



The AMERICA FIRST Leader

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AFP Supports Presidential Candidates Baldwin and Barr

By Michael E. Lynch

AFP Press Secretary

The America First Party has decided not to endorse any single candidate outright in the Presidential election, but has chosen to recommend that its members vote for either Chuck Baldwin (Constitution Party) or Bob Barr (Libertarian Party) in November.

The decision to recommend two candidates, instead of endorsing only one, may seem unorthodox. The AFP National Committee approved the recommendation on October 7, after considering a variety of factors.

One paramount issue is the size

of the America First Party. As a small party with limited resources, the AFP has emphasized that the focus of its efforts will be on more localized races. The party's Resolution on Electoral Strategy, approved July 2006, observed that national elections can be very costly. Successful presidential campaigns cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Since the AFP does not currently have that much money, the party has chosen to focus its efforts on more winnable campaigns (particularly for county and municipal offices), rather than to expend its resources on a presidential campaign.

However, people have asked who the AFP supports or have asked for our advice in the presidential elec-



Bob Barr

tion. Anybody who is familiar with our party's platform, principles, publications and press releases knows that we have serious concerns about both Barack Obama and John Mc-



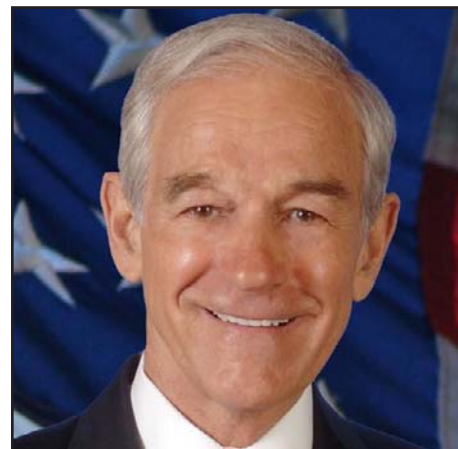
Chuck Baldwin

Cain. Neither major candidate agrees with America-First principles on foreign policy, trade, illegal immigration, or fiscal policy, to name just a
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Ron Paul on the Bailout

Dr. Ron Paul (R-TX) made these comments on the House floor after passage of the financial bailout package.

Madame Speaker, only in Washington could a bill demonstrably worse than its predecessor be brought back for another vote and actually expect to gain votes. That this bailout was initially defeated was a welcome surprise, but the power-brokers in Washington and on Wall



Congressman Ron Paul of Texas

Street could not allow that defeat to be permanent. It was most unfortunate that this monstrosity of a bill, loaded up with even more pork, was able to pass.

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Eller Runs for City Council

By Michael E. Lynch

AFP Press Secretary

Michael Eller, the Chairman of the America First Party of Michigan, has announced that he is running for City Council in Ypsilanti, MI. His campaign focuses on small government, individual responsibility, and restoration of rational fiscal policy on the local level.

Eller is running against Democrat Peter Murdock for a seat currently held by Brian Filipiak, a Democrat who has decided not to seek re-election. Murdock served three terms as mayor of Ypsilanti, and several others as a City Council member, in the 1980s.



AFP Michigan Chairman Mike Eller

Several decisions by local policymakers in recent years have convinced Eller that now is an ideal time to challenge an entrenched veteran politician. He said that he has known
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A Nation Hoodwinked and in Denial

By Jonathan Hill

AFP National Chairman

If a person wants to believe that our national situation is basically sound, there are many in government, academia, and the media—collectively referred to as the establishment—who are willing to provide a steady stream of reasons in support of that idea. They tell us the fundamentals of the economy are sound, that the trade deficit is a sign of strength not weakness, that “undocumented” workers do work that Americans will not, and that we are making the world safer for “democracy.”

There are voices opposing these ideas, but they seem relatively few, or are infrequently heard on major media. It is not that they generally lack credentials, but for some reason, they are not welcome. As Alexander Solzhenitsyn lamented 30 years ago



in his Harvard commencement speech, western media, while technically free, censor themselves by only permitting dissemination of information which is fashionable.

While his point is valid, it is likely only part of the story. Censorship in American life is not just about what is in fashion, but is probably about obstructing key points of information which, if understood, would challenge and influence the moral and political attitudes of many. Allowing a free discussion and flow of factual information about key issues would also threaten the Big Government and anti-theistic agendas which dominate institutions wielding the greatest influence.

We can only list a small sample of critical issues that are improperly presented to the people.

Abortion, for instance, is not discussed in depth in the media. The facts about fetal development or the horrific carnage associated with “termination” procedures are not ex-

posed. Few have heard that when the zygote begins to exist (at the moment the fertilization process is completed), that all the genetic information is present which completely identifies a person. Few have heard that at 21 days a baby has a heartbeat. Any major media organization, with their research capabilities, would

ment statistics have been redefined many times in ways that understate our national economic woes. Widely available online government publications can be used to verify this, as well as the work of respected economists. And yet, media typically broadcast government numbers without qualification.

As Alexander Solzhenitsyn lamented 30 years ago in his Harvard commencement speech, western media, while technically free, censor themselves by only permitting dissemination of information which is fashionable.

have little trouble verifying these facts, if they cared to. As a result of this failure, many are able to feel relatively comfortable about their support for abortion, and the slaughter of about 50 million innocents over 35 years is not even a blip on many radar screens.

Government statistics are another glaring example of the establishment's manipulation. The consumer price index (CPI), which measures consumer inflation, the gross domestic product (GDP), and unemploy-

This means that people are being routinely told that inflation is about 5.5%, when it is really around 14% according to the method of calculation used in 1980.

Overstatement of the GDP relates to the recent debate on whether or not we are in recession—technically defined as two or more consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth. According to the older government methodology of estimating GDP, we have had negative growth since the

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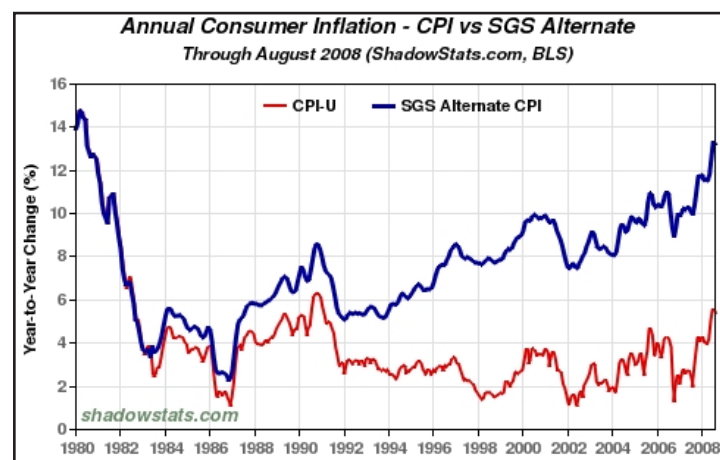
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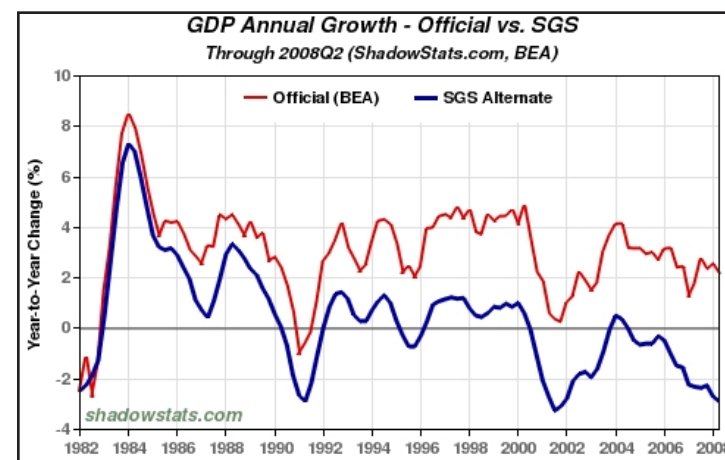
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Both charts courtesy of ShadowStats.com

