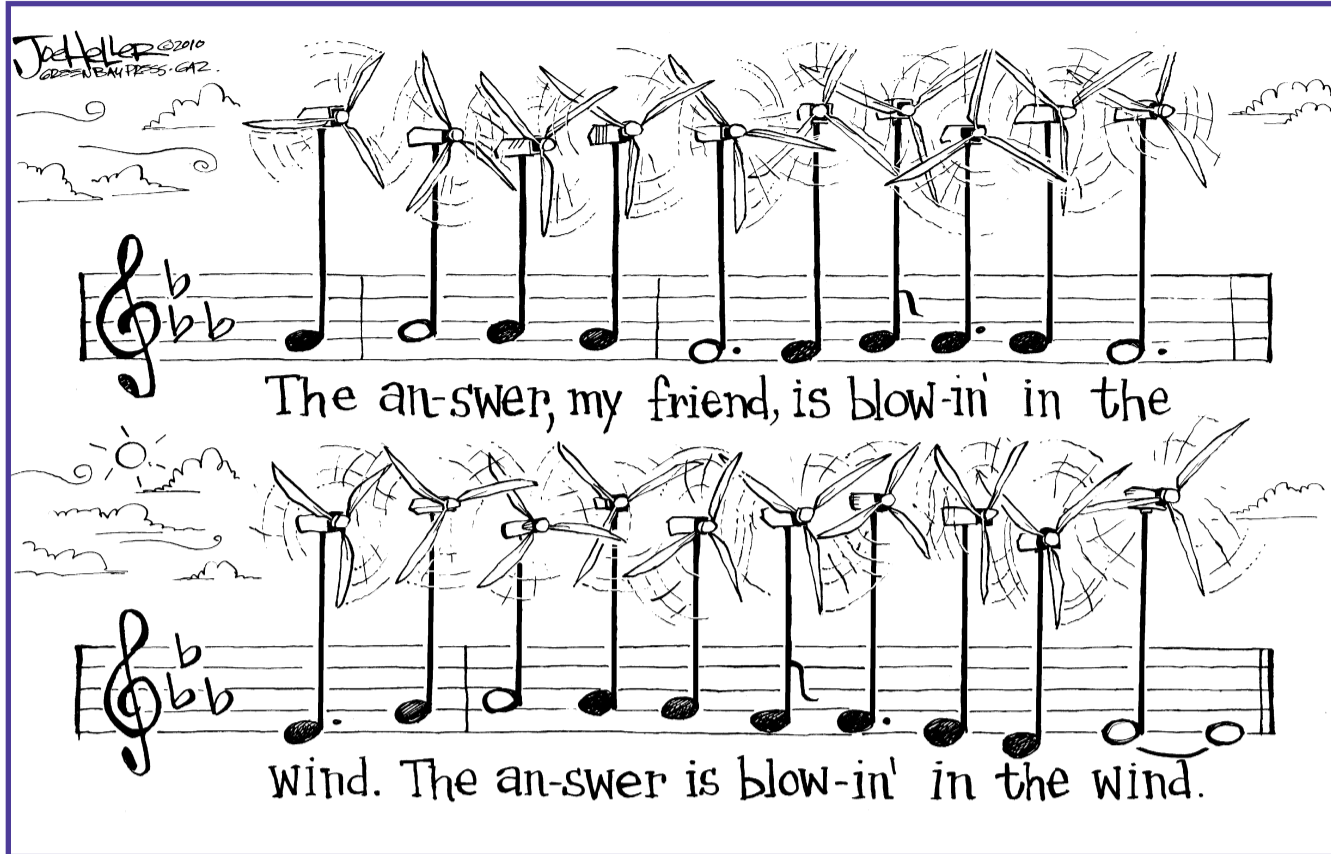


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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We encourage you to submit letters with both positive and constructive criticism that may help bring about positive change in the St. Joseph, Missouri community.

