

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 4, issue 4

April 14, 2005

Special points of interest:

State & Local Tax Burden

which includes income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, luxury taxes and fuel taxes.

U.S. Average 10.1%

Highest:

- ◇ Maine 13.0%
- ◇ D.C. 12.2%
- ◇ New York 12.0%
- ◇ Hawaii 11.5%
- ◇ Rhode Island 11.4%

Lowest:

- ◇ Alabama 8.7%
- ◇ Tennessee 8.3%
- ◇ Delaware 8.0%
- ◇ New Hampshire 7.4%
- ◇ Alaska 6.4%

Nevada 9.5%

How tax friendly a state is depends on how you make your money, where in the state you live, if you own a home, if you are retired, if you smoke, drink or drive a gas guzzler.

Data from the Tax Foundation
Vern Perry

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THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY, AND DO, OH WHAT FUN.

By Ken Mahal, AIA, NSC President

SENATOR HARRY REID what's happened to you? You seem like an elderly Bull Elk who has lost his lady elk herd. Get over it, the election is over. Harry a little cooperation and honey goes a long ways. It is much better being a good looser than a ranting ragging sour puss. We need a lot done and being constructive will help so much more. Be a leader not a saboteur. Why pick on Senator Harry you say? Well almost never a day goes by now that he isn't threatening to shut down the government if he doesn't get his way and particularly in the selection of federal judges. Maybe he hasn't heard that the majority does rule the day. Why not let the president send his nominees to the Senate for an up or down vote and get on with the work at hand. How much does he think we will get in Nevada with this attitude? We have very few representatives as it is so we are always likely to be on the short end of the stick when it comes to pork barrel for Nevada. Senator keep this up and you aren't likely to get any more \$40,000,000 grants from the DOE again like you did for the Harry Reid Center at UNLV a few years back.

CONGRESSMAN JON PORTER the same goes for you when it comes to Yucca Mountain. Do you think that a couple of scheming emails will stop the Yucca Mountain project from going ahead? Be realistic Jon. What we should be doing is getting behind reprocessing the spent fuel rods and quite worrying about storing the rods any length of time at all. Everyone must know that if the mountain will stay dry or not for 10,000 years is of no consequence because for sure some common sense will arrive and began to reprocess the spent rods to reuse the energy in new atomic generating plants. And why not have Nevada in the forefront of having the first nuclear power plants built in modules like the ones we have aboard our aircraft carriers and used some forty years with no problems what so ever. And remember the French have been reprocessing spent rods for years for their nuclear plants as has Japan including them buying the spent rods from Europe and transporting them to Japan.

C. C. C. MYRNA WILLIAMS says "no more bidding for buildings" after the fiasco at the Justice Center and of course add the new Jail, both a couple of years over due and millions in overrun of the building contract costs. These were and are yours and the entire Clark County Commissioners responsibilities; you are the ones who screwed up in the first place. Also isn't it illegal for you to manipulate contracts without bidding them? And wouldn't you would just be deeper in trouble? So Myrna just learn how to do bid them right or get out of the job and let some one do it that knows how to do it right. It can be done, I've been there.

MCCARRAN AIRPORT boss Randy Walker isn't it time you take your last pay check and head for the hinterlands before you are snagged for the land deals costing Clark County millions upon millions of dollars in (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from Page 1) sweetheart deals? I'm still ticked over the land deal you gave Wal*Mart for a super center on Eastern in the Russell area. I wonder why that site wasn't put out for bids. We know that Wal*Mart wouldn't pay top buck unless they had to bid for it so again millions in the pocket of the wrong people.

SHERIFF BILL YOUNG should not get a favorable vote from the legislature for a ½ % sales tax grab split in ¼ % over several years. This is something everyone should contact their legislatures over as soon as possible and as many people as possible to let your state Senator and Assemblyperson know how you feel about the issue. The worst thing we ever did was give the ¼% sales tax grab to the Las Vegas Water Authority. They have been on a spending spree like nobody's business every since that time and wasting so much of it. In Sheriff Young's case the Metro police department is well funded by Clark County and the City of Las Vegas. I have not seen one thing that tells me he should be given that extra money to spend with no one doing oversight on his spending. We need the oversight from the city and county which are elected officials and are expected to keep Metro in line And they by the way have millions more in revenue given the last sessions new taxes so they can approve new cops as needed in their budget where it belongs. Also as I have mentioned before we have more gated communities per capita than any other city in the country which means the sheriff's numbers are bogus when it comes to using the national average on how many cops are needs.