These alternate statistical measurements were developed by economist John Williams. A graduate of Dartmouth college, Williams has had a career as a consulting economist. He has done work for Fortune 500 companies, and his critical work on government statistics has been referenced in front page stories in the New York Times and Investors Business Daily. The CPI chart shows the CPI as



if it were calculated using the methods in place in 1980 versus the current government version. Similarly, the GDP chart shows the GDP per past methodologies versus the present. GDP is adjusted for inflation with the CPI. So if the CPI understates inflation, as with today's government version, then the GDP statistic will be overstated. This means that many recessions, defined as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP growth, will often remain officially undetected.

Hoodwinked

(Continued from Page 2)

middle of 2004 until the present, meaning we have been in recession since about the beginning of 2005, whereas the new calculation shows a consoling uninterrupted positive GDP since 1992. The older methodology completely contradicts the ubiquitous and deceptive “strong” and “resilient” economy propaganda which has spewed from media outlets until the present Wall Street crisis. Alarming, it also shows that the severity of our present recession is about equal to the one in the early 1980s.

Unemployment numbers are another case of political subterfuge, being adjusted by removing so-called “discouraged” workers from the calculation. Adding these back in gives an unemployment rate of about 15%, versus the official figure of about 6%.

According to the older government methodology of estimating GDP, we have had negative growth since the middle of 2004, ...whereas the new calculation shows a consoling uninterrupted positive GDP since 1992.

All these deceptions lead to the misdirection of individual and business financial planning, and for many they will lead to a retirement in poverty. Perhaps more importantly, distorted statistics make it difficult for political foes of damaging economic policies to get the necessary political traction needed for corrective action to eliminate problems like inflation, “free trade,” excessive taxation, and over-regulation. We are all being encouraged to believe that the situation is better than it is, and the results are likely to be disastrous for future generations. The same is true regarding media and government pretensions about so-called “progress” in Iraq, and with regard to dozens of other issues.

In many ways, we are a nation in denial. It shows up at the individual level too. If you tell people the facts

mentioned in this article, they will often reject them. For many, they are not credible claims. Perhaps they reason that the situation “just cannot be that bad.” The fact that so many are living beyond their means today supports the assessment that people are clueless that our country is poised before an economic cliff just before the fall. But reality may come knocking soon.

The phenomenon of incredulity is one reason why so many people are slow to get behind the effort of building the America First Party. People doubt that the situation is as bad as we say, and so they do not consider an urgent and sustained organized response, like that which we are calling for, to be in order. Until attitudes change, we will not even have the small numbers of dedicated

volunteers that can dramatically expand our reach and effectiveness within one year.

But we should not be discouraged. Recent events in the stock market and banking sectors show that we Americans cannot defy gravity for long. Our house of cards will come crashing down, whether sooner or later, and then more Americans will likely be open to the realities that support our outlook.

In the meantime, someone needs to lead the way. Is there any reason why it should not be you? If you have not yet requested a membership form, volunteered for the Activist Program, or sent in a contribution, then please consider doing so as soon as possible. These are the action items that can make the difference between success and failure for the cause of putting America First.

Party Founding Principles

The Statement of Principles of the America First Party was adopted at the first meeting of the National Committee on April 20, 2002. The Principles provide an outline for the Party's Platform, which contains a section for each of the Principles headings. Each Platform section then expands upon that particular set of principles.

The Statement of Principles is the core statement of beliefs of the America First Party. As such, a two-thirds vote of the National Committee is required to adopt any change to the Principles. The Party Constitution binds both the National Committee and the National Convention to adopt a platform consistent with the Principles. All party leaders are required to support and advance the Principles as a condition of holding a position of trust within the Party.

Preserve and Protect Our People and Our Sovereignty

- Support a military whose mission is to protect our nation, not police the world
- Strengthen our borders and promote rational immigration policies
- Protect English as our common language
- Seek friendship with all nations, but avoid entangling alliances
- Work to maintain our nation's sovereignty and oppose all attempts to make our nation subservient to the precursors of global government
- Apply American values to our foreign policy

Promote Economic Growth and Independence

- Restore accountability and Constitutionality to budgets and taxes
- Promote tax policies that adhere to the Constitution, enhance individual freedom, encourage savings and investment, and promote the family
- Eliminate unconstitutional portions of the federal government
- Rebuild our manufacturing base and protect American workers
- Protect our right to fair trade and oppose free trade, exit NAFTA and the WTO
- Help American businesses stay in America
- Promote a Buy American policy
- End taxpayer bailouts of corporations and foreign governments
- Implement a self-sufficient energy policy

Encourage the Traditional Values of Faith, Family, and Responsibility

- Protect and recognize the sanctity of all human life
- Defend the traditional family unit based on one man and one woman
- Promote the primacy of parents in the lives and education of their children
- Respect the free exercise of religion

- Recognize the Judeo-Christian heritage of our shared values

Ensure Equality Before the Law in Protecting Those Rights Granted by the Creator

- Defend the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"
- Preserve and protect all of the Bill of Rights
- Oppose all quota systems - merit and behavior must prevail
- End judicial tyranny and restore balance to our political system
- Restore property rights and restrict government land confiscation

Clean Up Our Corrupted Political System

- Remove the primary source of corruption by sharply reducing the size and scope of the federal government to its limited powers under the Constitution, and return control over all other matters to the states
- Require that all political donations be promptly disclosed and come from voters
- Enforce fair, uniform standards for ballot and debate access to give voters more choice
- Implement clean election practices - restore paper ballots
- Reform the lobbying system so that the only organizations permitted to lobby are those organizations whose money is acquired strictly from voter donations. Reasonable individual voter donation amount limits must be established
- End lavish Congressional pensions-put them on Social Security
- Ban taxpayer funded Congressional campaign mailings
- Restore the rights of states in the manner of choosing Senators and Representatives and promote the citizen legislator

Would You Hire This Person? *Principles for Voting*

By Michael E. Lynch

Public Relations Committee

The 2008 presidential campaign is one of the most memorable in recent history. In January, nearly 20 candidates were competing for the nominations of the two major parties. In the end, though, the two major parties gave us somewhat predictable options: a relatively new face on the political scene, who spouts slogans about “change” and “hope,” while making the same promises his party has made for years; against a veteran who has been trying for decades to win his party's nomination.



