

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

As the new year begins, I see the implementation of new laws, policies, and taxes continuing to prove that California remains the land of the "circular firing squad." Simply put -- Ready -- Fire--- Aim! Our politicians place us in a circle, fire misdirected program bullets in every direction, and then wonder why a program's purpose misses the mark because of unintended outcomes. No matter how well intentioned a program or regulation may be, the unintended consequences hit each of us living in this politically progressive power nightmare directly in the spendable income pocketbook. As the Walls Street Journal put it, "California has a way of living up to the worst regulatory expectations ... of any state in the country, and an example of political correctness run amuck.

For example, look at the soaring egg prices. Have you been to the grocery store since January first? Egg prices have skyrocketed because of a 2008 California voter initiative requiring poultry farmers to significantly increase the size of poultry cages. When the state legislature realized this initiative would disadvantage California farmers, Sacramento doubled down on the problem requiring that eggs imported from other state must come from poultry farms meeting California cage requirements. Egg prices have nearly doubled in less than a year. Ready- Fire- Aim! Don't go out any try and raise your own chickens, however, because you will also have to meet the regulatory cage size now imbedded in California law. The other impact is that many farmers in states outside of California have decided not to market in the state. Membership in California's perpetual circular fire squad, is not limited to just Sacramento politicians. The endless focus groups, special advisory panels, and the continuous consultancy contracts have yet to advance the North Coast economic real growth factors. Whether the topic is "ending homelessness" or building business infrastructure, elected officials have no problem forming another group to study the problems, proposed potential solutions or obligate money for a new consultant to study-study-study an issue. Nothing seems to move beyond the study and the out brief of the study phase. Making a decision and executing a viable program, something other than an out brief, rarely happens. The only political

resolution to the myriad of problems is to raise taxes. After all, the circular firing squad bureaucracy only know how to act in the "ready-fire--aim" mode.

After researching the egg pricing fiasco, I can't help but speculate on the overall economic impact of "no GMO" foods, banning the use of plastic bags, tearing down billboards, no logging, no drilling, banning fracking, modifying petroleum blends used in vehicles, over regulation, excessive taxation, and all the other causes de jour that may hit the progressive agendas. Common sense is not to be found!

Think I'll get in my car and drive over to Nevada just to hit the common sense reset button. I'll fill up my car when I get there with a "non-California" fuel blend, go to the feed store and pick up some GMO seeds for my backyard garden, buy some lead ammunition for my rifle, and have the store clerks put everything I buy in plastic bags.

After the reset, I'll be ready for this year's continuing saga of the California circular firing squad.....Ready.....Fire....Aim.

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