

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors , their children and grand children

The NSC FOGHORN™



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THE FOG BLASTER

By Ken Mahal, President NSC

I have so much to say it's hard to know where to begin. For most of us we most likely have mixed emotions about seeing the old year out and the new year in considering everything we will be facing here in Las Vegas, the State of Nevada and Washington. It seems this will be one of our more challenging years.

We never seem to solve anything so the headache gets worse. Let's start with the December 27th issue of the Wall Street Journal. We have the dubious honor of having the most Perchlorate polluting place in the United States. Perchlorate is a cold war chemical used in the manufacture of rocket fuel.

The WSJ lists eight locations with excessive Perchlorate with Accomack county Va. the lowest count of 4 parts per billion to Mather Air Force base with 640,000 PPB and Henderson 3,700,000 PPB and yes on it's way to the Las Vegas Wash. It is reported we have a concentration ten times what EPA considers safe. This is fast becoming a major source of water quality concern in California with the city of Rialto in San Bernardino County having lost half its water capacity in the last few months and with the problem growing. Are we also going to be in the same boat?



Typical Nevada Politician

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Now that the people of Imperial Valley California where a billion dollars of our fruits and vegetables are grown and with the rights to thousands of acre feet of water going back almost 100 years will not share their water with San Diego, this means California is not cutting back its Colorado River water use. That makes Nevada and Las Vegas in particular literally out of water. We have used almost 40,000 acre-feet in excess of our 300,000-acre feet and because of the Imperial Valley squabble and the Colorado at its lowest point in I believe in 150 years we in Las Vegas will be cutting back at the same time our politicians continue to permit thousands of acres more to be developed. Do you wonder how we will be making out? You're right; we will be expected to save more water so that this uncontrolled mania to grow can coast along for another year or so with the big bosses in the water authority still fussing about a power company when they can't manage their own affairs. I would predict there will always be someone generating electricity but the really crucial element is what do you do when there is no more water to flush our toilets into the Las Vegas Wash where our water intakes are located? Yes we have a few thousand acre feet stored in Arizona at a cost of \$8,000,000 (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) that will last a few months and several hundred thousand acres stored underground in North Las Vegas that may or may not all be recovered by any means, again enough to last a year or so. I for one cannot conserve any more water so no help from our house.

Our next big gamut is the tax and spend governor and the government employee legislatures who want a few billion of our hard earned and hard to save dollars for a school system that has failed and has thousands of illegal aliens by all indicators with nothing being done about it. Our education system is about as up to date as the one horse drawn plow of seventy years ago. Why is it that the Governor refuses to demand reorganization and zero based budgeting as he promised before being elected four years ago? According to a statewide survey of 600 voters 59 % are against any new taxes in particular if it is to be used for education, social services, prisons and other state programs according to the Reno daily and as reported by Steven B. Miller of Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI). NPRI is a conservative think tank that studies many issues relating to Nevada. Their latest is on the issue of the proposed Gross Receipts Tax. They report that this proposed tax will be like a pyramid ever growing and as stated by Steven when passing the gross tax on from one step to another in the process of getting product and services to we the public it wouldn't be the lowly ¼% as stated but more likely close to a 6% increase. Remember this is a tax on a companies gross not its net profit so quite a difference in cost when we buy goods and services. Only the state of Washington has such a tax and according to Stevens report there is substantial consensus that the GRT is a real burden on the people of the state of Washington. So under the circumstances why are we being forced into fighting against such a perverse tax?

The GRT tax according to Stevens report will create another monster in the state of Nevada. You're right a new Internal Revenue Service another bureaucracy we don't need. And you have to know if this tax is ever adopted it will only be the beginning. Another interesting observation, I noticed that the biggest employers like the big strip casinos have a sweetheart deal where the more GRT they pay they are allowed to deduct their \$100 per year employee head tax. It makes me wonder if their financial bean counters have figured that in the end they really will not be paying anymore tax than they do now. The writers of this heartless proposed tax will take it out of us as opposed to a nice clean 8 or 9% gross gaming tax on the big strip casinos where the tourists would really be picking up the bill and why shouldn't we do that? Have you ever read a paper or listened to the local news without some great story about the big strip operators. And this really makes me disgusted when I realize where I came from we had a dozen or more fortune 500 corporations and you hardly heard about them in the news, they just employed thousands of people in very well paying jobs. And of course they didn't control the politics either.

Last but not least this is the year of the battle over Medicare and prescription drugs. I don't know about you, if you have the supplemental insurance to cover the 20% not paid for under Medicare, well Agnes and I do and we have been notified because of Congress our supplemental goes up another \$400 plus the increase we all received from Medicare and taken out of our Social Security check. We did a study some years back and came up with only about eight items to fix Medicare but with congress they never think simple.