There is an even more troubling way that this year's campaign reminds us of others: silly, irrelevant, and misleading information has been disseminated by the candidates' campaign offices and the major media. One news broadcast showed Barack Obama shooting pool at a campaign stop, immediately followed by a clip of Hillary Rodham Clinton swigging liquor with prospective voters. Unless Obama plans to replace war with billiards tournaments as a means of solving international problems, or the Supreme Court suddenly rules that the Constitution requires the President to be an alcoholic, such antics are a complete waste of time and tax-

A good beginning point is to recognize that voting is a hiring decision.

payer money. Remember, the last three major candidates (Obama and Clinton on the Democratic side, and John McCain on the Republican) are all Senators, on the federal payroll, who have missed many votes while making such campaign trips. If I

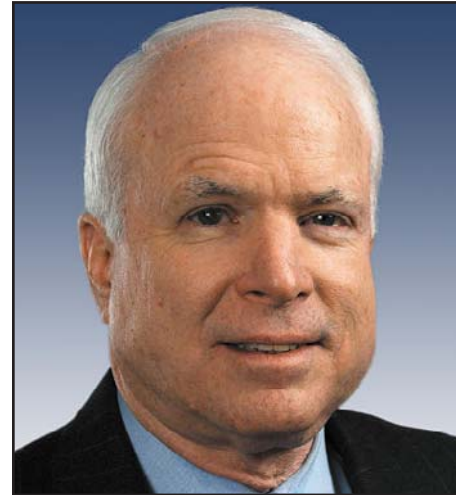
spent so many days away from my current job, trying to find another one, I would probably end up sitting on a street corner holding a “Will Work for Food” sign.

The antics of Obama and Clinton, described above, are merely the most extreme examples of worthless information in an election. Most of the information voters receive is contradictory, conflicting, and confusing. We hear candidates lambasting one another's tactics and associates. Voters' guides summarize candidates' stated positions on a variety of issues. While some of the information from these sources is helpful, other information is worthless at best and deceptive at worst.

How does a voter wade through the flood of factoids and make a wise choice on Election Day? Do you follow your favorite organization's voters' guide? Do you pick one issue (many pro-life voters look only at abortion) and choose the candidate who most closely agrees with you? Do you vote a straight party ticket? Do you simply hold your nose and vote for the lesser of two evils?

Voting requires us to make important decisions. It is a demanding process that requires more thought than most voters realize. This article will attempt to help the average voter make wiser choices in the voting booth in November.

A good beginning point is to recognize that voting is a hiring decision. A job opening has been posted (whether it be President of the United States, Senator, Representative, Village Trustee, etc.). As a voter, you are saying, “We should hire this person



Republican presidential candidate John McCain of Arizona

for this job.” I wish a friend of mine had thought of this when, in 2000, she voted for Al Gore because she thought he was better-looking than George W. Bush. After all, we were selecting the next Chief Executive Officer of our government and Commander-in-Chief of the military, not the high school Homecoming King.

Do you pick one issue ... and choose the candidate who most closely agrees with you? Do you vote a straight party ticket? Do you simply hold your nose and vote for the lesser of two evils?

Consider some of the hiring practices in the corporate world. When a job is available, my employer will post a job listing, describing different aspects of the position. The job posting will specifically list qualifications (education, experience, required skills, etc.). Applicants will submit a resume, listing their qualifications and documenting their skills and experience. They will also provide a list of references, which will indicate which people would consider this person a good candidate for employment. For some jobs, he or she may need to take a skills test to prove they have a basic aptitude for the job. The prospective employee may come in for an interview, where a supervisor



Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama of Illinois

will discuss some of the information previously provided; however, the interview will also help the supervisor determine if this person's vision is consistent with that of the company, if he or she seems to have the work ethic and character to do the job, etc. Although the details of the process may change from one company to

another, the basic principle is widely followed: before hiring a person for the job, you look at a broad spectrum of the person's qualifications and characteristics before entrusting him or her with the responsibilities.

Much of this should be true as we select a candidate. We are not merely answering survey questions; we are hiring a public official, who will be given responsibility to spend our tax dollars, write our laws, and make other decisions affecting the lives and liberty of numerous people.

So, issues are an important element of the election process. We should examine a candidate's platform and public statements to find out what

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The Moral Duty to Put America First

A review of Patrick J. Buchanan's recent book

By Jonathan Hill

AFP National Chairman

In some major political areas of interest today, the America First Party particularly stands out like a sore thumb from the thinking which characterizes our nation's power centers. These are foreign policy, immigration, and trade. We could list other points as well, such as the proper domestic role of the federal government, which in turn relates to federal spending. On these issues, we may seem very radical to the uninformed, whereas on other issues, like individual rights and abortion, we merely seem conservative.

Sincere citizens who hesitate to join the America First Party because of its positions in any of the above areas should receive a copy of Pat



course correction in our foreign, trade, immigration, and fiscal policies. It is sobering reading.

Consider the matter of foreign policy. Many people today stumble when it comes to accepting a constitutional approach to foreign policy, because it is so very different from what they have grown up with. After two World Wars and 40 years of the Cold War, with the unusual requirements of a defense policy focused on an expansionist communist superpower, the foreign policy of many generations of past statesmen no longer fits the image of America that most people have. Even though it coincides with Washington's Great Rule regarding foreign relations, as specified in his Farewell Address -- still read at the opening of every new session of Congress -- academics rarely mention it and most people have had no exposure to it.

[Buchanan's] critical insights and factual information compellingly describe the need for a 180 degree course correction in our foreign, trade, immigration, and fiscal policies. It is sobering reading.

Buchanan's latest book, "Day of Reckoning: How Hubris, Ideology, and Greed are Tearing America Apart" -- it is almost certain that their concerns will be quickly obliterated and that they will be rapidly inoculated against the present day's ideological fanaticism.

The book is a treasure chest of valuable information, even for relatively informed conservative readers. The author's critical insights and factual information compellingly describe the need for a 180 degree

But as PJB points out, this must change, due to the unsustainable cost of maintaining 6,000 military bases on U.S. soil and between 700 to 1,000 overseas, as well as the cost of strategic liabilities resulting from security commitments to other nations. Buchanan makes this argument well, and points out that our foreign policy is bankrupt -- we have made far more commitments than we have resources with which to cover them.

The author makes it clear beyond doubt that our current military pos-

BY THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE DEATH OF THE WEST*

PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

DAY OF RECKONING

HOW HUBRIS, IDEOLOGY, AND GREED ARE TEARING AMERICA APART

ture is ruinous, and must be terminated, but the correct alternative is not popular. Today, those of us who accept the constitutionally mandated policy of restricting the combat role of our military to national defense purposes only are quickly branded as isolationists. We are marginalized by media, as we should expect to be. We are the potential spoilers to those dominating the power establishment

who like meddling in the affairs of other nations at the cost of our nation's blood and treasure. However, the isolationist tag is undeserved, since we do not oppose bilateral trade relations or temporary alliances with nations when needed for national security.

Buchanan does a great service by showing to what degree our present
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Put America First

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foreign policy radically departs from our nation's historical precedents. As he says, "Between the alliance with France in the Revolutionary War in 1778 and the creation of NATO in 1949, the United States did not enter a formal alliance with any country. Yet we are now treaty bound to defend sixty nations on five continents, though U.S. forces are half of what they were in the peacetime years of the Cold War."

"Foreign policy becomes a major aspect of a society only if its government is expansionist, imperial, aggressive, or when it is threatened by aggression."

-- Jeane Kirkpatrick

The author recalls the period immediately following the end of the Cold War, when a debate ensued about the future role of the United States in foreign affairs. Charles Krauthammer, presently a writer for the *Washington Post* and a regular commentator on Fox News, was then saying that we "need to go all the way and stop at nothing short of universal domination." According to Buchanan, his plan involved merging the United States, Europe, and Japan into a "supersovereign West" which would be "hegemonic in the world."

