



The AMERICA FIRST Leader

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Party Members Rally Against Illegal Immigration

By J. C. Schweingrouber
Public Relations Cmte Chair

Members of the America First Party of Ohio have been traveling in recent weeks to voice their opinion on the failed immigration policies of our elected officials in Washington. Recent rallies were held in Painesville and Columbus, Ohio and in Washington, D.C.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) held its annual "Hold Their Feet to the Fire" rally in Washington, D.C. from April 22 to April 25. The purpose of the rally was to bring together citizens from around the country that oppose amnesty and support real immigration reform. Wayne Herrod, an America First Party member from Ohio, traveled 700 miles to represent our party at the rally.

The rally was organized by the Dustin Inman Society, named after a 16-year-old killed in a car accident

On a daily basis, illegal aliens kill more people in the United States than soldiers being killed in combat in Iraq.

involving an illegal alien in 2000. The illegal alien at fault in the accident, Gonzalo Harrell-Gonzalez, has not been seen since leaving the hospital after being treated following the fatal accident.

The rally highlighted several guest speakers, including T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council. The rally gave the opportunity for citizens' groups to provide much needed

information about illegal immigration, although that information has fallen on the deaf ears of our elected officials in Washington.

Wayne Herrod had the opportunity to see a group from Scottsdale, AZ called "You Don't Speak For Me," as they made very vocal the fact that, on a daily basis, illegal aliens kill more people in the United States than soldiers being killed in combat in Iraq. This has been a fact most congressmen in D.C. do not want the American people to hear.

Thirty-nine radio talk show hosts from around the country came to broadcast live from "Radio Row" on Capitol Hill. Radio hosts included Roger Hedgecock from San Diego's KOGO, Dan Rivers from WKBN in Youngstown, Ohio, and Armstrong Williams of WWRL in New York.

Herrod, who has been to D.C. many times over the years, finally got an opportunity to take a tour of the White House. After touring the

grounds and getting within 15 feet of the front door of the White House, he and his wife attended the rally at LaFayette Park. "Attending the event and seeing people from all walks of life coming from as far away as California and Nebraska was refreshing. It shows just how deep the concern over illegal immigration runs through America," Herrod said.

Other groups attending the ral-



Ohio AFP Vice-Chair Mike Fleharty rallying against illegal immigration in Painesville, Ohio.

lies included "U.S. English," the Border Guard Association, and guest speaker Frosty Woolridge, a personal favorite speaker of Herrod. Woolridge gave a rousing and lasting speech about the need for all at the rally to become a 21st Century Paul Revere.

"I was moved by a common cause among a widely diverse group of people," Herrod continued – "Truckers facing economic ruin, people alarmed that their country is being sold out by corrupt politicians. They were all decent people, hard working people, people who cared about their country."

Mike Fleharty, the Vice-Chair of the Ohio AFP, spent time marching in Painesville, Ohio where he distributed information about our party and its stance on illegal immigration and border control to a very accept-

ing crowd.

"People are fed up with illegal immigration in our country. It is costing the taxpayer too much and the politicians just want to cover their own failure with amnesty. The people want the border protected

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From The Chairman: *Will You be a Leader?*

By Jonathan Hill
AFP National Chairman

The deplorable state of our nation is distressful to observe. It is even more distressful when one realizes that Americans have the means to correct the most egregious manifestations of our national disorder, but do not act in the simple ways they could to return our ship of state to the right course. It is high time for individual citizens to lead by example, without waiting for someone else to do what they can clearly do for themselves.

A small number of dedicated people have been working diligently to get your attention with regards to this matter. This newspaper is just one example of their efforts. There are also other initiatives: Organizers have been appointed to assist party development efforts in numerous states, and mailings have been sent to offer our members practical and proven methods to rapidly expand our membership and donor base.

It is all part of a detailed strategy



which the National Committee, with the assistance of its standing committees, has formulated to build effective and active party affiliates in all the states.

There is no doubt that these methods would rapidly accelerate our progress to becoming a viable national political force. The scale of participation required is not enormous. Just 20 people per state working 8 hours per week for 8 months of the year could provide us with about 750,000 new donor and member prospects. If only 10% of these were to join or contribute, the result would be a dramatic increase in our effectiveness.

I hope that you agree, this level of participation must be realized, and that, if possible, it must begin with you. Our nation is clearly hemorrhaging in many ways from the policies of the two major parties. To unnecessarily delay our response could be disastrous and Judas-like. For such a failure and betrayal, it would be right for future generations to regard us with contempt.

There is good news -- the tide may soon be turning! According to a source who works for the Washington Times, and who is reportedly close to GOP fundraisers, the head of the Republican National Committee's donor phone bank system "reluctantly" admitted that contributions were down 25 to 40%. According to this source, the RNC was forced to fire its entire "grassroots fundraising staff at the end of May, a total of 65 experienced fundraising telemarketers." It seems that the fired personnel had concluded that grassroots conservatives would no longer support the policies of the President, and that "the sales resistance they encountered ... was too hard to overcome." According to the source, several stated that "most of the potential GOP donors" recently called "were angry over [the President's] immigration" proposals.

What we have been waiting for - - a mass defection from the major

parties -- may happen relatively soon. But the urgent question is, will the AFP be ready when that happens? Will we have the funding, volunteers, and track record at that point in time to be given serious consideration by conservatives who are looking for another party?

The answer is partly up to all of us who support America First principles. Will we continue to step forward to advance this cause in practical ways? Will we fully take advantage of our opportunities to reach out to member and donor prospects? I am firmly convinced that if we do these things, our party can expand very rapidly.

