

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

A Set of Principles for America Principles That Speak for Themselves

Adapted from William Simon, *A Time for Truth*, 1978

1. Individual liberty has the highest political value. All other values are subordinate to it.
2. Intervention by the state into our lives abridges liberty. Hence, it must be presumed to be a negative, uncreative and dangerous act, to be adopted only if overwhelming and incontrovertible evidence shows that its benefits far outweigh its costs.
3. No taxation without representation. American voters must be in a position to know and vote out of office those who assault their interests, as the voters define those interests. Hence, bureaucrats are not to have regulatory powers, and Congress shall not create programs that it cannot effectively oversee.
4. The inexorable interdependence of economic wealth and political liberty must be recognized. Citizens must learn that what keeps them prosperous is production and technological innovation. No wealth comes from government, but only from the free market. Citizens must be taught to understand that collectivism and central planning lead to poverty, so they are not again scammed by Marxist ideology.
5. Bureaucracies should be assumed to be noxious parasites on society, which tend to augment their own size, power and parasitical constituency. We must rollback strangling regulation and its bureaucratic machinery, to gain liberty, productivity and jobs.
6. Productivity and its growth must be the first economic consideration. That is the source of innovation, jobs and wealth. Hence, the profits needed for investment are a social blessing, not a social evil, and envy of the rich cannot be allowed to destroy a powerful economic system.
7. The concept that "wealth is theft" must be repudiated. Wealth can be stolen only AFTER it has been produced, and such theft is handled by our criminal

system. Gaining wealth by producing it in the free market must not be treated as criminal. Otherwise, we will destroy our productive processes.

8. The concept that the absence of money implies virtue must be repudiated. Poverty that results from honest misfortune differs from poverty resulting from sloth, incompetence and dishonesty.

9. The view that government is virtuous and producers are evil is folly. There is good and bad in both. That fact underlies any rational discourse.

10. The ethics of egalitarianism must be repudiated. A sound ethical society demands that achievers not be penalized or parasites rewarded. The able must work for sustenance and their savings for old age be safe in their own personal investments where politicians and bureaucrats cannot squander them. Government pension systems must be dismantled.

11. Those who claim the will of the People are elitists, and must be repudiated. The "People" is a collectivist myth. We are all individuals with individual wills and purposes. Only the free market recognizes the sovereignty of the individual. To destroy individual sovereignty is to alienate the voters and leave only organized mobs running things.

12. Our democracy is corrupted by teaching people "that if they can get together big enough gangs, they have the legal power to hijack other citizen's wealth, which means the power to hijack other people's efforts, energies and lives. No decent society can function when men are given such power." A state needs funds, but no political group or institution should be allowed to confiscate a citizen's honorably earned property. "Property rights" cannot be separated from "human rights." "One need merely see the appalling condition of 'human rights' in nations where there are no 'property rights' to understand why. It is an ignoble socialist myth which imagines that one can keep men's minds free while enslaving their bodies."

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Published by Freedom Matters, Inc.,

Bob Bowman, 4417 Rocky Dell Rd, Cross Plains, WI. 53528.

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