

Ethan Allen Institute

Newsletter - July 2013 (Print Edition)

Top Story:

THANK YOU! EAI 20TH Anniversary Dinner a great success

Thank you to everyone who participated in a truly fun and inspiring event. About two hundred sixty people packed the Emerald Ball Room at the Sheraton to honor and poke some fun at EAI founder, John McClaughry.

Thanks to our speaker, John Mitchell, Governor Tom Salmon, and Governor Jim Douglas, for their wit and wisdom, and to Rusty Dewees “The Logger” for bringing down the house.

Special thanks to our sponsors, who made the dinner and our activities possible and to Johnston Consulting for their good work in making everything come off smoothly.

And, of course, thanks to John McClaughry for his 20 years of service to the Institute, and for his lifetime of service to the cause of American Liberty.

For those who wanted to be there but couldn't, or for those who wish to remember again, here are some highlights from the evening... (go to www.ethanallen.org for video of the evening's program)

Commentaries: Most Likely to Secede

By John McClaughry

This spring the Vermont Independence Press of Waitsfield came out with a collection of essays published since 2005 in its quarterly magazine Vermont Commons. It's entitled Most Likely to Secede, but very little of it gets into the arguments for getting Vermont out of the decadent United States.

The argument for Vermont Independence is the need for Vermont to secede from the United States of America and return to its status, until 1791, of an independent republic. The Second Vermont Republic partisans' main rationale for their proposal was, when it first appeared, to get suffering Vermonters out from under the corporate-dominated, globalized, rich-serving, pro-nuclear, war-making, immoral and generally

hateful Bush-Cheney Empire.

Not so much is heard of that any more, since America is now led by corporate-dominated, globalized, rich-serving, pro-nuclear, war-making, debt-increasing administration of Barack Obama, “who has proved to be a good friend of the corporate and Wall Street interests that underwrite his campaigns” (Ron Miller).

In fact only three of the 35 authors included in the book explicitly advocate Vermont secession. Of more interest and value is the book’s subtitle: “what the independence movement can teach us about reclaiming community and creating a human scale vision for the 21st Century.” The 35 authors do not necessarily agree with all ideas offered by the others (notably so in my case; I wrote the historical essay on “Left and Right Decentralism”.) But the authors share a broad consensus about what a future decentralist Vermont could come to look like.

It would cease to be “a nation of overfed clowns who believed that it was possible to get something for nothing, who ravaged the landscape in an orgy of wanton carelessness, who believed we were entitled to lives of everlasting comfort and convenience and expected the rest of the world to pay for it.” (James Howard Kunstler).

It would, like the people of Amish country, be more dependent on its own people for the provision of food, clothing and shelter, making use of “intermediate technology” understandable and repairable by local people. The most extreme version of this is Kirkpatrick Sale’s: “using raw local (instead of imported) materials, nurturing local ingenuity without patent and copyright restrictions, and agreeing to abandon as unnecessary and undesirable almost everything manufactured at the factory level anywhere and anyhow.”

It would produce its own sustenance, using ecological design, organic crops, permaculture, soil nourishment, and Community Supported Agriculture. Its energy consumption would be considerably reduced, through efficiency in design, lifestyle changes, home-based work, draft animals, conservation, and replacement of grid electricity with locally generated hydro, wind, solar and biomass.

It would educate its young people in a wide variety of settings, on a human scale, “rejecting the yoke of standardization and enforced conformity” (Ron Miller). (The obvious way to do that is to install parental choice, but that’s too much for Miller to bite off.)

Its health care would be decentralized and community based, where patients consider the effects on the community of demanding expensive high tech “solutions” (Thomas Naylor). A community culture supporting wise nutrition and healthful lifestyles would improve public health. Interestingly, Naylor believes the Vermont single payer health care plan “will never see the light of day. Neither the governor nor the members of the legislature have a clue as to how much it will cost or how it will be financed. It’s pure pie in the sky.”

Finally, the new resilient, sustainable, low-impact Vermont would have a culture of democratic concern for “the commons” (water, air, the town square). Its citizens would be tied together not only by face to face interactions and common civic endeavors, but also through electronic Front Porch Forums (made possible, one might observe, by the global computer industry and the Internet). Its diverse local currency plans would deter financial leakage out of their areas of circulation, and thus stimulate local economies.

There are some obvious omissions, impracticalities, and weak points in this vision, but it would be unkind to dwell on them. What is refreshing about the book is that the authors, unlike socialists, do not envision or support the idea of some right-thinking vanguard seizing political power and coercing the population into taking their assigned places in the Grand Design.

They look forward to an active, public spirited citizenry, free to reshape their local communities through their own efforts, examples, persuasion, and enterprise. This is a goal worth supporting, and despite its title, *Most Likely to Secede* offers many ways to get there.