PRESIDENT BUSH and Social Security is not with a capital "NOT" going to affect our pay checks. His proposal would be for another generation of people even after our baby boom kids retire and only a small amount would be allowed to be invested in things like government paper and index funds that have say a forty year track record of performance and approved by SS so there wouldn't be the risk that those against it are screaming about. As for the short fall predicted to happen when the new system kicks in it could be handled like we wrote about in 2003 for reforming SS. In that proposal we suggested that the government issue "SS Refunding Bonds" paying like 5% tax free in 30 to 50 year bonds and I predicted that those bonds would be sold out practically overnight. In fact those bonds would be a good investment for even our age group.

OUR REAL-ESTATE TAXES WILL NOT DRIVE US OUT OF OUR HOMES as we hoped for with the legislature missing the dead line by only one day and the governor signed the bill making our taxes for 2005-2006 restricted to a 3% increase which is fine with me. What they did is make income producing properties like rental homes, apartments, office building and the likes capped at about an 8% increase which is fine by me also. At least we have dodged the bullet for the time being.

AJR 11 (Assembly Joint Resolution 11) will be heard April 14th at 1:30 pm at the Grant Sawyer building by teleconference. This is a proposed constitutional amendment to give a permanent real-estate tax break to seniors having lived here 10 years and with the amount of the break and the age of the seniors to be determined by state statute at a later date. We have been asked by Assembly Speaker Perkins office to comment.

SENATE BILL 256 is being used by the Public Utilities Commission to give any reduction in gas rates and other expenses as a credit to the non residential customers because according to some peoples reasoning the corporations are subsidizing the residential properties and they are going to stop that. So folks as it stands now don't look for any rate reductions on your gas or electric bills by the PUC because they are going to give it to the businesses through flawed reasoning. Since when should the businesses get the reduction and we don't. I would like to explain to the PUC and legislature that the people came here first and they did it all for themselves until enough people lived close enough together to call it a community. Then the so called businesses came along afterwards to sell their wares to the community. Have you ever seen a bunch of businesses build in a cluster any place with out people and homes there to buy their goods? Hell no that would never happen so since when have we been getting a rate reduction we don't deserve? Businesses get the subsidy called business expensing when they fill out their taxes. We as home owners get no such deduction so reverse this stupid idea that we home owners are being subsidized

THAT'S ALL FOLKS HAVE A GREAT DAY



Legal Illegal Immigrants

Today

Tomorrow

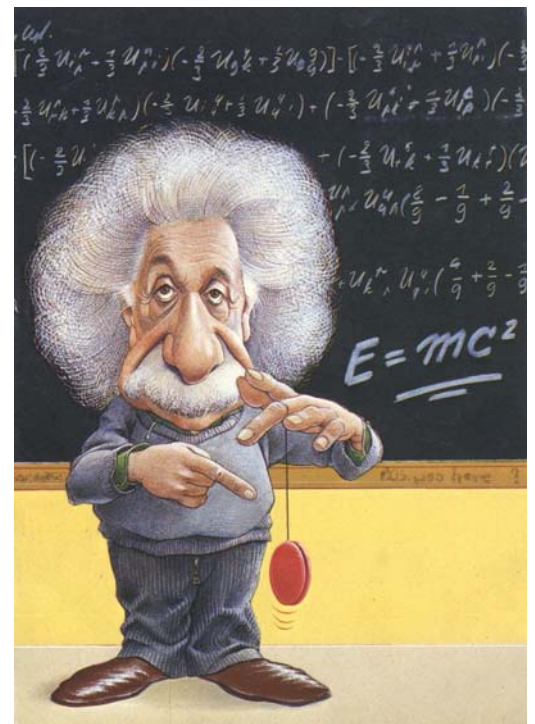


“Please Don’t Quote Me”



“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.” — Mark Twain

“The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional rights secure.” - Albert Einstein



A radical is a man with both feet planted — in the air; a conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however has never learned to walk; a reactionary is a somnambulist walking backwards; a liberal is a man who uses his legs and his hands at the behest of his head.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt — 1939



Looking for some light in the heat of immigration

Saturday, April 09, 2005 - Today the Daily Bulletin begins a yearlong series of articles on illegal immigration, one of the nation's most vexing issues.

Public rhetoric on immigration, as on so many topics today, tends to be strident, the arguments drawn in sharp, black-and-white contrasts. The Daily Bulletin intends this project to cast light on some of the gray areas, where progress might actually be made and solutions found.

The usual arguments go something like this:

- Illegal immigrants, primarily from Mexico and Central America, are overrunning our nation – especially border states like California and Arizona – and causing the country's degradation, say many U.S. citizens. Those who come here illegally fill our emergency rooms, costing hospitals millions of dollars in un-reimbursed care and raising the price of health care for the rest of us. They overburden our schools, increasing class sizes, requiring extra attention because of poor English skills and stealing teacher time from other students. They overcrowd our jails and prisons, costing us millions more. They clog our streets and freeways, driving without licenses and insurance. They take jobs that should go to citizens. And letting the undocumented flood across our borders raises the risk that terrorists will slip in that way.
- Illegal immigrants are only coming for economic opportunity, say their advocates, taking lowly jobs that Americans would not deign to do. They work hard to support themselves and their families, just as all the immigrants who have built this country have done since its founding. Rather than harassing them and threatening deportation, we should grant them driver's licenses and social services without discrimination. Certainly we should not stand by while many die trying to cross the desert to get into this country. After all, they are human beings who simply had the misfortune to be born on the wrong side of a border of opportunity.