There is no doubt that we are short of our goal. In fact, despite

very low printing costs and a 100% volunteer staff, we have only recouped half of our last newspaper mailing costs. But this can change in a heartbeat, if we choose to work together for the cause of America First principles. Although there is work involved, there is little that is so satisfying than to advance the common good of our nation and the restoration of our Republic. Let's do it while we still have the opportunity!

So if you haven't yet requested a membership form, volunteered, or sent in a contribution, then please consider doing so as soon as possible. These are the action items that will make the difference between success and failure.

Rally Against Illegal Immigration

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now but Washington won't listen," said Fleharty.

Jerry Martin, an Ohio member and previous state chairman, attended both Ohio rallies and distributed AFP tri-fold brochures and business cards. He has a long history of activism since the founding of the AFP in 2002.

Herrod, who also serves as Secretary for the America First Party of Ohio and who is a member of the national Party Building Committee,

supplied the AFP with over one hundred photos from the rally and tours of D.C.

The America First Party opposes all amnesty and guest worker programs and has detailed the solution to the problems America faces from the escalating dangers of mass illegal immigration. We encourage anyone, especially elected officials, to view our plan by reading our platform, which can be found at www.americafirstparty.org.



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Housing Market Woes Felt Across Nation

By **J. C. Schweingrouber**
Public Relations Cmte Chair

The U.S. housing market continued to get battered during the first quarter of this year. With the recent concerns of the sub-prime mortgage lending debacle, hundreds of thousands of families across the country are facing the grim realities of losing their homes.

According to housing industry reports, the number of foreclosure filings increased drastically from the fourth quarter of 2006 to the end of the first quarter of this year. Filings increased 27% in that time to total over 430,000 foreclosure filings for the first quarter of 2007.

Nevada, a state that experienced a dramatic increase in property value from 2003 to 2005, now leads the nation in foreclosures with one of every seventy-five households having to file. Real estate speculators and families trying to capitalize on the previous years' trends now stand to take a beating in the local Nevada markets.

Hundreds of thousands of families are facing the grim realities of losing their homes.

Colorado ranked second in the nation in foreclosure filings. California came in with the largest number of foreclosure filings in the nation, with one out of every five filings nationally.

Market analysts expect this trend to continue for the foreseeable future. The recent run up in the housing market represented the biggest boom in that sector ever on record. It is important to note that all markets, including the real estate market, are unpredictable and can be volatile investments. The recent run

up in the real estate market was also a phenomenon that was not predicted by analysts.

However, the trends are a bit unnerving to many who follow the housing sector very closely. It is a widely held myth that real estate carries annual returns on investment of approximately 10% per year. That myth is easily debunked. If that were the case, real estate and homes would be unaffordable for all working families. A \$25,000 home bought fifty years ago would cost over \$3 million today.

According to Robert Shiller (co-founder of research company Case Shiller Weiss) in a CNN Money interview, the annual return of investment on housing real estate between the years 1890 and 1990 was about 0% after inflation. However, when you look at the average returns since 1987, according to industry reports, the housing market has returned about 6% a year. Factor in average reported inflation according to government statistics and that return is cut in half. (For more on the real inflation rate not reported by the government, please see Jon Hill's article on page 6.)

The incredible spike in housing prices since 2004 has left many families wondering how they are going to pay their mortgage, as their adjustable interest rates are now starting to rise. Many families, in another rush to irrational exuberance, over extended their long term ability to pay their mortgage by buying homes that were well above their long term budgets. This scenario places millions of families in danger of losing their homes or facing bankruptcy.

The housing woes, in conjunction with signs of a softening economy, have many investors worried. Public policy analysts and public officials are already scrambling to determine what policies to implement in the near future as short term fixes to fundamental problems economy wide.



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 America First 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

Will We Stand By and Lose Our National Sovereignty?

North American Legislatures to Receive Integration Proposals on September 30th

By Jonathan Hill

National Chairman

and

J.C. Schweingrouber

Public Relations Cmte Chair

Despite the ongoing disastrous NAFTA-related trade deficits, and the overall failure of North American "integration" to bring increased prosperity, there is a seemingly never-ending push by elites to continue advancing this agenda. With the media granting immunity from virtually any revealing reportage on the subject, industry and government elites cleverly, stealthily, and incrementally advance their cause of "harmonizing" the trade, immigration, transportation, and security policies of Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.



Given the hitherto sleepy and unresponsive American public, it seems possible that these changes will be realized. And if they are, they will be revolutionary, and most probably, the beginning of an EU-like super state. After all, there is a dynamic that occurs when one tries

to extensively harmonize the policies of different neighboring nations -- at a certain point it is simply easier to merge the different government structures into one. But in the eyes of some leading industry CEOs, a supranational entity will be a more effective global competitor for energy resources and more competitive in world commerce.

These executives are considered "stakeholders". Under the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), signed by Presidents Bush and Fox, and Canadian Prime Minister Martin in March of 2005, the "stakeholders" are the ones who have the privileged access in making recommendations at the ministerial level of the three North American governments on how North American integration should proceed. In the SPP's 2005 "Report to Leaders" we read:

In carrying out your instructions, we established working groups under both agendas of the Partnership - Security and Prosperity. We held roundtables with stake holders, meetings with business groups and briefing sessions with legislatures,



Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez addressing the Council of the Americas -- mother organization for the North American Competitiveness Council

as well as with other relevant political jurisdictions. The result is a detailed series of actions and recommendations designed to increase the competitiveness of North America and the security of our people...Upon your review and approval, we will once again meet with stakeholders and work with them to implement the workplans that we have developed. We will also encourage them to continue to provide us with new ideas and proposals which will help shape our forward agenda and our vision for North America...We recognize that this Partnership is designed to be a dynamic, permanent process and that the attached workplans are but a first step.