Commentary: Free Markets are necessary for a strong future

By Shayne Spence

It seems like free markets get a bad rap these days. After being blamed for the financial crisis, rising healthcare costs, and income inequality, free market solutions are being replaced with more and more government intervention. Young people, tending to be altruistic, accept these government interventions, believing they help the poor, protect the weak, and provide services we all depend on. But along with these programs come mandates, taxes, and higher cost of living. They come with an inordinate amount of government control, and my generation tends to be wary of that. Recent scandals in the Obama administration have only served to make the youth more suspicious of government overreach into our lives. Warrantless wiretaps, IRS abuses of power, and massive data collection by the NSA all beg the question; why should we, as independent youth, accept orders from a government that is increasingly untrustworthy?

Young people want two things; we want education, and we want jobs. The current administration has promised both, but has failed to deliver on either in a meaningful way. The cost of a college education is through the roof, despite (because of!) increased government subsidies through low interest Stafford loans. Increasing government involvement in education has led to increased costs and decreased value. Students are graduating with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, only to find that the jobs we trained for are no longer there (or never were, Art History majors). We are faced with paying off our debts, working jobs that our degrees don't apply to, and little room for upward mobility. It has become clear that education policies determined in Washington will not improve our futures.

The mandates and regulations implemented in ObamaCare make our problems worse. Young people tend to agree with the sentiment that we should provide medical care to the poor. Washington's policies, however, hurt us as we attempt to enter the workforce. Employers are already hesitant to hire as a result of high taxes and red tape. The new healthcare law requires that all full-time employees have insurance coverage provided through their employer. In response to this expensive mandate, companies and school districts across the nation are cutting employees to part-time status. At the same time, costs of individual healthcare plans are expected to increase by up to 146% in some areas of the country, as reported by Forbes. So, the healthcare law will hurt young people

disproportionately, in the forms of higher premiums, higher taxes, and lower wages – if you can find a full-time job at all.

Government is good at one thing, however: spending our money. With all of these mandates, programs, and subsidies comes a cost, and that cost is adding up. At \$17 trillion, the national debt is 107% of GDP, according to the International Monetary Fund. The government would have to tax 100% of earnings for nearly 13 months to fully pay it off, while cutting spending to \$0. Or each American citizen would have to write a check for \$55,000. And unlike personal debt, this debt does not die with the generation that accumulated it. Government debt falls upon those who were not old enough to vote, or were not even born, when the decisions were made. Young graduates, while paying off our astronomical student loans and record-high insurance premiums, with jobs that don't apply to our education, will be expected to pay a nearly 70% effective tax rate in order to pay the bills our parents and grandparents have racked up -- all while attempting to build a foundation for ourselves and our children. It doesn't seem fair to ask us to pay for these programs that will never benefit us.

There is a crucial debate to have about the role of government moving forward. Increasing healthcare costs must be addressed. Providing quality education to our youth is necessary to build a brighter future. Instead of more of the same one-size-fits-all policies from Washington, entrepreneurial young people should be allowed to solve these issues. We are the generation that created Facebook, Google, and Napster, completely changing the way we interact, learn, and enjoy our free time. This did not happen as the result of some policy; this happened because young people can see the way forward on a variety of issues. With more of this innovation, it would be a simple matter to solve the most pressing issues of our time. Government's stale interventionism has had its day. Free markets hold the answers to our problems, and we should let them work.

Commentary: Lessons from the Mountain School at Winhall

By Rob Roper

The kerfuffle that erupted in the state legislature this past year after North Bennington's decision to close their local public elementary school and embrace a school choice/independent school model to educate their children ended, as so many Montpelier kerfuffles end, with the appointment of a summer study committee.

Act 56 states, "There is created a committee to research and consider both the opportunities and challenges created by closing a public school with the intention or result of reopening it as an approved independent school that serves essentially the same population of students and receives publicly funded tuition dollars."

The Mountain School at Winhall (MSW) is the first place to look for answers to those questions. MSW is a public school that "went independent" fifteen years ago (1998) and served as the model for North Bennington's new independent Village School opening next fall. Both schools are established upon Vermont's Town Academy model,

just like the long standing institutions of Burr & Burton, St. Johnsbury Academy, Thetford Academy, and the Lyndon Institute, in which public tax dollars flow to independent schools through community approval and parental choice.

So far, Winhall and North Bennington are the only modern-day communities to take this step of “going independent,” and MSW is the only one with a track record we can evaluate.

The timing of Winhall’s decision to go independent, essentially taking a very local, market-based approach to education reform, interestingly coincides perfectly with Vermont’s state-driven, centralized education reform, Act 60, which became law in 1997. So, how have these parallel experiments fared where the rubber meets the road – controlling costs, attracting students, and, most importantly, educating kids?

