

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

I returned this week from a Washington D.C. trip. Over the years, I have observed the enormous growth of the National bureaucracy. Nearly every corner of the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginal metroplex has some sort of Federal office housing thousands upon thousands of civilian government employees, contractors, and lobbyists.

I have seen the number of uniformed people within the Department of Defense decrease dramatically over the years, but also watched as the number of civilian employees multiply many times over. Add to this DOD civilian mega department, the social service programs and departments and it is easy to see why nothing in government seems to work very well. When a problem is detected, the immediate response is to create another agency to correct the problem. Along with the plans for correction, comes the authorizations to hire another large workforce of government bureaucrats. If you look for something to run efficiently, don't give it to government at any level. Open any quote book, and the words about government over-reach come blasting off the page. Gerald Ford--"A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have."

Our founding fathers spoke often about the potential tyranny resulting from big government. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

One doesn't have to go very far to run into the government's over regulation, over taxation at every political level, and redistribution of the sweat equity from those of us who live outside the "Beltway."

Government bureaucratic buffoonery is not limited to our Federal authorities. The antics of the Sacramento circus, reminds me of the Margaret Thatcher quote, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." Rather than combating the madness of more and more tax and fee economics to fund more and more giveaways to garner votes, the California political class overlooks reality and pushes an undoable agenda more often than not, totally ignored by the population. We pay for a

government of special interests and pet causes. Benjamin Franklin's quote speaks volumes for those of us who live in this state: "I am for doing to the poor, but...I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. I observe... that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provide for themselves, and of course become poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer." Thomas Jefferson sums up the political mess very well, "History, in general, only informs us what bad government is."

When I see the dysfunctions that characterize government at nearly every level, I can't help but ask about the character of the leaders elected to provide oversight and social accountability. Whether it's a badly administered national program or the County's department of Human Services..... the final quote that comes to mind is Edward R. Murrow's words, " A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves."

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