Shortly after the release of this report, the three North American governments announced the creation of the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC). Composed of 30 major corporate leaders, 10 from each country, the NACC is a subcommittee of the private Council of the Americas. This umbrella group is a "business organization whose members share a common commitment to free trade and open markets throughout the Americas."

The NACC publicly casts its role in the SPP process as advisory.

Their web site mentions that its role is to take the overall SPP agenda and advise which of its elements are "a real priority". But the Council of Canadians, a group opposing the SPP, suggests that the NACC plays a major role. They quote U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez announcing that, "the priorities" the NACC identifies "will set the stage for our work going forward in the SPP".

Whatever the role of the NACC, it appears to have more of a role than the elected members of the U.S. Congress, who have no apparent participation in supervising or restraining the developments of the SPP, nor have they authorized the SPP.

This highlights that if the SPP does lead to major changes in governance, those changes are now developing in a way that contrasts with the philosophy of our founding fathers. They believed in Constitutional Conventions, with elected delegates representing the people. A similar process still exists for amending the U.S. Constitution. But with the SPP agenda, Conventions seem to have been replaced with working groups and, instead of delegates, we have unelected "stakeholders" representing elite members of the corporate community. This begs the question,

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March 2005 -- President Bush walks with Mexican President Fox, left, and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin at the Waco, Texas summit at which the Security and Prosperity Partnership was inaugurated.

Partial Birth Abortion Ban: Win, Loss, or Tie for Pro-Life Movement?

By Michael E. Lynch
Public Relations Committee

The Supreme Court upheld the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003" in April, igniting a firestorm of controversy not only between liberals and conservatives, but also between branches of the pro-life movement.

After President George W. Bush signed the bill into law in November 2003, several groups contested its constitutionality in federal courts. One case, *Gonzalez v. Carhart*, was filed by abortionists LeRoy Carhart, William G. Fitzhugh, William H. Knorr, and Jill L. Vilhakar. They sought an injunction prohibiting the Justice Department (represented by Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez) from enforcing the law. The Supreme Court upheld the ban in a 5-4 ruling, with Justice Anthony Kennedy writing the opinion of the court.

Many prominent pro-life groups hailed the decision as a victory in the war to end abortion in America. For example, Troy Newman of Operation Rescue called the Supreme Court's ruling "another in a string of recent victories for the pro-life movement.... This is the first legal crack in the crumbling *Roe v. Wade* foundation, and is the first, necessary step toward banning the horrific practice of abortion in this nation" [quoted by 2004 Constitution Party Vice Presidential candidate Chuck Baldwin in his April 27 column, available at www.chuckbaldwinlive.com].

However, the ruling may not be the grand triumph that pro-life activists from Operation Rescue, National Right to Life, Focus on the Family, and similar groups claim.



On the surface, the law and court ruling appear to be a symbolic gesture in favor of the rights of the preborn. However, a closer look at the partial-birth abortion ban reveals that it is an ideological wolf in sheep's clothing: looking innocent and harmless, even helpful, when in fact it is destined to wreak unimaginable havoc.

To understand the problem, one needs to first understand the procedure as well as its alternative. Doctors have a number of abortion procedures to choose from, determined in part by the stage of fetal development. Between approximately the fourth and sixth months of development (generally known as the second trimester), the most commonly-used procedure is called dilation and evacuation (D&E). It is a monstrous procedure that no sane mammal would want to endure. During D&E, the doctor first dilates



(usually when the head is visible), he forces a pair of scissors into the base of the skull and then spreads the scissors to enlarge the opening. After this assault, he inserts a suction tool into the opening and uses it to suck out the fetus' brain. After the fetus has been killed in this way, it is removed from the woman's body much like during the last stage of D&E.

The ruling may not be the grand triumph that pro-life activists from Operation Rescue, National Right to Life, Focus on the Family, and similar groups claim.

the woman's cervix so that surgical tools may be inserted. Then, he inserts a forceps into the uterus and grabs part of the fetus and begins pulling him or her apart. The doctor usually dismembers the fetus in 10 to 15 "passes" with the forceps. Afterwards, the doctor uses suction or scraping tools to remove the placenta and any remaining fetal tissue.

D&E is not addressed by the partial-birth abortion ban. The ban prohibits a variation of D&E known as intact dilation and evacuation (IDE). In IDE, the doctor dilates the cervix and begins to deliver the fetus. However, at a certain stage

the ban may actually encourage doctors to more readily utilize D&E instead of IDE. In fact, as Justice Kennedy wrote in his ruling, "The medical profession, furthermore, may find different and less shocking methods to abort the fetus in the second trimester, thereby accommodating legislative demand." In other words, the ban may do little more than encourage creative surgeons to find new, more malicious means to murder preborn children.

A number of groups, including pro-life organizations who have applauded the ruling, have admitted that the ban will probably not save a single child's life. The above observations confirm this prediction. However, a close reading of the law and the Supreme Court decision indicates that the ban accomplishes much less than is promised.