According to Daren Houck, the current headmaster at MSW, the public Winhall Elementary School had the highest per-pupil spending of any k-12 school in the state in 1997 at \$12,600 (the state average at the time was just under \$7000). Academically, it was one of the worst performing, with low test scores, disciplinary problems, and, naturally, disgruntled parents.

For the 2012-2013 school year, tuition at MSW, which replaced Winhall Elementary, was \$13,160 – significantly less than the current Vermont statewide average of \$16,000 per student. To put these numbers in perspective, since the legislature passed Act 60, independent MSW’s tuitions have increased by 4.4%, well below the rate of inflation, while the traditional public school cost has increased by 138%.

Test scores? Today in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), MSW 8th graders score 13 points above the state reading average, 16 points above the state math average, and 19 points above the state writing average. Statewide test scores in the public schools since passage of Act 60 have essentially remained flat, despite the explosion in costs.

Another Vermont trend MSW is bucking is falling student populations. MSW opened in 1998 with just thirty-six students. Today it attracts over eighty students from nine towns, and two countries through an international student exchange program. Statewide, since the passage of Act 60, the K-12 student population in Vermont has dropped from 106,000 to roughly 85,000 and is expected continue this downward trend.

No doubt some folks are thinking that the independent MSW must be cherry picking the top students and abandoning the special needs kids. Nope. MSW guarantees admission to any child from the “sending towns” that vote to pay the tuition, and is approved for all twelve categories of special education by the Vermont Agency of Education.

What’s the secret to success? Houck told a meeting of the School Choice Caucus in Montpelier, “[Parents] understand that there is choice. And that understanding to the Mountain School really motivated us to enhance our programs to increase our achievement, to do whatever it would take to draw families – students – from surrounding areas.”

What’s more, Houck recognizes that the competition hasn’t just improved outcomes at MSW. “We recognized that we had to be competitive, and families recognized that there were many good options, both public and independent. And, so, over the last nine years that I’ve been at MSW, I have seen the Dorset school test off the charts, Manchester Middle and Elementary... has been a traditionally has been a very

positive school. Flood Brook is increasing their achievement. Maple Street, which is just down the road is a K-8 independent school... this competition has really improved us.”

Vermont desperately needs to find a way to contain education costs while improving outcomes for our children. The model is there. Towns like Winhall and North Bennington have seized upon it. According to Daren Houck, Addison, Bethel, Burke, Craftsbury, Killington, Manchester, Rochester, Thetford and others are looking into adopting the independent town academy model. Let’s hope our legislators learn enough from their study committee to start encouraging these innovations rather than ban them, which, of course, was their first (and very foolish) instinct.

Commentary: Gut Check on “Climate Change”

By John McClaughry

For the past twenty years Vermonters have been fed a heavy diet of terrors originally labeled the Menace of Global Warming – then renamed “climate change” after the predicted warming failed to appear.

This diet also includes lots of urgent proposals for making Vermont the world leader in battling “climate change”, victory over which will presumably occur when the climate finally stops changing.

All of these proposals have called for new mandates, new bureaucracies, more subsidies to the renewable industrial complex, and of course more taxes.

The most ardent and determined Vermont proponent of this war - especially in advocating the handouts to the wind and solar investors - has been Governor Peter Shumlin. Back in 2006 he was telling reporters that “I think [the # 1 issue] is global warming and keeping this planet from destroying itself and keeping us from destroying this planet in front of our own eyes.” Two years later he was the lead sponsor of the VPIRG “extreme green makeover” bill, based on “making global warming the top priority of everything we do, not only in government but also in our own personal and private lives.”

Shumlin announced that our failure to defeat global warming would lead to an “unspeakably horrid future” for our grandchildren. Three years ago he said “that our planet is warming at an alarming rate is undeniable”, and declared, as Pope Urban VIII declared to Galileo about the sun revolving about the Earth, that “any other conclusion is simply irresponsible”.

Soon after his election as governor he created a “Climate Cabinet” with thirteen specific duties, including, of course, “securing federal and state funding” for programs to make “climate change” stop. In doing so he alluded to “wild weather caused by climate change...including increased snowfalls and flooding, unpredictable storms and more.”

There are four components to the Shumlin Climate Theology: first, the climate is doing terrible things; second, we irresponsible humans, addicted to carbon combustion, are producing these dangerous changes; third, government must force us to stop, through a broad array of taxes, mandates, regulations, and subsidies; and fourth, all this is completely beyond debate: “the science is settled”, so shut up. This theology is

impervious to facts.

Here are just three recent discoveries that ought to give a reasonable person some real doubts about the Gospel of Human-Caused Global Warming.