This sounds astounding, but as Buchanan points out, we have actually officially adopted elements of this thinking in current national security policy. It was made official in the 2002 National Security Strategy, which according to PJB's summarization, included a call for "preventive wars on nations that might seek military power sufficient to challenge U.S. supremacy in any region of the world." Supporting this new mission are new bases called "lily pads" in Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar, and Djibouti.

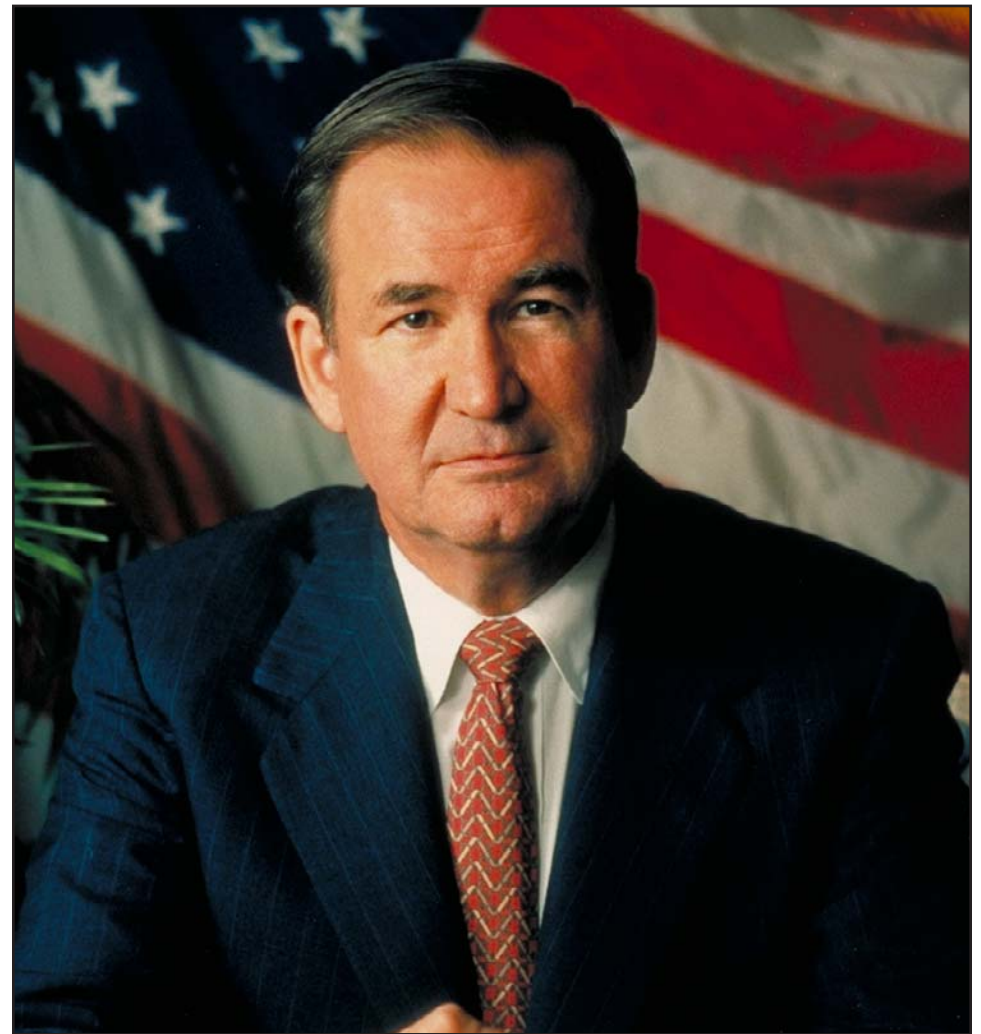
The new posture of American military domination of the world was also announced in a 2002 presiden-

tial speech at West Point: "America has, and intends to keep military strengths beyond challenge...limiting rivalries to trade and other pursuits of peace." Can you imagine what they are thinking in Beijing, Moscow, and Tehran in response to hearing the administration declare that we intend to militarily limit them? More importantly, how are they responding to this provocation? As Buchanan points out, "Beijing's military budget has grown by double digits

for years, the most recent increment being 18 percent, in 2007. 'Since no nation threatens China, one must wonder: Why this growing investment?'... asked Donald Rumsfeld."

In the Fall of 1990, former Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who served in the White House National Security Council during the Reagan years, joined a small chorus of voices opposing Krauthammer. She wrote, "A good society is defined not by its foreign policy but by its internal qualities....Foreign policy becomes a major aspect of a society only if its government is expansionist, imperial, aggressive, or when it is threatened by aggression. One of the most important consequences of the half century of war and Cold War has been to give foreign affairs an unnatural importance."

Kirkpatrick, considered a neo-conservative, would have unhesitatingly burst the bubbles of many present-day democracy-worshippers - those who feel inspired to use our government's resources to impose democracy on foreign nations. She asserted that the Constitution's only mention of foreign policy is in reference to providing "for the common defense," and that "there is no mysti-



Conservative commentator and author Patrick J. Buchanan

cal American 'mission' or purpose to be found independently of the U.S. Constitution....There is no inherent or historical 'imperative' for the U.S. government to seek to achieve any other goal -- however great -- except as it is mandated by the Constitution or adopted by the people through elected officials."

Buchanan asks, "If free trade is best for nations, how is it that every modern state that rose to preeminence and power was protectionist?"

Exactly our position. And how interesting it is that Kirkpatrick, a former socialist early in her life, and then an "AFL-CIO Democrat" until after she left the Reagan Administration, had more respect for our nation's traditional foreign policy values than most Republicans do today. What does this tell us about the quality of our "conservative"

leaders? Unfortunately, with the exception of Ron Paul's recent presidential campaign, this view is now virtually extinct from the public discourse.

Trade is another area where the America First Party stands out. Because we prefer trade regulated by Congress, as required by the Consti-

tution, and therefore reject managed trade by global institutions like the WTO and NAFTA, we are again wrongly smeared as isolationists. And because we advocate tariffs to protect American industries and raise revenue, we are rightly called protectionists.

Buchanan asks, "If free trade is ***(Continued on Page 8)***

Principles for Voting

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he intends to do. However, we should not blindly trust the candidate's word. We should look at a candidate's voting record to see if he has done these things in the past. Early in the 2008 Presidential campaign, many conservatives supported former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, in part because he promised to nominate strict-constructionist judges to federal court benches. He promised that his judicial nominees would rely on the Constitution and the law, as it is written, when making decisions, instead of "legislating from the bench" according to their own personal whims. However, his track record of judicial appointments when he was mayor suggested otherwise. Some other candidates claim to be pro-life during campaigns, but they shy away from that stance while they are in office.

Thus, a wise voter should look at a broad spectrum of issues. Members of the America First Party are encouraged to compare each candidate with all of the issues addressed in our principles and platform. For the sake of brevity, I urge readers to review the America First Party's Founding Principles, reprinted in every issue of this paper, on page 3.

A wise voter must consider these issues and others, since our laws are an intricately interwoven system. In a

if the candidate is unwilling to preserve a citizen's rights to free speech on a controversial issue.