For one, the law specifically says that the partial-birth abortion must be performed "in or affecting interstate commerce." Congress has frequently gone to extremes in defining something as "interstate commerce," in order to justify federal action in a matter. However, it is hard to see how an abortion would qualify as interstate commerce. It is hard to imagine that the only abor-

Instead of eliminating abortions,

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Inflation -- The People's Enemy and Tool of the Expansionary State

How government deceives us about it, and robs us with it

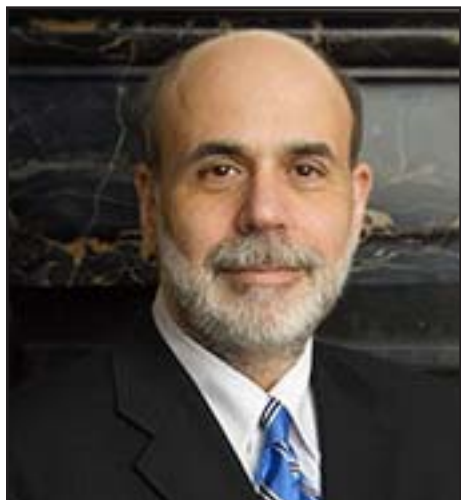
By Jonathan Hill
AFP National Chairman

Inflation is one of those drab topics that many people do not think much about. We have all gotten accustomed to it. Prices gradually adjust upwards, and life goes on. Its gradualness is what makes it so unnoticeable. But with wage rates falling, and fuel, housing and interest costs rising, Americans are feeling the pain more acutely.



Just reflecting on what the cost of living was in the 1960s is enough to make one realize that inflation is not benign. In 1965, the cost of a new home was about \$21,000, a new car averaged \$2,650, a gallon of regular gas was 31 cents, a first class stamp was 5 cents, and the Dow Jones index was under 1000! Today, all these are about 10 times higher.

If you take today's average house cost to be about \$200,000, the average new car cost to be \$18,000, and the average cost of a gallon of gas to be \$3.00, the price increase



Ben S. Bernanke was sworn in on February 1, 2006, as Chairman and a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

for homes, new cars, gas, postage, and the Dow Jones over the 42 years since 1965 is 852%, 579%, 868%, 680%, and 1200%, respectively.

And yet, the government tells us that the annual percentage change in

the Consumer Price Index (CPI) ranged between 1% to 13%, but remained mainly near 3% over those 42 years. At first, this seems tame. After all, that would mean that prices increased by 3% x 42 years, which is only 126%, right? Think again. To correctly calculate the price increase according to the CPI is simple. It is the percentage change in the CPI index from its January 1965 to January 2007, and this is a whopping 549%.

What does this mean for a person's buying power and for his retirement? Let us look at a 30 year span. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the purchasing power of 100,000 1977 dollars decreased by over 60% during that 30 year period. It takes \$338,864.69 today to purchase the same goods that were purchased for \$100,000 three decades ago.

Look at it another way. If you were to retire today, you might desire an annual retirement income of \$30,000. But with an inflation rate of 3%, to retire with that real income 30 years from now, you would need an annual retirement income of \$72,818! If the inflation rate were 6%, your annual retirement income would need to be \$172,305 to meet the same retirement income target.

For the purpose of illustration, let us consider the saver with an annual income of \$65,000 who simply puts his money in a shoe box over a 30 year period at a rate of \$10,000 per year. With a 3 to 5 percent inflation rate, retirement at age 65, and annual retirement expenses of 50% of his preretirement income, this individual's savings will be completely consumed by age 69 to 70. So after 30 years of carefully putting aside over 15% of his gross income every year, he only has enough to live 5 years!

Americans have gotten used to this situation. It is understood that a viable retirement plan includes



The Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, on Constitution Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets, NW, designed by Paul Phillippe Cret and completed in 1937.

investments with annual returns of 10% or more in order to keep pace with inflation. But there is something definitely unfair about the way inflation robs ordinary people of their wealth to the extent that they lose about 60% of the wealth that they hold in dollar assets. That 60% represents the product of their ingenuity, sacrifice, and toil. And if this is the case, then why do we tolerate a monetary policy which robs Americans of their hard-earned wealth?

Why do we tolerate a monetary policy which robs Americans of their hard-earned wealth?

It is thought provoking to consider what the saver would gain by zero-inflation. Consider the case of the person mentioned above who socks away \$10,000 a year, but this time in investments returning 10% annual growth before retirement and 6% after. With zero-inflation, he would have a sustainable retirement with 50% of preretirement income until age 99, with retirement possible at the early age of 55! But with 3% inflation, annual wage increases at the same rate of inflation, and with the same percentage return on investment, retirement at age 55 would cause the individual to be

destitute by age 68! So with the currency inflating at 3%, it takes at least another 8 years of his life to provide retirement security. At 5% inflation, he must work until 71 years -- another 16 years!

Americans do not reflect enough on inflation. If they realized how much they would benefit without it, there would be a mass movement demanding a return to the gold standard -- this would tie the dollar to a specific amount of gold, thereby preventing currency inflation.

The problem is not just inflation, though; it is that Americans are deceived about the degree of inflation. If the public comes to realize that the true inflation rate is much higher than they are being told, there could be flight from stocks, and bond yields and interest rates would rise.

One of the negative aspects of inflation is that it gives the federal government the opportunity to manipulate inflation statistics, in particular, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI, published since 1921, was once measured by sam-

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Virginia Tech Killer Brings Out Anti-Gun Lobby

By J. C. Schweingrouber
Public Relations Cmte Chair

On April 16, 2007, 32 people were murdered on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. This terrible tragedy sent shock waves throughout America and stands alone as the worst mass killing in the history of our nation. The killings, on the heels of many other school shootings in our nation, left Americans asking themselves, "Why?"

In the midst of the shock and sorrow, many in the anti-gun movement began to renew calls for tighter gun control across the board. Many people capitalized on the shock to send their political message. It did not take long for the pro-gun lobby to move in after that. The shocking thing is that so many turned a tragedy into politics as usual, despite the clear instruction of our Constitution.