First, despite a ten percent increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration since 1998, the global temperature anomaly curve has remained flat. A chart prepared by climatologist Dr. Roy Spencer compares the UN IPCC's 1990-2012 temperature projections with actual satellite-measured global temperatures. All of the IPCC projections, not just the scariest ones, are notably hotter than what has actually happened. The never-validated supercomputer projections cannot even represent known past temperatures. Therefore they are worthless.

Second, Dr. John Christy, an internationally-known NASA-funded climatologist who has participated in all of the IPCC assessments, recently summarized events thus:

- Popular scare stories that weather extremes – hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods — are getting worse are not based on fact.
- In the U.S., high temperature records are not becoming more numerous.
- Even if climate models were correct, a 50% reduction in U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 would avert only 0.07°C of warming by 2100.
- The climate change impact of enhancing CO2 concentrations has so far been small compared to the public health and biospheric benefits provided by affordable, carbon-based energy.
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Third, despite the ridicule of such propagandists as Bill McKibben, real scientists (notably at CERN, in Geneva) have confirmed a mechanism whereby variations in solar charged particle emissions produce terrestrial climate change well above and beyond the effect of the solar energy arriving on earth. The magnitude of the effect is still being debated, but the forthcoming IPCC assessment (AR5) is likely to concede that much of the unexplained warming previously attributed by the Global Warming crowd to “human causes” is in fact a product of solar activity.

These and other developments have thrown the Shumlin Climate Theology into the recycling bin, along with phrenology, Lysenkoism, spooks, and goblins. The sooner all of Shumlin's yearned-for “climate change” taxes, mandates, and subsidies are repealed, the better for Vermonters and our economy.

Events

Freedom & Unity Festival - Friday-Sunday, August 16-18 at the The Woods at Wihakowi in Northfield, VT. Special guest speakers on Saturday the 17th include Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm, Adam Kokesh, of Adam Vs The Man and , Michael Boldin, founder of the Tenth Amendment Center. For more information, contact Vermonters for Liberty.

Constitution Day Celebration - Saturday, September 16th at Taylor Park, Main Street in St. Albans. American Patriots of all ages are invited and welcome to help celebrate our U.S. Constitution. For more information, contact Linda Kirker at American Conservative

Recent Federal Roll Call Votes

Student Loan Rates Bill – Cloture - Vote Rejected (40-57, 2 Not Voting)

After a protracted battle, Congress last year passed a compromise extension of the current rate –3.4 percent – until July 1, 2013. After this date, interest rates on these loans will double. With that deadline looming, both parties are yet again wide apart on a method for setting interest rates permanently. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., authored this alternative to House Republicans’ bill for setting some federal student loan rates. The House plan (H.R. 1911) pegs Stafford subsidized and unsubsidized loans to the rate of 10-year Treasury notes plus 2.5% and plus 4.5% for Direct PLUS loans. Coburn’s bill more or less split the difference, pegging Stafford and Direct PLUS loans to the 10-year Treasury rate plus 3.0% at the time of loan origination. With current Treasury bill rates at 1.75 percent, Coburn argued that college students enrolling this fall would lock in a rate of 4.75 percent for the life of the loan. Senate Democrats continue to reject any approach to setting student loans permanently that ties interest rates to financial markets. Only Democrat Thomas R. Carper of Delaware crossed the aisle to vote for the bill, while five Republicans voted against the measure.

Sen. Patrick Leahy voted **NO**

Sen. Bernard Sanders voted **NO**

Student Loan Rates Bill – Cloture - Vote Rejected (51-46, 2 Not Voting)

In May, Senate Democrats introduced their alternative to a House Republican plan for setting Federal Direct Stafford Loan interest rates. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., would have extended the 3.4 percent rates on Stafford Loans for another two years. It would have paid for the estimated \$8.3 billion cost of this extension by closing tax loopholes on some pensions and corporate accounts and by applying an excise tax on oil produced from tar sands. The vote to invoke cloture failed almost entirely along partisan lines, with only Democrat Joe Manchin III of West Virginia breaking ranks to vote no with all Senate Republicans. Although it failed, the bill is a line in the sand for the Senate majority, which strongly opposes the market-based House plan that would tie interest rates to the market interest rate of 10-year Treasury bills and allow rates to rise up to 10.5 percent for some loans. Congress now has three weeks to find a compromise solution before rates double on July 1.