As far as a prescription drug program neither political party seems to really have an answer and probably because they never ask we retirees what would make sense for us. NSC proposed a five-step program of \$1,000 increments for up to \$5,000 per year coverage with a proportionate increased premium at each level and a catastrophic clause for all and it seems like a fair, simple and easy program to manage, so I guess our politicians have a problem with that. NSC proposed using a smart card for the purchase of all prescription drugs so there would be little or no bookkeeping. I presented it to Congresswoman Berkley and her only comment was "I don't like it", so much for that effort. She promised to pass our (Continued on page 4)

"Please Don't Quote Me"

We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.
 – Winston Churchill



A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. – George Bernard Shaw

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. – P.J. O'Rourke



In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.
 – Voltaire (1764)



No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session – Mark Twain (1866)

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you. – Pericles (430 B.C.)



What this country needs are more unemployed politicians
 – Edward Langley (1928-1995)

"In politics stupidity is not a handicap."
 – Napoleon I Bonaparte

When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators – P. J. O'Rourke

(Continued from page 2) paper along to Senators Reid and Ensign and we never heard from them so who knows what we will be stuck with? I think most of us would be willing to have the same health care plan that they do with the federal government but they don't want to discuss it. So much for our caring elected officials. Ho Hum.

No matter how we feel, and at our age it can be pretty lousy, we must be ever awake and be prepared to fight for our rights. Together we must win.

AMERICA LAST

By Dorothy Fuller, Nevada Council of Senior Citizens President

Another year has raced by and time to make plans...and resolutions that we don't keep.

I am writing about a crucial issue at the present time... This is a report of events that have evolved over the last several months. In case you have missed out some of the facts: first President Bush in his meeting with Vincente Fox the President of Mexico agreed to grant amnesty to thousands of illegal immigrants from Mexico, ... next step was to provide survival kits for them to enter the U.S. illegally, especially in Arizona, and to be sure there was water for them in the crossing... now the latest blow is to give them Social Security.

When they cannot give our own American veterans disability... Bush saying when he vetoed it, "It would cost too much!" or won't consider paying the "Notch Babies" as they patiently wait for them to die off and settle the issue.

You all have probably read of all the crimes committed by illegal immigrants who then run off to Mexico before they can be caught and Mexico won't return the criminals for prosecution. We do not have an extradition treaty with Mexico and I cannot even get a comment, or a reason why we do not have one.

With the NAFTA agreement it must be easier for them to bring illegal drugs into the country as the cocaine entering from Mexico was up 76% last year... when are our legislators going to make an effort to stop this?

Please telephone, fax, e-mail, or whatever your legislators your concerns about these issues. Ask who is going to pay the cost of an addition to the American embassy in Mexico to take care of paying the Social Security benefits. I recently read that \$36 billion was sent to Mexico by workers living here...does that help our economy?

Next Meeting

Thursday February 13, 2003
10:00 a.m. at the >>>>>>

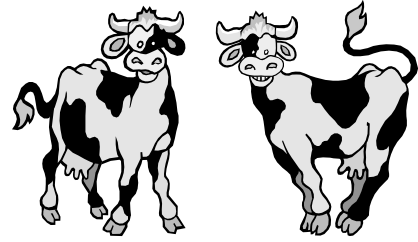


After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day.



Speakers will be Helen Denney, Executive Director and Steven Miller, Director of Policy Research of the Nevada Policy Research Institute a non-profit think tank. They will present the results of a very comprehensive study on why a gross receipts tax is unnecessary and give their suggestions for correcting the State's spending problem. All will receive a copy of their report to help us in our fight against any new taxes.

Two Cows



Contributed by Ken Mahal

DEMOCRAT You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. You feel guilty for being successful. You vote people into office that put a tax on your cows, forcing you to sell one to raise money to pay the tax. The people you voted for then take the tax money, buy a cow and give it to your neighbor. You feel righteous. Barbara Streisand sings for you.

SOCIALIST You have two cows. The government takes one and gives it to your neighbor. You form a cooperative to tell him how to manage his cow.

REPUBLICAN You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. So?

COMMUNIST You have two cows. The government seizes both and provides you with milk. You wait in line for hours to get it. It is expensive and sour.

CAPITALISM - AMERICAN STYLE You have two cows. You sell one, buy a bull, and build a herd of cows.

DEMOCRACY - AMERICAN STYLE You have two cows. The government taxes you to the point you have to sell both to support a man in a foreign country who has only one cow, which was a gift from your government.

BUREAUCRACY - AMERICAN STYLE You have two cows. The government takes them both, shoots one, milks the other, pays you for the milk, and then pours the milk down the drain.