Only hours after the attack, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) made statements, according to CBS News, that referred to the need to take steps to avoid such tragedies. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) also weighed in by referring to this tragedy as a re-igniting force to pursue gun regulations (also, CBS News as the source).

With control in the House of Representatives, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a long-time gun opponent, intends to push for more gun control. Pelosi has a well-earned reputation as a California liberal who opposed the Second Amendment and who works to see it shredded incrementally. However, she does not seem to be well educated on the different types of firearms.

For example, she seems to be confused about what a semi-automatic weapon is. She considers it,

for her own purposes one supposes, to be on par with automatic weapons. Any gun owner in America can clearly explain the difference to her, but the liberal anti-gun lobby refuses to listen to logic when it comes to defending this basic American right to gun ownership. She has even gone so far as to state, "2007 is the year we take over, and I won't waste a minute getting rid of the guns," according to MoreBans.org, an organization that closely monitors the anti-gun lobby.

The most recent attack on gun ownership has come from Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) who has proposed HR-1022. Also called the "Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2007," this bill attempts to make illegal semi-automatic pistols that are guns of choice for many women seeking to have protection from muggers and rapists. The bill also attempts to make illegal guns that are fitted with certain types of accessories such as having a folding stock or the ability to accept a detachable magazine. The penalty for such offenses would be a minimum of 10 years in prison.

Although this bill may not make it out of committee, it is the beginning of a wave of gun control legislation that is coming. Their intent to destroy the Second Amendment is disguised in the titles of the bills that will be cited in the press. Examples are "The Domestic Violence Protection Act," "The Child Safety Protection Act," etc....

Representative McCarthy has falsely said that since certain gun ban regulations ended under the Bush Administration, a surge in violent crime using certain types of weapons, including AK-47's, has resulted since not renewing the ban. McCarthy seems to be oblivious that those weapons were never banned,



An honor guard presents the flags at the Memorial Dedication Ceremony held Sunday, August 19, 2007 in memory of the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre.

even under the Clinton Administration. She made false statements about crime statistics to whip the anti-gun lobby into a frenzy and frighten the average citizen. This is a commonly used tactic among left-leaning politicians opposing the Constitution, whether it be for gun control or regulation of free speech.

Other nations have pursued gun bans in the past only to find that they do not work. Australia is a prime example of the failures of banning guns. During the mid-1990's, Prime Minister John Howard pushed forward his plan to confiscate semi-automatic weapons and rifles with a buy-back program. Those who refused to take part in the buy-back were threatened with criminal charges. After implementation, over 600,000 firearms were confiscated, including guns for self protection and family heirlooms.

What part of "shall not be infringed" do they not understand?

The result of the program shows a clear failure of gun control, according to a study completed by the British Journal of Criminology. Details of this study can be found easily on the Internet or in the February 2007 edition of "America's 1st Freedom," the official publication of the National Rifle

Association. The results were distinct. There was no effect on the number of murders using firearms. The guns used in these crimes were not registered and the criminals using them were not licensed. The only ones affected by the gun ban were law abiding citizens who had lost their right to protect themselves and their families.

Criminals will find ways to get guns. They always have despite gun bans in any part of the world. The anti-gun lobby continues to refuse to listen to the logic of our Constitution and our Founding Fathers who vigorously defended the right to have guns.

What few politicians have addressed to date is the need for our right to bear arms. It is shameful for weak leaders in Washington to dictate a new "interpretation" of our Bill of Rights and it is immoral for any politician to take away the ability of a citizen to defend his life from the criminal elements in society that will always have guns.

Perhaps the anti-gun lobby should publicly apologize for its stance. If a responsible student or teacher at Virginia Tech were allowed to have a gun on campus, just imagine how many lives could have been saved. Any politician who works to deny this basic right should be impeached immediately. Have they even read the Second Amendment? What part of "shall not be infringed" do they not understand?

Partial Birth Abortion Ban

(Continued from Page 5)

tions affected by this bill would be cases where the mother crosses state lines to receive an abortion.

Second, the bill draws clear guidelines for defining a partial-birth abortion. According to the law, partial-birth abortion occurs when either (a) the entire fetus' head is outside the mother's body or (b) if the child is delivered feet-first, any part of the trunk past the navel is outside the mother's body. This actually provides guidelines whereby a doctor could legally perform a partial birth abortion. He could perform the procedure if the baby's head is only halfway out of the body, or if the baby is delivered breech style up to the buttocks.

Even if the fetus comes out farther than the bill indicates, Justice Kennedy wrote that the bill does not prohibit "accidental intact dilation and evacuation." The law actually prohibits someone from intentionally delivering a fetus past these points and aborting it. So according to the Court's opinion, the doctor may still perform the procedure if the baby came out farther than he intended it to. Therefore, almost any doctor could continue performing partial-birth abortions. They would just have to claim that they did not mean for the baby to come out that far. A prosecuting attorney may have a hard time proving otherwise.



Despite all these flaws in the law and the Supreme Court decision, many in the pro-life movement still think it is a step towards overturning the infamous Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide in 1973. However, the bill contains a section where the Senate affirms that the law should not overturn Roe v. Wade.

In a concurring opinion on the Supreme Court case, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote (with Justice Antonin Scalia joining him) that abortion rights in general are not grounded in the Constitution. He argued that neither Roe v. Wade nor Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, the two landmark abortion-rights cases that Kennedy cited heavily, have any basis in the Constitution. Thus, in this ruling, only these two justices expressly opposed abortion as a matter of principle. Neither Chief Justice John Roberts nor Justice

Despite the promises of pro-life Republicans and an allegedly Christian pro-life President, the greatest victory for the pro-life movement in recent years proves to be little more than a show.