Sen. Patrick Leahy voted **YES**

Sen. Bernard Sanders voted **YES**

FY 2014 Defense Authorization – Passage - Vote Passed (315-108, 11 Not Voting)

After voting on a series of amendments, including rejecting one from Adam Smith, D-Wash. to close the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba by the end of 2014, the House passed this bill authorizing spending on the Defense Department and national security programs for fiscal year 2014. Ignoring the White House administration's threat to veto the bill, they passed a \$638.4 billion measure that includes \$85.8 billion for war costs, requirements for the Defense secretary to detail military intervention options in Syria, and new guidelines and harsher penalties for sexual assault in the armed services. Sexual assault amendments from Lois Frankel, D-Fla., and Michael R. Turner, R-Ohio, making it an offense to abuse one's authority in the chain of command and establishing mandatory minimum sentences of discharge, dismissal and confinement for certain offenses, respectively, were adopted.

Rep. Peter Welch voted **NO**

FY2014 Military Construction & Veterans Affairs Appropriations – Passage - Vote Passed (421-4, 8 Not Voting)

After approving one amendment from Mark Amodei, R-Nev., specifying \$44 million in funds dedicated to reducing disability claims backlogs in Veterans Benefits Administration offices, the House passed its first fiscal 2014 spending bill last Tuesday to fund military construction and Department of Veterans Affairs programs with \$157.8 billion. It provides \$73.3 billion in discretionary funds, including \$55 billion for veterans health services, and \$84.5 billion in mandatory spending covering veterans service compensation, benefits and pensions. Adding in another \$10 billion for military construction, such as \$1.5 billion for military family housing, the House-approved legislation is \$1.4 billion less than President Barack Obama requested and \$2.4 billion more than the fiscal 2013 level that included cuts due to sequestration. It also provides \$55.6 billion in advance appropriations for select VA medical care accounts for the 2015 fiscal year. The legislation now goes to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; however, a markup still has not been scheduled for the bill.

Rep. Peter Welch voted **YES**

FY2014 Homeland Security Appropriations – Amendment Vote - Vote Agreed to (224-201, 9 Not Voting)

After clearing their first spending bill, two days later the House moved onto their second, funding the Homeland Security Department. The House passed, on a mostly party-line vote, Iowa Republican Steve King's amendment that would bar the use of funds to implement or enforce six internal Homeland Security Department policies, including one from June 12, 2012 that granted temporary legal status to the so-called Dream Act immigrants – people younger than 31 who are in school and arrived in the United States prior to turning 16, have graduated or have served in the military, and do not have a criminal record. King said in House floor debate on June 5, "The president does not have the authority to waive immigration law, nor does he have the authority to create it out of

thin air.”

Rep. Peter Welch voted **NO**

FY2014 Homeland Security Appropriations – Passage - Vote Passed (245-182, 7 Not Voting) After the House completed votes on amendments, they passed Homeland Security appropriations legislation for the 2014 fiscal year, funding the department and related activities with \$46.1 billion (\$38.9 billion in discretionary funds and \$5.6 billion in emergency disaster aid). The funds include \$10.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection, \$5.4 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, \$7.2 billion for the Transportation Security Administration and \$9.9 billion each for the Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. An issue that may cause problems with Senate approval is an approved provision to prohibit federal funding for ICE to provide abortions for detainees, except in extreme circumstances including rape, incest or endangerment of the life of the woman. Like the Military Construction-VA legislation, the future for the Homeland Security appropriations bill is uncertain and is not on the Senate schedule, as of yet.