With the growth of the Internet, it is easier than ever to study a candidate's record. The Library of Congress website, <http://thomas.loc.gov> (also known as "Thomas") gives readers ample access to information about every bill introduced in the current Congress, including every Congressman's vote. Since this is Congress' own official documentation of its proceedings, it is perhaps the most reliable resource for determining a candidate's track record. Similar websites are available for governing bodies in all the states. In fact, with a well-crafted Google search, you can probably research a candidate's past track record on almost any issue, even if the candidate's highest office has been a municipal position.

Another thorough, non-partisan, website is On the Issues (<http://www.ontheissues.org>). It claims to give an unbiased account of politicians' views, statements, and activities on a broad range of issues, from Abortion through Welfare and beyond. Although one cannot guarantee that this site is 100% unbiased, it does provide a lot of information about candidates in many political races. While "Thomas" may be a



The America First Party urges all its members and supporters to exercise the precious right to vote this November 4th.

propagandistic platitudes of talk-radio pundits, and unreliable comments of a candidate's speeches and websites.

On the Issues and other media sources may help a voter notice the kind of people and organizations a candidate is associated with. This may seem inconsequential, but the proverbs "Bad company corrupts good morals" and "Birds of a feather flock together" are especially true in politics, and should be considered seriously. For example, during his presidential campaign, Alan Keyes sought to present himself as an opponent of the United Nations, despite his previous role as an ambassador to that body. However, his close ties to leading globalists, including *Weekly Standard* editor and neoconservative commentator William Kristol, led some people to question whether those statements were genuine. When seeking the Constitution Party's endorsement, Keyes tried to

convince that party to soften its anti-UN position. He eventually lost the CP's endorsement, but has successfully stolen Constitution Party nominee Chuck Baldwin's ballot access in some states.

The lesson should be clear. When a candidate surrounds himself with globalists who support the New World Order (including members of the Council on Foreign Relations and Trilateral Commission), it is unlikely that they will defend the United States' sovereignty against encroaching power grabs by the UN. When a candidate receives a large sum of support from major multinational corporations, it is unlikely that he will look out for the needs and concerns of working-class voters and consumers. Whenever possible, we should seek to find out which people and organizations are supporting a candidate's campaign, either through endorsements, financial contribu-

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The proverbs "Bad company corrupts good morals" and "Birds of a feather flock together" are especially true in politics

sermon earlier this year, Bishop Craig Bates, patriarch of the International Communion of Charismatic Episcopal Churches, said that the issue he considers most when he votes is the degree to which a candidate will defend his right to preach the Gospel. Keep in mind that Bishop Bates is staunchly and unashamedly pro-life and pro-traditional family. However, people like him realize that a pro-life platform may be worthless

more reliable website, On the Issues encapsulates its information in an easier-to-use format.

Using these websites, any voter can obtain a broad range of information about candidates, which will help predict the prospective officeholder's future performance. It is always wiser to seek such "primary sources" of information, instead of relying on the simplistic summaries provided by the mainstream media,

The Moral Duty to Put America First

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best for nations, how is it that every modern state that rose to preeminence and power -- Britain before 1846, the United States from 1860 to 1914, Germany from 1870 to 1914, Japan after World War II, China today -- was protectionist? Not one followed the model of Milton Friedman. All adopted the economic nationalism of Alexander Hamilton."

Buchanan points out that Washington, Hamilton, and Madison supported using taxes on imports to finance the government. They "wanted foreigners to carry as much of our tax load as possible."

He then writes that Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Teddy Roosevelt "all believed in tariffs to finance the government, spur industry, and give U.S. manufactures an advantage over foreign manufactures in the American market. And what is wrong with preferring your own? Does not every family?"

Did it work? He writes that "the age of the robber barons was also a time of stunning growth and prosperity for almost all Americans. Between 1869 and 1900, the gross national product quadrupled, prices fell 58 percent, real wages rose 53 percent, though population doubled. This is not the story of the American middle and working class in the twenty-first century." In fact, PJB writes that during the period from 2001 to 2007, job growth was the weakest in "50 years" with one in every six manufacturing jobs being lost.

Proponents of free trade today might cite the 18th century free-market visionary Adam Smith as a basis for their position, but PJB points out that Smith "served as commissioner of customs and enforced Britain's protectionist policy." He quotes Smith as rebutting their position by calling it utopian: "To expect ... that freedom of trade should ever be en-

tirely restored in Great Britain is as absurd as to expect that an Oceana or a Utopia should be established in it."

The Founders, Buchanan states, "did not oppose trade. From birth, America was one of the great trading nations. But there were more important things than foreign trade," such as making America economically independent, self-sufficient, and "a manufacturing power."

He points out that Washington, Hamilton, and Madison supported using taxes on imports to finance the government. They "wanted foreigners to carry as much of our tax load as possible." That this was the consensus is evidenced by the fact that the

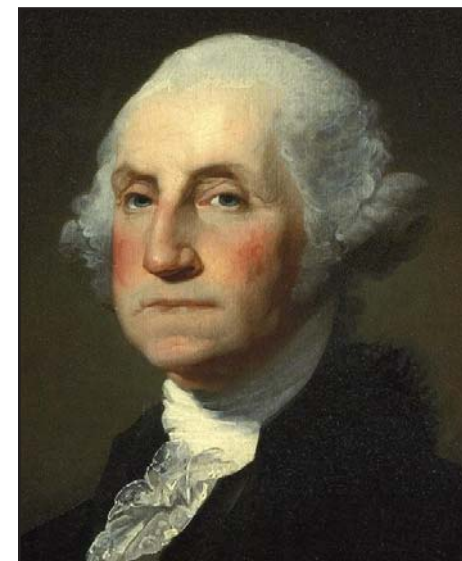
"The Protective system ... is conservative, while the Free Trade system works destructively. It breaks up old nationalities and carries antagonism of proletariat and bourgeoisie to the uttermost point. In a word, the Free Trade system hastens the Social Revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone, gentlemen, I am in favor of Free Trade." - Karl Marx, 1848

Tariff Act of 1789 was the first bill passed by Congress.

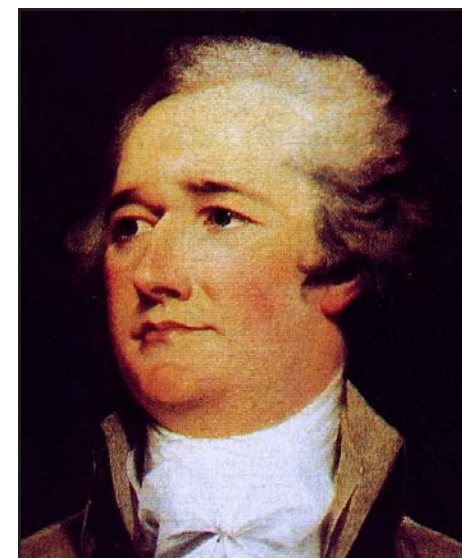
Of course, the only way that we will return to a similar mode of financing the federal government is by first recognizing how the Constitution restricts its role. Not until we appreciate that about 75 percent of current federal spending is unconstitutional (i.e. illegal), will we consider limiting the size and scope of the federal bureaucracy enough to permit a tariff-only system to even approach viability.