A final issue of concern is the fact that this Supreme Court ruling may not be the last word on the subject. Justice Kennedy acknowledged in his opinion that "This Act is open to a proper as-applied challenge in a discrete case." The law had been challenged on ideological grounds before anyone attempted to enforce it. However, here Kennedy indicates that a different ruling may be reached if someone challenges it when it is enforced in a specific case.

Samuel Alito, President George W. Bush's two appointees, joined in this concurring opinion. This raises serious questions about their commitment to pro-life values and suggests the Court may be much further from overturning Roe v. Wade than pro-life Republicans claim it is.

The law provides one minor comfort for pro-life advocates: it draws a clear line distinguishing between abortion and infanticide.

However, pro-life activists must wake up to reality. The law and court

Presidential Signing Statements Often Show Hypocrisy and Warrant Impeachment

A Party Press Release, dated Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Boulder, CO – According to the GAO's recent report, presidential signing statements singled out 160 provisions of fiscal year 2006 appropriations acts, and some requested that administration agencies disobey provisions of newly signed laws. At least 6 of the President's statements explicitly declared aspects of legislation to be unconstitutional, based on Supreme Court precedent. The America First Party decries the improper use of signing statements, which can not legally be used as a line-item veto. When signing statements describe the president's reservations about the constitutionality of legislation, they really serve the purpose of documenting his abrogation of constitutional duty.

It is not in doubt that Congress can and has proposed legislation which a chief executive may rightly object to on constitutional grounds. The president has the veto power for situations like this. If after mature reflection and consultation, a president can not resolve his doubts about the constitutionality of proposed legislation, his only responsible choice is to veto. His solemn obligation under his oath of office requires this. Signing such legislation and then immediately issuing a prepared statement questioning its constitutionality indicates a disgraceful contempt for the constitution and therefore warrants impeachment.

The well-known text "General Principles of Constitutional Law," by former State Supreme Court Justice Cooley, states: "The executive can have no authority to pass upon the validity of either legislative or judicial action. His judgment ... may be expressed in his veto, but if this is overruled the Executive is as much bound as is any private citizen."

AFP National Chairman Jonathan Hill stated: "Such presidential statements have the appearance of respectability under the mantle of concern for constitutional principle. A more likely motive is a desire to limit friction with congress in order to avoid retaliation that would jeopardize spending provisions supportive of the President's policies."

The America First Party Platform states that "The President has no authority to modify a law passed by Congress by means of a Signing Statement ... his prerogative is to veto such laws as he disagrees with, and follow the requirements imposed by them should his veto be overridden."

ruling will not reduce the number of abortions. They might alter the options chosen by doctors, and may limit the usage of one particular method. However, abortion will continue unabated. This symbolic gesture is as profitable as if Adolf Hitler had decided to stop killing Jews on Saturdays and instead spread them out during the rest of the week.

Despite the promises of pro-life Republicans and an allegedly Christian pro-life President, the greatest victory for the pro-life movement in recent years proves to be little more than a show. We received a bill that ignores the most brutal method of abortion. It provides enough loopholes to make it

impotent against the one killing technique it proscribes.

The America First Party's platform affirms a key principle of the Declaration of Independence, that all humans have an inalienable right to life, granted by our Creator. As indicated in our platform, "We support the overturning of Roe v. Wade and seek the passage and vigorous enforcement of legislation which protects the right to life, regardless of age or state of gestation." The partial-birth abortion ban does not pass this test. And, the Gonzalez v. Carhart ruling suggests that only two of the nine Supreme Court justices have the moral courage to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Losing Our National Sovereignty

(Continued from Page 4)

does the average citizen deserve the respect of being considered a stakeholder?

The stealthiness of the approach should raise alarm. If the SPP is really no big deal, then why isn't there much open discussion about it? Of course, anything that would entail major constitutional change could provoke a major reaction from a people submerged in a culture that, at least superficially, extols the virtues of American independence. For this reason, the surreptitious approach of the SPP movement suggests the worst case -- that the end-goal is major structural change in U.S. governance.

A similar culture of attachment to independence still exists in Great Britain, where the outgoing Prime Minister Tony Blair "welcomed controversial plans to bring back the troubled EU constitution by the back door - totally bypassing the need for public referendums on sweeping new powers for Brussels", according to the Daily Express. The Express goes on to mention that, "German chancellor Angela Merkel has suggested ditching the name 'constitu-



Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez addressing the North American Competitiveness Council

treaty which is open for future reconsideration.

It is alarming to observe that the SPP's agenda items are in-line with radical proposals by the Council on Foreign Relations, detailed in its report, "Building a North American Community." According to the Foreword, the report is "a detailed and ambitious set of proposals that build on the recommendations adopted by the three governments"

all three nations. The important thing to realize is that accomplished people of this rank do not spend time working on projects if they see little hope of success. So we can bet that their professional opinions are that their proposals have a significant chance of being realized.