Rep. Peter Welch voted **NO**

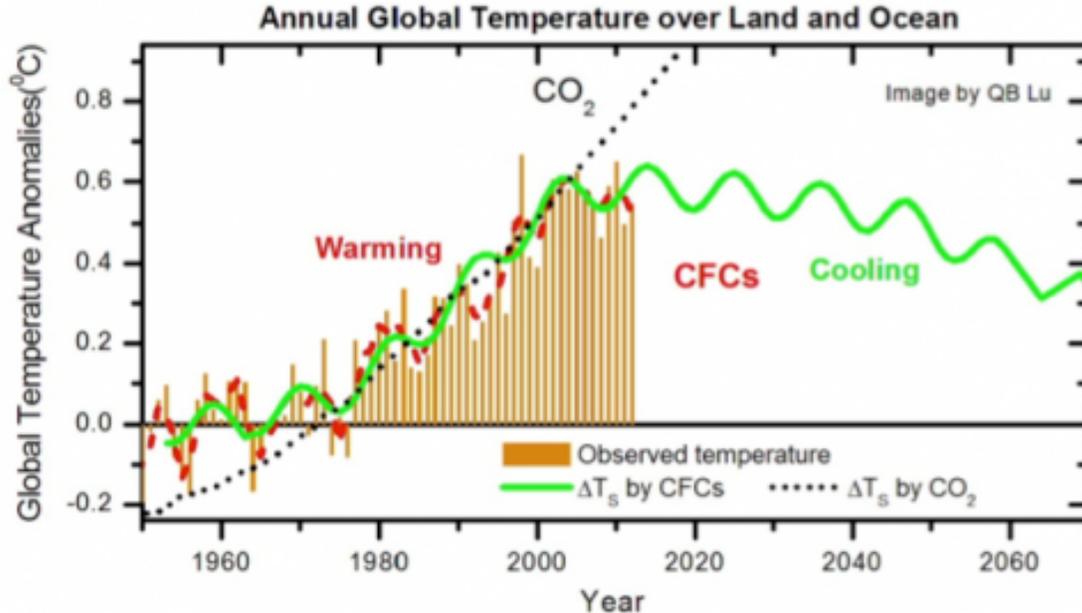
News & Views

Congratulations to GW Plastics of Bethel for winning the Deane C. Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award. The Award was created by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine 23 years ago. GW Plastics was also a Silver Sponsor of EAI’s 20th anniversary dinner celebration. At least six of the 23 Davis Award businesses have provided support for EAI over the years.

NYT Wonders Where Global Warming Went: On June 11 the New York Times headlined, “What to Make of a Warming Plateau”. In the Times’ Science section, Justin Gillis writes: “The rise in the surface temperature of earth has been markedly slower over the last 15 years than in the 20 years before that. And that lull in warming has occurred even as greenhouse gases have accumulated in the atmosphere at a record pace.”

Study says global warming caused by CFCs interacting with cosmic rays, not carbon dioxide. From the University of Waterloo, an extraordinary claim. While plausible, due to the fact that CFC’s have very high GWP numbers, their atmospheric concentrations compared to CO2 are quite low, and the radiative forcings they add are small by comparison to CO2. This may be nothing more than coincidental correlation. But, I have to admit, the graph is visually compelling.

<http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/abs/10.1142/S0217979213500732>



Polar bears thriving with changing climate: Exciting news about polar bears in eastern Canada: a new peer-reviewed paper concludes that despite sea ice having declined since the 1970s, polar bear numbers in Davis Strait have not only increased to a greater density than other seasonal-ice subpopulations, but it may now have reached its ‘carrying capacity.’ This is great news. But where is the shouting from the roof-tops? This peer-reviewed paper was published February 19, 2013. No press release was issued that I could find and consequently, there was no news coverage. Funny, that. --Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, 10 June 2013

... But, “green energy” threatens endangered whales. “The Orca Conservancy — the national nonprofit created to protect the killer whale and its habitat — has urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) not to grant a license to the Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD) in Washington State for its [green energy] tidal pilot project. The group fears that the 386 metric ton turbines and their accompanying noise would seriously harm the orca population which transits and forages in Admiralty Inlet, where the project would be located.” (Daily Caller, 6/25/2013)

... And, threatens endangered Vermont bats. The [Lowell Mountain Wind] utility has asked for a state permit to kill four of the endangered creatures a year at its 21-turbine Lowell wind project. GMP says if it has to follow all the protections needed to spare every bat from getting thrashed by the turbine blades, it would cost the utility \$4 million a year in reduced power output. “I think it’s entirely inappropriate with regard to renewable energy and ecosystem protection to open the box to killing endangered species,” he said. “That to me makes no sense.” (VPR, 6/17/13)

... Not to mention humans. "Lowell Mtn. turbines exceeded noise limits. The state says

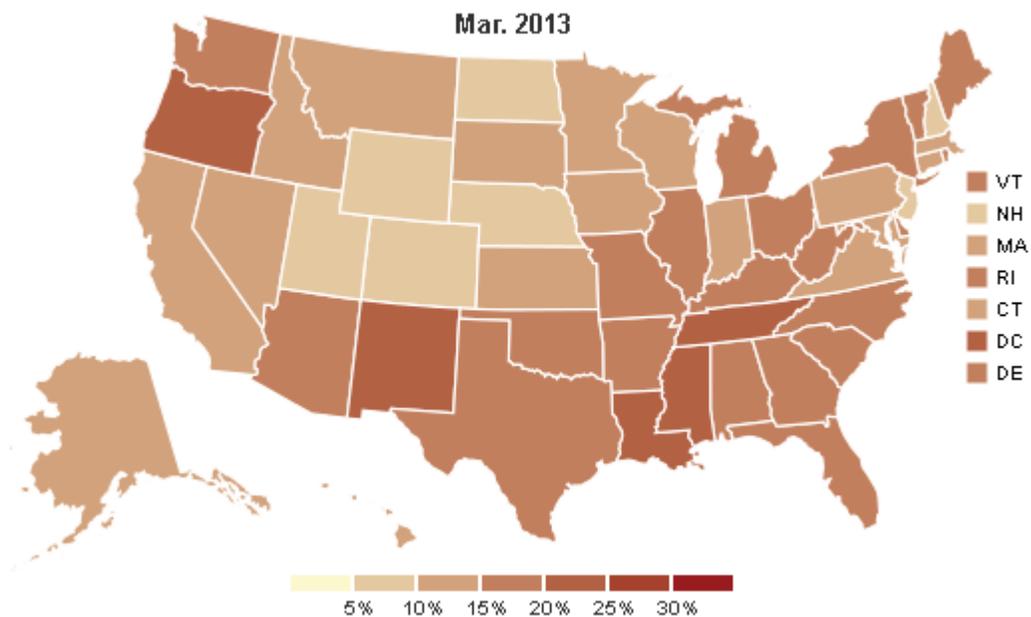
the Lowell Mountain wind project exceeded noise limits last winter. The Department of Public Service wants utility regulators to find the project in violation for exceeding the limits four times. But they also want the Vermont Service Board to hold off on sanctions for Green Mountain Power -- which operates the wind project -- and give the utility time to fix the problems causing that noise. Project opponents want the turbines shut down until GMP can show there will be no violations. (WCAX, 6/17/13)

