

**KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)**

**This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.**

**I have long heard the line used when ordering fast food..."Would you like fries with that?" Lately that often used question should be changed to... "Can you afford fries with that?" The cost of everything seems to be increasing and nearly every time you turn around some other fee or tax costs out of nowhere to attack a person's pocket book. The recent government political circus was absolutely disgusting. The ending of the "quote on quote crisis" was even worse because of the political payoffs inserted into the final agreement. Can't we elect people with integrity? The recent government shutdown borrowed money from my granddaughter and her daughter and her granddaughter. As it turned out, the debt ceiling was broken sometime in July and bureaucrats manipulated the crisis for pure political advantage into October. Taxpayers paid for nearly a three week vacation for 17% of the Federal work force, and the veterans who secured our freedom were discriminated against by the very government they offered their lives to defend.**

**I remember the Thomas Jefferson quote, "It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which, if acted on, would save on-half of the wars of the world." We have long-abandoned the principle of paying our own way. Today's entitlement class is truly a cancer on American prosperity.**

**Going back to the question -- "Would you like fries with that?" I hear in the news about the more and more people who answering this question. . ."Yeah-I want fries with that!" I also want a drink and desert and you need to give it to me free because I don't have any money.**

I have a friend who owns a fast food restaurant. For many years he had given free food to a street person. The street person was disabled and each day made his way into the restaurant to eat what my friend gave him. One day, a lawyer showed up and served my friend with a law suit because his business was not compliant with all the ADA requirements specifically matched to that homeless person. The suit was filed on behalf of the man who had been eating the free food from my friend for years.

My friend, needless to say, paid the settlement, and modified his business. Shortly after the settlement, the street person reappeared. You guessed it! He was there for his free food hand out.

My friend explained to the street person what his actions cost my friend a great deal of money for the settlement, legal fees, and construction. The homeless person was shocked....He thought the suit would be paid by the big corporation..... My friend explained that this was his franchise and not owned by the corporation..... and the settlement came directly from my friend's pocket. What a way to thank a person who had fed you for years?

How much longer can any of us afford the freeloaders and the entitlement junkies that now make up 50 % of our population? Can we really afford fries with that?

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