AMERICAN CORPORATION You have two cows. You sell one, lease it back to yourself and do an IPO on the 2nd one. You force the two cows to produce the milk of four cows. You are surprised when one cow drops dead. You spin an announcement to the analysts stating you have downsized and are reducing expenses. Your stock goes up.

FRENCH CORPORATION You have two cows. You go on strike because you want three cows. You go to lunch. Life is good.

JAPANESE CORPORATION You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. They learn to travel on unbelievably crowded trains. Most are at the top of their class at cow school.

GERMAN CORPORATION You have two cows. You engineer them so they are all blond, drink lots of beer, give excellent quality milk, and run a hundred miles an hour. Unfortunately they also demand 13 weeks of vacation per year.

ITALIAN CORPORATION You have two cows but you don't know where they are. While ambling around, you see a beautiful woman. You break for lunch. Life is good.

RUSSIAN CORPORATION You have two cows. You count them and learn you have five cows. You have some more vodka. You count them again and learn you have 42 cows. You count them again and learn you have 12 cows. You stop counting cows and open another bottle of vodka. You produce your 10th, 5-year plan in the last 3 months. The Mafia shows up and takes over however many cows you really have.

FLORIDA CORPORATION You have a black cow and a brown cow. Everyone votes for the best looking one. Some of the people, who like the brown one best, vote for the black one. Some people vote for both. Some people vote for neither. Some people can't figure out how to vote at all. Finally, a bunch of guys from out-of-state tell you which is the best-looking one.

NEW YORK CORPORATION You have fifteen million cows. You have to choose which one will be the leader of the herd, so you pick some fat cow from Arkansas.

Prepare For Success

There is no shortage of opportunity.

Every day you are presented with countless opportunities to be, or do whatever you desire.

Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity.

Don't miss out on an opportunity because you're not prepared.

Your preparation is absolutely essential.

To achieve success, you must have self discipline.

You must increase your knowledge and develop your skills.

You're always in the right place at the right time when you're prepared.

Author: Motivation Mentor

NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

**4125 E. Yakima Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89121-6160**

Ken Mahal President
Phone: 702 737 1377
e-mail: nevsc@yahoo.com

Vernon Perry Vice President

Directors:

Belle Chohanin Finance
Florence Petris Records
Jeanie Tabeeck Communications
June Wilson Legislation
Richard Thomas Membership
Vernon Perry Issues
Ken Mahal Liaison
Larry Paulson Scientific Consultant



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of age, race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

TODAY IN HISTORY

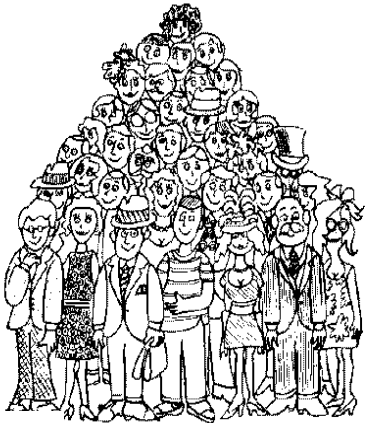
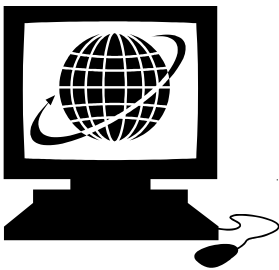
On **January 9**, 1788, Connecticut ratified the Constitution, becoming the fifth state in the Union.

Connecticut suffered under the Articles of Confederation. While paying heavy import duties to New York State, Connecticut found it difficult to discharge its war debts and rebuild its economy. Delegates Oliver Ellsworth, William Samuel Johnson, and Roger Sherman were sent to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia with a directive to create a more workable government in accordance with republican principles.

As the debate polarized between large and small states over the issue of legislative representation, these men proved invaluable. Large states advocated representation based on population, while smaller states, like New Jersey, urged each state have a single vote. Although protective of Connecticut's interests as a small state, the Connecticut delegation remained flexible and lobbied for the "Connecticut Compromise." It created the current legislative framework of an upper house based on equal representation, the Senate, and a lower house based on proportional representation, the House of Representatives.

After finishing their work at the Convention on September 17, 1787, the delegates returned to Connecticut. With Federalists firmly in control of the convention, Oliver Ellsworth opened the debates by reminding fellow citizens of Connecticut's disadvantage under of the Articles of Confederation:

Ellsworth's position prevailed. Connecticut's ratifying convention approved the Constitution by an overwhelming majority less than a week after Ellsworth's speech.



We're on the WEB
www.nevadaseniors.com

**Let's Stick Together
and Stick It To Them**