Vermont "green" policy a fraud within a fraud. The state of Connecticut effectively banned Vermont from selling Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) because we've been double counting. "Vermont is the only state that allows its wind and solar power producers to sell their RECs and at the same time apply them toward meeting the state's own "renewable energy" requirements." Jon Margolis' article, "Connecticut law exposes Vermont's duplicity on energy credits," is an excellent expose on this issue.

Vermont Exchange Spending: According to figures released in June by the Federal CMS, the state of Vermont has to date sucked up \$125,437,081 to pay for planning, organizing, developing and installing the Vermont Health Connect, the ObamaCare health insurance exchange. This does not include the \$35 million awarded to UMass to explain to the New England states how to do all this, nor does it include the \$45 million awarded to the Department of Vermont Health Access to figure out how to do "payment reform" for Green

140%: The increase in the food-stamp rolls since 1990. The Wall Street Journal reports, "The number of people collecting food stamps has more than doubled since 1990, even as the population has only increased by about 25%. Part of that was by design. Ever since welfare reform was passed in 1996...." (WSJ, 6/8/13)

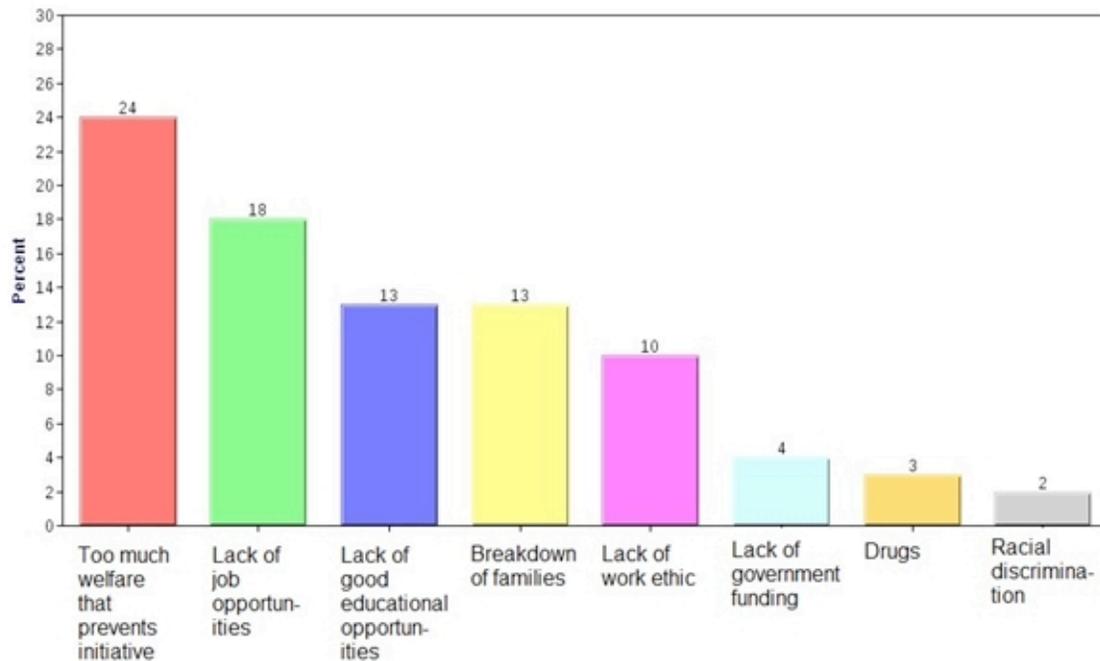
Food Stamp Enrollment by State



By George I think they've got it! Many Americans blame 'government welfare' for persistent poverty

Poverty in America

Which of the following reasons do you think is most responsible for the continuing problem of poverty?