As heated as the arguments can be, they are not always of a liberal-vs.-conservative, Democrat-vs.-Republican nature.

Democrats, at least in California, certainly provide the most vocal advocates for illegal immigrants. State Sen. Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, who is still trying to pass his bill granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, D-Los Angeles, made their bones in the immigrant community and strive to win new rights for them. Activist professors like Jose Calderon of Pitzer College in Claremont and Armando Navarro of UC Riverside just might work harder on immigrant issues than they do on academics. But many rank-and-file Democrats, including Latinos, fiercely oppose illegal immigration.

There is a deep divide on the Republican side, too. Some, like Rep. Gary Miller, R-Brea, are strong opponents of rights for illegal immigrants: Round them up and ship them home is his approach. He wants to beef up the Border Patrol and have it conduct inland raids. Miller is co-author of a bill to deny automatic U.S. citizenship to the estimated quarter-million children born each year to illegal immigrants in the United States.

Others, like Rep. David Dreier, R-Glendora, and President Bush himself, have greater fealty to the needs of business and free trade than to tightening the border against illegal immigration. Dreier, an (Continued on Page 5)



PO Box #19333*Las Vegas, NV 89132-0333*Tel (702) 388-1118 * www.SecuredBordersUSA.com * staff@SecuredBordersUSA.com

**HELP STOP THE "ILLEGAL ALIEN IMMIGRATION INVASION"
'TAKE ACTION NOW'**

SIGN & NOTARIZE OUR NATIONWIDE PETITION

Town Hall Meeting second Tuesday of each Month at 7:00 P.M. at: Elk's Lodge #1468, 4100 W. Charleston Blvd, Las Vegas, NV

MEDICARE: Part B Premiums To Rise 14% in 2006, CMS Says

Monthly premiums for Medicare Part B will rise by an estimated 14% to \$89.20 in 2006, in large part because of an unexpected 15% increase in spending on physician visits and other outpatient services in 2004, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) said in a letter on March 31, 2005 to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. Monthly Medicare premiums rose 17% this year to \$78.20, and Medicare trustees in their annual report released last week estimated that the premium would rise 12.1% in 2006 to \$87.70 per month. However, spending on Medicare Part B, which had been forecasted to increase 12% in 2004, actually rose about 15%, prompting CMS to revise its premium forecast upward by \$1.50 to \$89.20. Because monthly Medicare premiums are set each year to cover 25% of the projected cost of Medicare Part B, when spending for that part of the program increases, premiums also increase. Medicare Chief Actuary Richard Foster said that Medicare payments to doctors and other health care professionals increased from \$76.7 billion in 2003 to \$88.3 billion in 2004. CMS had "expected significant growth" in Medicare Part B spending and "got more than that," he added. Medicare officials attributed the higher spending level to longer office visits; more services provided, such as physical therapy; a large increase in the use of diagnostic scans; an increase in laboratory tests; and higher use of prescription drugs that are administered in a doctor's office. Enrollment growth and a 1.5% increase in Medicare reimbursements to physicians were not considered significant factors in the overall increase in spending. — adapted from an article by the National Journal Group, Limited — <http://nationaljournal.com/>.

(Continued from page 4) original proponent of the North American Free Trade Agreement, got a scare from a weak opponent in his November re-election because many of his Republican constituents were angered by what they saw as Dreier's soft record on immigration, and were stirred up by a couple of radio talk-show hosts who targeted him; he has since put more emphasis on border-enforcement legislation.

Bush has encountered a cool reception from his conservative base for his guest-worker proposal, which critics say would equate to blanket amnesty for lawbreakers.

The fact is that many American businesses squeeze profits from the employment of illegal immigrants, to whom they can pay low wages and give few or no benefits. Any truly serious attempt to round up illegal immigrants would involve raids on restaurants, hotels, clothing makers and agricultural fields, for example, and big business is not too keen on that idea.

Neither are many politicians then, because of detrimental effects on the economy and on their campaign donations from business owners. If those undocumented workers disappeared – as in the film "A Day Without a Mexican" – consumers would pay more for goods, services and food, more employers might shift jobs out of the country, and the well-to-do would be hard-pressed to find a good nanny.

So there are complicated economic, political and social forces at work in the immigration equation.