Just like the SPP, these recommendations are framed around the acclaimed goals of security and prosperity. Here is a partial listing of agenda items, many of which are radical:

- Trilateral approaches to problem solving, not traditional bilateral approach
- Creation of a "common economic space"
- To enhance security, a "more open border"
- Establishment of a "common security perimeter" around Mexico, the U.S., and Canada by 2010
- Develop a North American Border Pass that would enable some individuals expedited cross border travel across North American borders
- Joint-screening of travelers entering North America and the elimination of most controls over temporary travel within North America by 2010
- Trilateral "ballistics" (gun) registration
- Transform NORAD into a land,

naval, and air defense command for defending all approaches to North America

- Develop a North American alternative to the Kyoto Protocol
- Adopt a common external tariff for goods entering North America
- Establish a permanent tribunal for North American trade dispute resolution
- Encourage regulatory convergence
- Promote open skies and open roads, thereby allowing Mexican and Canadian transporters to haul freight and passengers between destinations in the U.S.
- A "tested once" policy, whereby pharmaceutical testing done in one North American country is deemed acceptable in all others
- Adopt a North American standard for regulation -- national regulations should not be adopted if an international or North American approach already exists
- Increase labor mobility -- Canada and the U.S. should consider eliminating all restrictions -- it is hoped that this policy could be eventually extended to Mexican labor.
- Implement the Social Security Totalization Agreement negotiated between the U.S. and Canada
- Mutual recognition or professional standards and degrees

Where does the CFR suggest the guidance, coordination, and direction for this extensive agenda will come from? Here is their advice:

- An annual North American summit meeting of the three heads of state
 - A North American Advisory Council, which would be an independent body of advisors composed of eminent persons from outside government. To complement this, private bodies "along the lines of the Bilderberg" conferences could be established.
 - A North American Inter-Parliamentary Group to help coordinate the work of the U.S., Mexican and Canadian legisla-
- (Continued on Page 10)*

So will a stealthy movement of egotistical elitists who oppose the philosophy of our nation's founders, and who treat the general citizenry as though they have no stake in the future, succeed in transforming North America?

tion' from the title and instead calling it an 'amending treaty' - to avoid having to seek the approval of voters".

The SPP agenda is already on the Blair-Merkel track -- it is actually an outgrowth of NAFTA. According to the Department of Commerce, "The SPP is built on the North American Free Trade Agreement"

It is clear from public documentation that those working at the ministerial level in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, consider the SPP process to be a "permanent" and irreversible one. This is not language typically used to describe a

at the SPP inaugural summit in Texas. This report is clearly the CFR's vision for what the SPP should evolve into, and it was released almost immediately after the SPP was launched. It recommends the establishment of a trilateral "North American Community" by 2010.

Normally, a report from a think-tank would not be a big deal. But consider the credentials of the 36 influential task force members who crafted it. For the most part, they represent prominent people who have held positions at the highest levels of the executive branches of national or regional governments in

Losing National Sovereignty

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tures, with the corporate CEOs of the North American Advisory Council providing the agenda.

What we know is that the SPP does not contradict this CFR agenda, and in matters of transportation and border issues, it tends to conform to it. This is one sign that the agenda is underway, but there are others. The President's strange resistance to securing the southern border and favoritism of amnesty is one sign, while others are the annual summit meetings held between the chief executives of our nations, and private sector meetings of prominent persons, under the auspices of the North American Forum.

Last year's 3-day North American Forum, held in the remote resort of Banff, in Alberta, Canada, was co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz, former Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe (one of the CFR task force's cochairmen), and former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed. What little we know about it suggests that the CFR's desire to transform NORAD into a "land, naval, and air defense command for ... North America" was probably brought up.

According to the Council of Canadians (COC), the event was kept low-key, with no announcements to the media. Information received through an Access to Information request to the Canadian government indicated that "participants were instructed to avoid direct media engagement."

The COC received a leaked "draft" copy of the agenda, which indicated a focus on Energy and Security strategy, as well as other miscellaneous issues. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld was listed as the keynote speaker prior to a session on "military-to-military cooperation", which had former U.S. Defense Secretary Perry and Admiral Tim Keating, Commander of NORAD, as panelists. According to the COC, Canadian Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor also attended.

More leaked information showed who had confirmed their intent to attend prior to the event. The listing was an impressive array of high ranking U.S. and Canadian military and civilian government leaders, and Mexican government and civilian leaders, as well as ambassadors. Despite the relative secrecy, all this leaves little doubt that the event was tailored to a serious purpose related to military integration and/or cooperation between the U.S. and Canada, as well as North American trilateral integration of other forms.

This integration is being pursued under the mantle of six "areas of critical importance to the trilateral relationship: labor mobility, energy, the environment, security, competitiveness, and border infrastructure and logistics."

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is yet another think tank which works to advance this cause, and has been since at least 1985. In 1985, its working group on U.S.-Canadian Relations produced a report



An outside view of the remotely situated Fairmont Banff Springs Resort, in Alberta, Canada, where the North American Forum was held under a media blackout.

designed to aid the Canadian and U.S. governments in crafting the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement of 1989. Later, its Canada Project was permanently established in 1992, and as the NAFTA agreement was being debated, it participated by producing studies on the proposed trade pact.

CSIS's Mexico project has also been active over this same period, and is partly focused on "integration of the U.S. and Mexican economies." More importantly, its director, Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, is now heading up the ambitious North American Future 2025 Project (NAFP), which, on September 30th of this year, is expected to report its

CSIS North America Project proposes to carry out a series of seven closed-door roundtable sessions."

So, will a stealthy movement of egotistical elitists who oppose the philosophy of our nation's founders, and who treat the general citizenry as though they have no stake in the future, succeed in transforming North America?

One wonders how 300 million Americans would let that happen. And yet, Americans often act as though they have no interest in the direction of their government. This is really the only reason why the SPP people get away with treating the average citizen as though they are imaginary – because they have

It is time to be proactive, and it is a major mistake to wait for someone else to lead the way.

findings to the "executive and legislative branches of the three governments" on methods for advancing trilateral integration.

In keeping with the quiet manner of SPP activity, the CSIS's documentation describing the NAFP was not available on their web site, but was instead archived on the web site of the Council of Canadians, a group which opposes the SPP. It again describes the same old methods of closed door meetings and stakeholders.