Source: NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll, June 2013

Are you motivated enough to read this? "A Gallup survey shows Vermont has one of the least-engaged workforces in the nation. According to Gallup, only 27 percent of the Vermont employees are "emotionally engaged" at work. The only state with a less-enthusiastic workforce is Minnesota. The results... are based on surveys of 151,284 employees conducted throughout 2012. At least 506 employees were surveyed in every state," reports VTDigger. Interestingly, at the same time a scorecard released by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), rated Vermont as having the second highest rating for economic security based on, essentially, dollars spent on government funded programs. Do you think there's a correlation there? The more your neighbor provides for you, the less engaged you are in providing for yourself?

Here's a business model to avoid poverty: FORGET GOLD, .22 AMMO UP MORE THAN 400%. It was approximately \$21 to \$23 per 500 rounds in May 2012, and it's now \$100 to \$135 for 500 rounds. Historically precious metals have been a great hedge in uncertain economic times. But lead and brass may be making a comeback.

Why You Didn't Get Your Money Back: "Green Mountain Power representatives say the CEED Fund is a better deal for ratepayers, estimating that the \$21 million in energy efficiency investments will create \$53.2 million in gross societal benefits by the end of 2017, when its programs run their course." (VTDigger 3/25)

Mass murder or prosperity? You choose. Ideals are called ideals for a reason: They're ideals. They're goals, aspirations, abstract straight rules we use as measuring sticks against the crooked timber of humanity. In the old Soviet Union, Mao's China, Pol Pot's Cambodia, and today's North Korea, they tried to move toward the ideal Communist system. Combined, they killed about 100 million of their own people. That's a hefty moral distinction right there: When freedom-lovers move society toward their ideal, mistakes may be made, but people tend to flourish. When the hard Left is given free rein, millions are murdered and enslaved. Which ideal would you like to move toward? – Johah Goldberg

Van Buren on the Role of Government:

"Those who look to the action of this Government for specific aid to the citizen to relieve embarrassments arising from losses by revulsions in commerce and credit lose sight of the ends for which it was created and the powers with which it is clothed. It was established to give security to us all in our lawful and honorable pursuits ... It was not intended to confer special favors on individuals or on any classes of them, to create systems of agriculture manufacture or trade.

"All communities are apt to look for government for too much. Even in our own country, where its powers and duties are so strictly limited, we are prone to do so, especially at periods of sudden embarrassment and distress. But this ought not to be. The framers of our excellent Constitution and the people who approved it... wisely judged that the less government interferes with private pursuits the better for general prosperity.

"Its real duty - that duty the performance of which makes a good government

the most precious of human blessings - is to enact and enforce a system of general laws commensurate with, but not exceeding, the objects of its establishment, and to leave every citizen and every interest to reap under its benign protection the rewards of virtue, industry, and prudence."

Message to Congress on the Independent Treasury bill, September 4, 1837

Book of the Month

Shadow Bosses: *Government Unions Control America and Rob Taxpayers Blind*

By Mallory Factor (with Elizabeth Factor)

Center Street

Many people think that unions in America are a thing of the past. If they are thinking about private unions, their thoughts have some merit. In private industry, union membership is down considerably from the 1950s when unions had a much stronger hold on the private sector. However, private industry is no longer the focus of big union money or effort.

In *Shadow Bosses*, Mallory Factor adeptly and factually presents the reader with the new threat – and a serious threat it is. Having essentially lost the long battle to unionize private industry, big labor money has been funneled into controlling Government Employee Unions (think government post office employees and other federal employees) in a surprisingly effective and under-the-radar way. This somewhat explains the explosion in government jobs under the current administration. But Factor doesn't just harp on his opinion of what has been slowly taking place. He backs his assertions with copious footnotes at the back of the book.

Though his style of writing may make the book read more like a novel, he carefully explains how union leaders have shifted their focus while pulling the most senior administration officials along for the ride. In what is clearly a “votes for money” trade, the continuous cycle gains more strength with each election. The unions are targeting millions of Americans, many for forced unionization through laws introduced and supported by those they bankroll and place in office.

This book exposes the con game to anyone who has the interest and patience to actually move beyond today's typical sound bite. This chilling book shows where the real power now lies in America.

- *Recommendation and review by Steve Chambers*

Final Thought

"Give me Liberty or give me death!"

The last word today, as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, has to go to

Founding Father, Patrick Henry. We all remember his famous quote, "Give me Liberty or give me death," but the whole, moving speech is often and unjustly forgotten. It is an incredible piece of oration, and worth the five or ten minutes it takes to review his language in full as we remember why it is we're lighting off these fireworks on the Fourth of July....

March 23, 1775: No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely, and without reserve. This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfil the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offence, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the majesty of heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years, to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves, and the House? Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with these war-like preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled, that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask, gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty

and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done, to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance, by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Happy Independence Day!