It might surprise people to know that free trade was favored by communist revolutionaries because the economic destruction it wreaks tends to increase social tensions to the point of revolution. Buchanan gives us this interesting quotation of Karl Marx in 1848, in which Marx shares his appraisal of protectionism versus free trade: "The Protective system ... is conservative, while the Free Trade system works destructively. It breaks up old nationalities and carries antagonism of proletariat and bourgeoisie to the uttermost point. In a word, the Free Trade system hastens the Social Revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone, gentlemen, I am in favor of Free Trade."

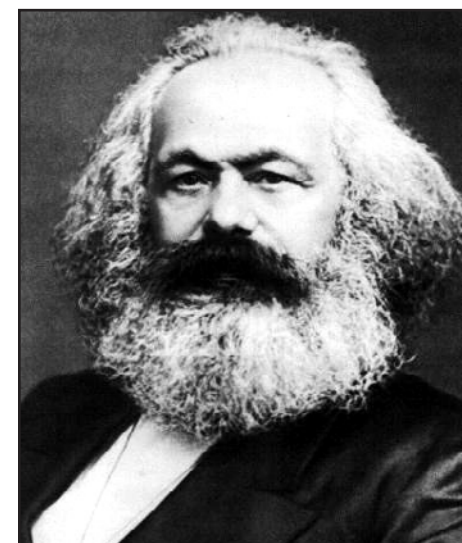
The author paints a devastating picture of what free trade has done, and shows how we have sacrificed "the future to the present" by abandoning the national interest, in particular, by preferring the short-term benefits of cheap goods that consumers desire and the cheap labor



George Washington, father of his country



Alexander Hamilton, our first Secretary of the Treasury and co-author of the Federalist Papers



German political philosopher Karl Marx, author of "The Communist Manifesto"

sought by transnational corporations. The consequence is the outsourcing of America's industry.

"In eight industries, including autos, environmental controls, and aircraft engines and parts, imports had captured [by 2005] 60-69 percent of the U.S. market....In six sectors, including machine tools and electric resistors and capacitors, imports controlled more than 70 percent of the American market." And by 2002, our trade surplus in advanced tech-

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Principles for Voting

(Continued from Page 7)

tions, or other aide.

A most important attribute to look at when voting is a candidate's character. Can this candidate be entrusted with the authority to spend your tax dollars? Can he be trusted with the responsibility to make equitable and just laws, or to enforce the laws in a just and constitutional manner?

Has this person been accused or, even worse, convicted of any crimes? Can we trust that person to create laws properly, when he is unable or unwilling to obey them?

Most importantly, the President and members of Congress take an oath to preserve, defend and uphold the Constitution. Can we trust this in-

laws designed to promote his own agenda without regard to the underpinnings of our constitutional republic.

Again, when we look at candidates' voting records, we should ask the Constitutional question there as well. As a pro-life advocate, I believe we should seek candidates who will fight for the rights of the unborn. However, we should hold them to constitutional principles at the same time.

I realize a lot of factors are involved. Sometimes, each candidate has certain strengths or weaknesses. Unfortunately, in many races, voters are forced to choose between the lesser of two evils. Of course, the lesser of two evils is still evil: Does it

AFP & Presidential Candidates

(Continued from Page 1)

few key areas of concern. Even in those rare areas where we agree with one of the candidates (for example, McCain's track record of supporting some pro-life legislation), we do not trust any of them to be consistently faithful to constitutional principles.

Baldwin and Barr, on the other hand, are in general agreement with the America First Party. For the most part, America First National Committee members feel both men are committed to putting America and all Americans first, governing in submission to the Constitution, and that they tend to agree with most of our core principles.

However, the level of agreement is not sufficient to endorse either candidate. For example, although Barr was a principle author of the Defense of Marriage Act (which limits marriage to one man and one woman, for the sake of federal law), he now says he believes the issue should be left to the states; he would like to repeal this restriction from federal law.

Although Baldwin agrees at least in principle with most of our platform, he may disagree in some specific details. For example, the Constitution Party supports a longer, more extensive moratorium on immigration than the AFP does. Differences between the AFP and CP were considered minimal enough in 2004, when we endorsed Baldwin as the Vice-Presidential running mate to Presidential candidate Michael Anthony Peroutka.

Although the platform differences may be considered minimal, or a matter of degree, some AFP leaders felt that Baldwin lost some credibility during an intra-party schism a few years ago. In 2006, several Constitution Party state affiliates left the national party, objecting to the national party's decision to accept state party officials who support abortion rights under certain circumstances (such as rape and incest). Although he insists that he is 100 percent pro-life and does not believe abortion should be legal under any circum-

stances, Baldwin capitulated to the branch of the party that tolerated leadership which would allow exceptions.

Another key issue that discouraged the AFP from endorsing one candidate over the other was ballot access. Neither Barr nor Baldwin will appear on every state's ballot. However, both candidates will appear on a sufficient number of state ballots to, at least theoretically, have the possibility of winning the election. According to their parties' websites, Barr will appear on 45 state ballots, while Baldwin will appear on 37.

In addition to his 2004 campaign for VP, Baldwin has a diverse background. He is a Baptist minister who pastors Crossroad Baptist Church in Pensacola, FL. An active writer and speaker on socially conservative and patriotic issues, he hosts a radio show, "Chuck Baldwin Live," which broadcasts on several stations throughout Florida, and also writes regular commentaries on current issues for his website, chuckbaldwin-live.com. His VP running mate is Darrell Castle, an attorney from Tennessee. Additional information about him can be accessed via his campaign website, www.baldwin08.com.

Barr is a former Republican Congressman from Georgia, serving in the House of Representatives from 1995 until 2003. He was frequently considered one of the most conservative members of Congress, supporting gun-ownership and privacy rights, opposing abortion, and otherwise supporting stances consistent with the AFP platform. Although his stance on some issues has changed, he is still considered to be strongly opposed to "big government," preferring to emphasize states' rights on some issues. His VP running-mate is another former Republican, Wayne Allyn Root, and their campaign website is www.bobbarr2008.com.

The lesser of two evils is still evil. Does it really matter whether Adolf Hitler or Josef Stalin was the lesser of two evils? They were both evil. How do we vote in these cases?

dividual to take that oath seriously? This is the core reason the America First Party was founded. A substantial portion of government spending violates the Constitution. Many federal laws side-step constitutional restrictions, allowing the federal government to regulate matters that should be under the authority of state and local governments.

Perhaps we should demand that candidates explain their understanding of the Constitution. Is it a "living document," which can be reinterpreted to reflect the values of the current politically correct crowd? Should it be interpreted based on the whims of Supreme Court justices? Should we seek to determine the intentions of the men who drafted the Constitution, and interpret it according to their ideals? Or, is it merely a "<expletive> piece of paper," as some sources have quoted our current President's view of it? A candidate's view about the Constitution will tell us whether he will seek to preserve, defend and uphold the supreme law of the land, or create

really matter whether Adolf Hitler or Josef Stalin was the lesser of two evils? They were both evil. How do we vote in these cases?

Granted, many elections call voters to choose between two hypocrites or other candidates of questionable character and competence. What can a voter do if there are no good options?

In some states, voters can vote for a write-in candidate. If you know of a candidate who has been unable to gain ballot access for the office in question (perhaps a Presidential candidate who did not get on the ballot in your state, or a local candidate who did not get the necessary signatures to get on the ballot for another office), you may vote for him. I know of one America First Party member who, whenever she cannot find suitable candidates on the ballot, will actually write in the names of members of the AFP. It may be a symbolic gesture (I doubt her efforts will get me elected to any office!), but at least

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Putting America First

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nology goods had been erased. "We now depend on foreign nations for a third of our steel, half our autos and machine tools, two-thirds of our textiles and apparel, almost all of our shoes, bicycles, motorcycles, cameras, toys, tape recorders, TVs, radios," and so on.