We are sure of two positions at this point:

- So long as illegal immigration is going to be tolerated, or even encouraged, by the federal government, more federal tax dollars need to return to California and other border states to pay for its staggering costs.
 - Driver's licenses, a privilege and not a right in this state anyway, should not be available to the undocumented.
- We will try to keep an open mind as the Daily Bulletin's immigration reporting project develops over the coming year. We hope to learn enough to arrive at some reasonable approaches toward illegal immigration, its causes and solutions. We hope you will, too. — from the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, Ontario, CA (If you want to be kept up-to-date on immigration issues from all over the country, send your e-mail address to vern@nevadaseniors.com with the subject "Immigration" — editor.)



At the March Meeting

Membership



Secured Borders U.S.A. Founder Lawrence Pappas

New Members:

Robert Homan
Betty M. Smith

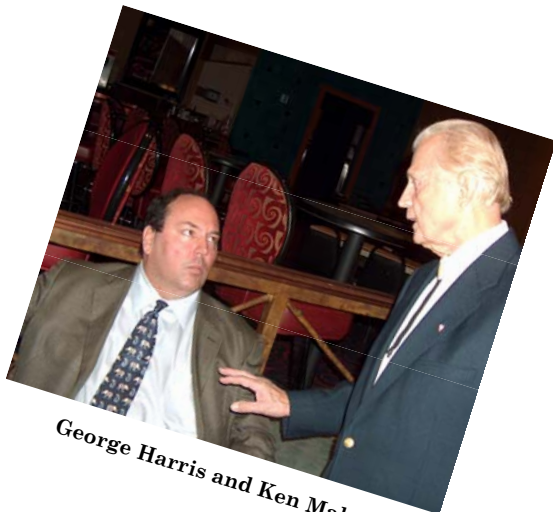
Welcome to all the new members.

Renewing Members:

Darrow R. & Elinor Beaton
Phyllis Blessinger
Jean Colby
Caroline Crose
Donald and Willene De Langis
Pauline Goldmann
Russ Mickelson
John Tabor, Jr.
Rosalind Van Heel

Thank you for your continued support.

N.B. You are given 90 days after your membership expires to renew before your name is removed from the membership list. Your membership anniversary date is on the *Foghorn* mailing label. If the date is in red please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting.



George Harris and Ken Mahal

George Harris spoke on tax reform and Lawrence Pappas updated us on illegal immigration problems and solutions.



Member Charlie Carpenter
Leading the Pledge of Allegiance



NSC Board Member Knight Allen

NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

4754 East Flamingo Road, Suite 416
Las Vegas, NV 89121-4709

Ken Mahal President

Phone: 702.737.1377

Fax: 702 .446.5534

e-mail: info@nevadaseniors.com

Vernon Perry Vice President

Directors:

Belle Chohanin	Finance
Florence Petris	Records
Knight Allen	Legislation
Richard Thomas	Communications
Vernon Perry	Issues & Membership
Ken Mahal	Liaison
Charlotte Padron	
Revelle Bacon	

Today In History April 14, 1865

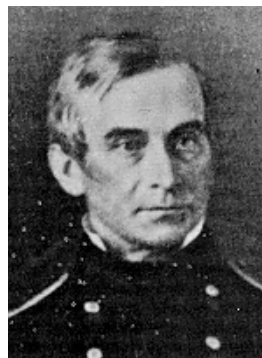
Victory Turns to Ashes

Exactly four years to the day that he withdrew from Fort Sumter, **Major General Robert Anderson** returned to participate in a ceremony to raise the original flag. The war was virtually over. Richmond, the Confederate capital, had fallen in early April, and General Robert E. Lee had surrendered his forces at Appomattox Courthouse less than a week before this Sumter commemoration. The fort itself had been restored to the Union only recently, in February 1865, when its defenders withdrew under threat from advancing Union forces.

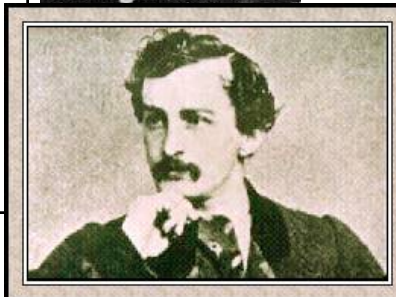
Anderson, now sixty years old and white-haired, had retired from active duty because of poor health. He spoke a few words as he raised the tattered flag he had taken with him four years before. The fort barely resembled the structure he had abandoned; intense Union bombardment had reduced much of it to rubble and debris. There were speeches, music, and a prolonged salute of guns, this time without incident, and the ceremony concluded.

That evening in Washington, not long after Anderson raised the Union flag over Fort Sumter, **President Lincoln** attended a play at Ford's Theatre. Shortly after 10 p.m., he was shot by **John Wilkes Booth**. – From Tulane University website www2.tulane.org.

John Wilkes Booth



Major General Robert Anderson



The **Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC)** is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of 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.



NSC is on the World Wide Web at
www.nevadaseniors.com
Check it out !!