Please send to:
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Texas Straight Talk

Bizarre Spending Habits

Rep. Ron Paul, M.D. | Columnist
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (R-TEXAS)

Last week I had the opportunity to bring up spending and transparency in two important hearings. On Wednesday I questioned Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on some highly questionable uses of funds at the Federal Reserve, and on Thursday I asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about exorbitant spending at the State Department.

It is extremely important to continue bringing these issues up, especially in light of our difficult economic times, when so many are out of work, as I saw up close in my district at the Oceans of Opportunity Job Fair in Galveston two weeks ago. Those who are working live with the fear of losing their jobs as they struggle to pay bills. Meanwhile, Washington is talking of increasing their taxes, something voters were promised, clearly and adamantly, would not happen in this administration.

Government also struggles with money, but the struggle centers on how to get more of your money into government coffers. Rather than expanding the Federal budget in the face of economic downturn, we should be focusing on eliminating waste and being the very best stewards of public funds that we can possibly be. Most businesses have had to streamline and cut back in order to survive, and so it is only fair for our government to do the same.

Instead, the State Department is building a \$1 billion embassy in

London, the most expensive ever built. The plans even include surrounding it with a moat! I asked the Secretary of State about this massive expenditure, and she claimed the funds for this were coming from the sale of other properties. If money can be saved, then save it! Don't spend it on such an extravagant structure overseas when people back home can't find jobs or pay bills. Not only that, but the administration has committed to doubling foreign aid. That is one promise that is likely to be kept, despite our economic crisis.

I asked Chairman Bernanke about Federal Reserve agreements with foreign central banks and if he had had any conversations about bailing out Greece, which he flatly denied. However, he recently announced that the Federal Reserve will be looking into Goldman Sachs' derivative agreements with Greece. Goldman Sachs, as we know, has "too big to fail" status with the Fed, so it is conceivable that any Greece-related catastrophic losses at Goldman Sachs will once again be passed on to taxpayers.

Perhaps most sinister are the revelations in Robert Auerbach's book "Deception and Abuse at the Fed" that \$5.5 billion was sent to Saddam Hussein in the 80's - money that allowed Iraq to build up its military

machine to fight Iran prior to the first Gulf War, the very machine turned against our brave men and women within just a few years! I agree with Bernanke's characterization of this - it is indeed "bizarre"



think that Americans at the Federal Reserve could engage in this type of behavior, which some have called "criminal". However, Professor Auerbach served as a banking committee investigator, and as an economist at the Treasury Department and at the Federal Reserve.

His claims are hardly without merit. In fact, they are solidly backed by court rulings and other evidence.

The lack of accountability and transparency in our leaders on government spending is appalling. We simply must keep pressing these issues and voicing our objections if we are ever to reverse our failed policies.

Your Letters

To: Republicans in Congress

Before you support Obama's Health bill, please review this list of bipartisan failures. Quiz below.

- McCain-Feingold Finance Reform
- TARP
- 787 billion emergency stimulus bill passed one year ago. (We remember you voted on it before you read the bill.)
- Global Warming/Climate

Change/Carbon Credits legislation (McCain, Newt Gingrich & GWB all fell for the hoax that science proved climate changes were caused by humans)

- Too Big To Fail bailouts of banks and car companies.
- Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac
- 43 Trillion National Debt & unfunded liabilities

Where in the U.S. Constitution do you find authorization for any of the above federal programs?

Where in the Republican Party platform do you find support for any of the above federal programs?

Is the American economy more capitalistic? more socialistic? or more communistic as a result?

Do Americans get to keep more of their paychecks or have these programs caused Americans to have more of their assets forcibly taken from them (taxes) and given to others?

Is there more opportunity in America or more hindrances to economic freedom?

Compromise in the name of bipartisanship has created the unintended consequences of less wealth, less freedom and less opportunity.

Will Americans be better off in 4 years with National health care? Or will we just have more government, higher taxes and a decline in service? Please stand strong and vote NO! on more government intervention in healthcare. Your vote on the health-care bill will determine our vote in the Missouri August primary election. Paul Hamby
Maysville Missouri



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