According to Friedrich List, a 19th century economist who was influenced by Alexander Hamilton's economic theories, "The power of producing wealth is infinitely more important than the wealth itself." Buchanan methodically shows the unmistakable statistical evidence that it is precisely the power of producing

ate and dramatic shrinkage of the trade deficit. A sudden strengthening of the dollar. A halt to the exodus of U.S. manufacturers. The start of a mass movement of plants and factories back to the United States."

In the meantime, until we muster the sense to take decisive action, we can expect foreign private investors and Sovereign Wealth Funds -- funds controlled by foreign governments which were accumulated through the imbalance of our trade -- to be used to buy up more and more of our nation's physical, financial, and corporate infrastructure. But will we act before we lose our economic and political independence?

Last August, the U.S. Comptroller General referred to the government as a "burning platform." With about \$50 trillion in liabilities, according to the Financial Report of the United States, the situation is dire.

wealth that we are dangerously undermining by allowing our industries to be out-sourced to protectionist economies like China's, where workers work for about one-tenth of U.S. wages.

The news is not all bad, and there is hope if decisive action is taken quickly. PJB mentions that in 2006, about 100 percent of the growth in the GDP of China, Japan, and Canada was due to U.S. trade, whereas our exports to China are a fraction of 1% of our GDP. This gives us leverage -- if we were to stop trading with China, "Beijing would go through the windshield."

Buchanan endorses the Border Tax Equity Act, introduced last year, as a way to impose a tax on imported goods and services equal to the taxes imposed by foreign nations on our exports, the proceeds of which would be used for rebates to benefit our domestic exporters in compensation for the taxes imposed on their goods by foreign nations. He writes, "What would this accomplish? An immedi-

Buchanan touches on the immigration crisis, pointing to the fact that, "By 2007, between 10 and 20 percent of the populations of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America had come here." Although it is clear that we should not be unconcerned about peoples of other nations, reason makes it clear that allowing very high immigration rates like we have now -- about 8 times the national average of the last century -- is like letting another nation into your nation. This risks an existential crisis by creating the possibility of Balkanization and the associated instability which comes with it.

PJB proposes a 10 point plan to end the immigration crisis:

1. No amnesty;
2. A fence;
3. Enforcement of immigration laws as applicable to employers;
4. Employer verification of Social Security numbers;
5. Ending all non-emergency federal and state benefits to illegals;
6. Justice Department support for

The Bailout Blues

(Continued from Page 1)

The Federal Reserve has already injected hundreds of billions of dollars into US and world credit markets. The adjusted monetary base is up sharply, bank reserves have exploded, and the national debt is up almost half a trillion dollars over the past two weeks. Yet, we are still told that after all this intervention, all this inflation, that we still need an additional \$700 billion bailout, otherwise the credit markets will seize and the economy will collapse. This is the same excuse that preceded previous bailouts, and undoubtedly we will hear it again in the future after this bailout fails.

One of the most dangerous effects of this bailout is the incredibly elevated risk of moral hazard in the future. The worst performing financial services firms, even those who have been taken over by the government or have filed for bankruptcy, will find all of their poor decision-making rewarded. What incentive do Wall Street firms or any other large concerns have to make sound financial decisions, now that they see the federal government bailing out private companies to the tune of trillions of dollars? As Congress did with the legislation authorizing the Fannie and Freddie bailout, it proposes a solution that exacerbates and encourages the problematic behavior that led to this crisis in the first place.

With deposit insurance increasing to \$250,000 and banks able to set their reserves to zero, we will undoubtedly see future increases in unsound lending. No one in our society seems to understand that wealth is

not created by government fiat, is not created by banks, and is not created through the manipulation of interest rates and provision of easy credit. A debt-based society cannot prosper and is doomed to fail, as debts must either be defaulted on or repaid, neither resolution of which presents this country with a pleasant view of the future. True wealth can only come about through savings, the deferral of present consumption in order to provide for a higher level of future consumption. Instead, our government through its own behavior and through its policies encourages us to live beyond our means, reducing existing capital and mortgaging our future to pay for present consumption.

The money for this bailout does not just materialize out of thin air. The entire burden will be borne by the taxpayers, not now, because that is politically unacceptable, but in the future. This bailout will be paid for through the issuance of debt which we can only hope will be purchased by foreign creditors. The interest payments on that debt, which already take up a sizeable portion of federal expenditures, will rise, and our children and grandchildren will be burdened with increased taxes in order to pay that increased debt.

As usual, Congress has shown itself to be reactive rather than proactive. For years, many people have been warning about the housing bubble and the inevitable bust. Congress ignored the impending storm, and responded to this crisis with a poorly thought-out piece of legislation that will only further harm the economy. We ought to be ashamed.

states like California and towns like Hazelton in immigration enforcement;

7. A congressional resolution that the automatic citizenship clause of the 14th amendment does not apply to children of illegals;

8. End chain migration by limiting it to wives and minor children

only;

9. Declare English the official language and strip the Supreme Court of the right to review this law;

10. A time-out on legal immigration, like the one from 1924 to 1965, and limiting the annual immigration rate in accordance with JFK's rec-

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Putting America First

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ommendation -- 150,000 to 250,000.

The author gives grim statistics relating to government spending and liabilities. It is no accident that last August, the U.S. Comptroller General referred to the government as a "burning platform." Last year, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid accounted for over 40% of the budget, and in about 20 years could amount to 75% of it. Buchanan states, "The Social Security surplus ... will disappear in a decade, and Social Security and Medicare will have to draw on the general revenue." And with about \$50 trillion in liabilities, according to the Financial Report of the United States, the situation is dire.

How can so many government policies be so dangerously wrong? What is the origin of our problem? Among other things, PJB fingers the excessive influence of ideology.

His book is dedicated to the late Russell Kirk, who helped found two journals, including *National Review*, and who influenced the conservative

Overall, one of the great lessons to take from this book, is that the old GOP motto, as Buchanan calls it, of "Prosper America First," was not a selfish one, but a reasonable principle.

movement through his columns, books and lectures. Kirk refers to ideology as "a dogmatic political theory which is an endeavor to substitute secular goals and doctrines for religious goals and doctrines."

Buchanan quotes Kirk as saying, "'Ideology' does not mean political theory or principle, even though many journalists and some professors commonly employ the term in that sense. Ideology really means political fanaticism -- and more precisely, the belief that this world of ours can be converted into a Terrestrial Paradise through the operation of positive law and positive planning."

This is a powerful point, which

can be stitched together nicely with the themes of empire-building, immigration, and free-trade fanaticism that dominate our political scene. Buchanan does this well, and explains that it is the inflexible belief of neoconservatives in these themes which disposes them to be condescending, to impose their faith on others, and to deride with contempt those who question or oppose them.

"Not all ideologies are totalitarian," he writes. "Yet all tend toward authoritarianism. When the people vote the wrong way, they are considered to have made a mistake, and their decision must be ignored or bypassed. Rejection of the European Union by the voters of Holland and France brought demands that the voters be bypassed, by letting parliaments decide, or that the constitution be resubmitted until the voters got it right."

