school system is a practical reality. Our public universities are either creeping toward privatization and private level tuition, or are being marginalized. A recent Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. New London*, furthered the new creed, in affirming the right of eminent domain to allow local governments to seize private homes standing in the way of private developers' schemes for large scale redevelopment.

The growth of Federal spending levels would appear to be in conflict with another central article of faith, i.e. that all taxes are a mostly unnecessary evil. In an attempt to bring our lives in harmony with our new creed, we would like to offer a few suggestions for further privatization and reduced public spending.

- Although various Senators and Congressmen have vowed to eliminate government subsidies to Amtrak and other public transit, none have offered a bolder and wider approach in dealing with that disgraceful socialist remnant of the past, the national highway system. We therefore propose the selling of all streets, roads and highways in the US at public auction, a move that would eliminate the need for a vast number of taxes used for construction and maintenance of roads. The new owners could apply user fees in a number of innovative ways. For example, pre-paid user tickets from NY to Florida and back could be marketed to retirees, and the owners could schedule the hours and days when trucks would be permitted to use their highways. Homeowners could pay an annual fee for access to their home, and, for a small annual premium, could be allowed pre-approved visitors. The system might be more complex in town centers, but the complexity would be an unprecedented boon to American entrepreneurial cunning. For example, the owners could insist that entry fees be paid by the manufacturers of any vehicles to be allowed on their streets, or deals could be made with the big oil companies to assure that only vehicles fueled by their products could gain wide access. The marketing possibilities are endless.
- While Congress endlessly fiddles around with the selling off of mineral, grazing, and timber rights to national parks and other government lands, we urge that the members display some backbone and legislate the sale of all rivers, lakes and oceans, out to the twelve mile limit, to assure that these bodies of water would be put to the best use. Owners could then sue anyone dumping chemicals, etc. into their waters who hasn't paid them in advance for the privilege, and extract maximum revenues from their use. Our airwaves have corporate owners who exploit them to the maximum. Why should the Hudson and Mississippi Rivers, for example, be allowed to generate less wealth?
- We noted above that many military activities have been taken over by private contractors. However, these activities are still being financed by tax dollars. Many among us are not

happy with what's being done with our money. Abolish the military! Sell it! Our Bill of Rights assures our right to bear arms and to keep well-armed militias. The US has always been a self reliant nation and we should take pride in furnishing our own security.

- Put a halt to Congressional, Judicial and Executive Branch salaries and benefits. Although well paid with tax payer dollars, these people have already been privatized, gaining vastly more from corporate lobbyists than we could hope to pay them, so why should we, the low bidders, continue to pay when the high rollers already have taken all the contracts?

While the above policies are founded upon theologically correct assumptions, when implemented they will produce pragmatic benefits. The US labor market will regain a competitive edge and the tide of illegal immigration will be not only stemmed, but reversed, as the birth rate of the newly impoverished and undereducated non-owner class soars. Furthermore, we can't count on the Chinese and the Japanese buying our bonds indefinitely to sustain the dollar. By putting our highways, waterways and military services on the market, we open a vast range of possibilities to new foreign investment.

Wishing you all a better tomorrow and a **Happy New Year!**



CCN

The Cat Cartoon Network
Fair and Nuanced
All the rats fit to trap

Contact us at the Punditalia HQ in South Central Umbria
rpdg2001@yahoo.com