A short quote says it all: "In order to strengthen the capacity of Canadian, U.S., and Mexican administration officials and that of their respective legislatures to analyze, comprehend, and anticipate North American integration, the

failed to take enough interest in the workings of their government to organize themselves around the principles of sound government.

If Americans are not to be treated like they are imaginary, they will need to get both real and serious. The people are the majority. If they care enough to work at bearing the responsibilities of citizenship, our constitutional republic, with all its advantages, can be restored.

It is time to be proactive, and it is a major mistake to wait for someone else to lead the way. So please start by calling your congressmen, requesting an AFP membership form, and by contributing what you responsibly can to support our outreach efforts.



Interior of the Banff Springs Hotel

Inflation – The People's Enemy

(Continued from Page 6)

pling the cost of a fixed market basket of goods. It estimated the cost of maintaining a fixed standard of living, and came into wide acceptance after World War II.

However, since 1996, the computation of the CPI has been radically altered. Geometric weighing is now used to reduce the impact of spikes in commodities such as energy, and complicated formulas are used to understate the price of products to account for improvements or added features.

For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which computes the CPI, concluded that a particular TV set had an improved screen, and that the increased value of the screen should reduce the real total cost of the TV. According to one source, the improved screen was deemed to be worth \$135, and so the price of

CPI also affects pay-outs to holders of some government bonds, specifically TIPS (Treasury-Inflation Protected Securities). By using statistical techniques to understate the official rate of inflation, government expenditures are greatly reduced. One economist claims that cumulative effects of changes made to the CPI during the Clinton administration have reduced Social Security payments by about 50% from what they should be today.

The controversy regarding the CPI is extremely important to all Americans. As was already shown, understanding what the true inflation rate is is critically important to one's retirement planning. Additionally, many private sector wage contracts and pensions are indexed to the CPI, so statistical shenanigans can rip off workers and retirees in many ways.



Board Room where the Federal Reserve Board Members meet.

showing a percentage change of 6% -- much closer to the annual price rises that ordinary people are experiencing. Whether it is 5%, 6%, or 9.6%, sustained inflation rates of any of these levels will spell disaster for the retirement planning of many ordinary Americans who blindly trusted in the government's statistics.

However the problem does not end here. Distortions in the CPI also have an effect on other statistical measures. According to Williams and others, the GDP is a case in point. Since the CPI is used to deflate components of the GDP, it is believed that the GDP is overstated by 3% a year! This could lead us to conclude that many of the recent recessions have been deeper than has been publicly stated due to the incorrect reading of growth given by the GDP numbers.

As previously mentioned, the solution to all these ugly problems is a return to the gold standard. Not only would this prevent currency inflation -- the expansion of the money supply -- but it would impose fiscal discipline by making it impossible for the government to fund its operations by printing money.

Fiat currencies, currencies not backed by precious metals, are often associated with the expansion of government. Britain got off the Gold Standard in order to sustain its high-spending levels during World War I, and it was considered impractical for it to get back on it after the Second World War had depleted its gold reserves, again, because of its previous high expenditures. This

illustrates that high government spending is not generally compatible with a currency pegged to gold, and that there is a definite synergy between efforts to limit government expansion and the Gold Standard.

Our founders had a sense of the unreliability of fiat currencies. Prior to the revolution, some colonial governments issued bills of credit, which circulated like currency. They also were known to depreciate in value as time went on, just as our currency does today.

The Constitution makes it clear that it was the intention of the founders, who were formed by their experiences, that we be on a coined-money currency standard. Article I section 8 gives Congress the authority to coin money, and this is made exclusive to congress in section 10, which prohibits the states from doing the same.

To coin is "to stamp pieces of metal for use as a means of exchange in commerce, according to fixed standards of value." Article I, section 10 specifies that the coin was to be solely "gold and silver".

As is often the case, returning to the wisdom of our nation's founders would solve many of our current crises. On the issue of monetary policy, this is exactly what our party platform calls for. Until this happens, government will continue to have the capacity to expand by silently robbing ordinary citizens of their savings, while they spend a decade or more of their lives just working to keep ahead of the damage inflation has done to their lives.

As is often the case, returning to the wisdom of our nation's founders would solve many of our current crises.

\$329.99 was then reduced by that amount, allowing the BLS to claim that the price had fallen about 30%!

Other changes to the CPI computation include "Substitutions" and "seasonal adjustments". A substitution smoothes out spikes in prices under the reasoning that a consumer will switch from one product to another when there is a price increase. Although there is merit in the reasoning, this means that the CPI is no longer a measure of the cost of maintaining a fixed standard of living, but is now closer to a measure of what is needed to merely survive. This new methodology is also inherently dangerous, because it depends on personal opinion. It is no longer chained to measurable hard data as the old fixed market-basket CPI was. This leads to the possibility of "tweaking" for political gain.

Since government benefits, like Social Security and pensions, are indexed to the CPI via Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs), tweaking is directly to the government's benefit. Manipulating of the

Manipulation of the CPI has many additional far-reaching consequences.

According to the BLS, "over 2 million workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements which tie wages to the CPI. The index affects the income of almost 80 million people as a result of statutory action: 47.8 million Social Security beneficiaries, about 4.1 million military and Federal Civil Service retirees and survivors, and about 22.4 million food stamp recipients."

The annual percentage change of the CPI is now calculated to be 2.6%. Many, from ordinary citizens to businessmen, question this number because they experience annual price increases which are closer to 5%.

John Williams, an economist who has had a career consulting for Fortune 500 companies and who publishes the newsletter "Shadow Government Statistics," estimates that the true inflation rate is about 7% greater than the government's CPI, which would put it at about 9.6%. He also calculates the "Pre-Clinton Era CPI", which is now



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