However, ideology has been in our nation's history from the beginning. Jefferson stamped the ideology of equality on the Declaration of Independence, but Buchanan points out

that he did not generally practice "equality" -- he did not free his slaves -- and, that the Declaration was basically a war document, one that was drafted long after hostilities had commenced for the purpose of war propaganda.

He draws a parallel with the Gettysburg Address, in that, although it was beautiful prose, it was also a war document containing themes which evoked a false image of America, in particular, that our nation was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Even Lincoln, who Buchanan termed a "white supremacist," did not believe in this. Lincoln "believed



The Supreme Court of the United States has trampled the Constitution since the War Between the States, causing a great deal of the crisis we now face.

freed slaves should be sent back to Africa" and he endorsed a constitutional amendment which "would have made slavery permanent in the 15 states where it existed," and later revoked one of his general's orders emancipating slaves in one confederate state.

The themes proclaimed to a small number at Gettysburg, but not generally practiced by the nation, he suggests, were later co-opted by the Progressives to advance their cause of persuading "the nation that their goal, democratizing not only America but the world, was the cause for which the Union had fought and Lincoln had died." It is shocking that this absurd idea has gained so much momentum to date.

Overall, one of the great lessons to take from this book, is that the old GOP motto, as Buchanan calls it, of "Prosper America First," was not a selfish one, but a reasonable principle.

After all, it is recognized as indecent for a person to leave one's family in destitution in order to assist the poor of some faraway place -- most readily see this as irresponsible and disgraceful. Such actions show a lack of humility. We are not gods with unlimited power, and so we

need to direct our energies to those matters which comprise our immediate responsibilities. Consequently, we say that charity begins at home.

The same is true on a national level. Despite constitutional restrictions prohibiting foreign aid and non-defense related combat deployments of the U.S. military, we should still consider the needs of people in foreign lands in how we structure our immigration and trade policies -- but only when this does not collide with the national interest. The false assumption that we have virtually unlimited national resources, or unyielding adherence to utopian free-trade and immigration ideologies, will necessarily lead to national suicide. And yet, the ideologues of recent times who have the most influence on our trade, immigration, and foreign policies seem oblivious to these points, and continue to drive this country to the point of no return.

We are in debt to Patrick Buchanan for this book and his many good efforts to promote the national welfare. We join him in rejecting today's ideological fanaticism, and echo the refrain which is the last line of his book -- "Time to put America First."

Eller Runs for City Council

(Continued from Page 1)

for years that eventually he would seek election to public office. However, when the City Council sought a local income tax, he decided that the time had come.

“[The income tax] went down solidly,” he said, indicating that voters rejected the measure by a 2-1 margin when it appeared on the Election Day ballot last fall. “This was about more than the income tax. It was about a deep-seated loss of trust in the status quo, and people are ready for a change.”

Ypsilanti is a Democratic party stronghold, with a large number of union Democrats and voters with ties to Eastern Michigan University. Eller is a businessman who, since shortly after graduating college 18 years ago, has co-owned Populist Cleaning Company. His business partner is America First Party National Committee member John Wagner.

“I think it's time for business minds on the City Council, which they haven't had since I can remember,” he said. He also pointed out that the income tax proposal was not the only bad fiscal decision by the Council in recent years.

For one, he is concerned that the current mayor wants to increase funding for public transportation. Eller points out that only a minority of Ypsilanti residents ride the local

bus system, but all are forced to pay for it through taxes. On his website, <http://www.mikeellerforypsi.com>, he has proposed several ways to make the bus service more cost-effective, including the option of privatizing the system.

While the local government tries to increase funding for transit, it has drastically reduced spending on the police department.

Another local government decision that irks him is an eminent domain project that took place several years ago. The City Council decided that an area along the city's major thoroughfare, on Water Street, was blighted, and that the tax rolls could be increased if it could be redeveloped. The city exercised eminent domain to take control of 38 acres of land. To this day, the entire area is abandoned and no developers have come forward to build the condominiums and town houses that were promised. The original developers have abandoned the project. Since the land has been found to be environmentally contaminated, no other developers have come forward to build in the area.

“You don't take private-property owners and say 'We have a better vision for your land and we don't care what you do,'” Eller said. On his website, he proposes a strategy for getting the land back on the tax rolls: Give 10 acres to a reputable developer, who will be responsible for cleaning the land and building it up. After those 10 acres begin generating tax revenue and increasing adjoining property values, it will be easier to sell the rest of the land to other developers.

In addition to a businessman's perspective on fiscal decisions, Eller says he can bring fresh blood and new ideas to challenge the viewpoints that have held sway for too long in Ypsilanti government. Although he is running in a liberal area, he has found that support for his campaign has exceeded expectations.

“It is an uphill battle, but the re-

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she votes for people she trusts.

Other voters will vote for a non-incumbent if neither candidate is acceptable. Newly-elected officials, especially in Congress, may need at least a year or two in office before they are able to make any significant contributions. Anti-incumbent voters feel that, if the incumbent candidates get voted out of office, it will remind elected officials to pay more attention to their voters' concerns. At the very least, the people who get voted into office will not have the experience and connections to cause too much damage!

Some voters may show up at the voting booth and vote only for those candidates that they truly support. In other words, if the choice is between

the lesser of two or more evils with no good candidates, those voters will leave that space blank or that lever unturned.

However we go about it, we should vote our principles and conscience. Some voters think that a vote for a third-party candidate is a “wasted vote.” The only wasted vote, though, is the one you do not believe in. When you vote against the candidate you believe in because others say he has no chance of winning, you vote to preserve a broken and corrupt system. Every four years, at least one candidate runs on a platform of “change.” True change, at any level of government, will occur only when citizens vote wisely and treat the election like a hiring decision.

sponse has been better than I expected,” Eller said. “People are tired of the 'same old same old,' and people want something different.”

Eller is running as an independent. Gaining ballot access for the America First Party would have required about 40,000 petition signatures statewide, he said, and it was much easier to get on the ballot without a party affiliation, requiring only a handful of signatures.

Eller's advice to prospective AFP candidates would be to focus on local elections. “The America First Party was founded, partly, on the basis of running candidates on the local level in winnable elections,” he said. “I would say, ‘Get involved in local politics, because that's where the action is, and that's where trust is built.’”

He said campaigning involves a lot of personal interaction. Most nights, he goes door-to-door introducing himself to voters. He describes the effort as “a lot of work, but there's a lot of reward.” He said he is learning many lessons while campaigning, and will apply those lessons in future campaigns if he does not win this election.

His final advice to prospective

candidates is: Do not be too quick to let other obligations deter you. He points out that he is a family man. He and his wife, Rebecca, are busy raising four sons: Danny, Matt, Michael, and Luke. In addition, he continues to manage his business.

“No matter how busy you are in life, running for local office is possible, and it is not a job exclusively for someone who is older, retired and has lots of time on hand,” Eller said. “It can and should be done by younger folks who truly can bring new blood no matter how busy you are.”

Help Mike Eller!

People who are interested in donating to Eller's campaign may send their donations payable to:

Mike Eller Campaign Committee
708 Carver Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

There is a limit of \$500 total per individual or political-action committee (PAC) and \$5000 per organization. If you donate over \$100, please provide you name, address, occupation, and employer for reporting purposes.

**Get active in promoting
America First policies!**

