

Open LETTER

April 1994

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EATON

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PAY EXACTLY ***** DOLLARS 50 CENTS

VENDOR #

TO THE ORDER OF

Where Prohibited By Conscience

*Starvo
Lina M. Twitchee*

⑈00162095⑈ ⑈072000805⑈ 1908⑈00738⑈5⑈

To Judge Kenneth Hansen:

I was among the prospective jurors called for the February 56-2 Eaton County District Court dates, although I was never selected for the voir dire or seated on a jury. Despite not having the opportunity to decide a court case, I found the situation educational in the intricacies of the legal system, and I consider the experience a worthwhile one. Today in the mail I received a check for \$52.50 to pay for my half days of service and my mileage expenses for the month. Please accept that check back uncashed with this letter.

The government does not sell products or services to voluntary customers to fund its payroll and incidental expenses as a private company does. Therefore, the money to cover a check drawn by a county treasurer, as this check was, can only be obtained by state or federal taxation. I have never in my life accepted any money from the government, or received any other material benefit paid for with tax dollars or fines. Spending money that I did not rightfully earn myself, but that was honestly earned by others and then taken

by the government and given to me, violates all of the principals I stand for. I would not be able to accept this money from you in good conscience.

I am returning the voided check to you, Judge Hansen, because it was in your courtroom that nearly all the trials I sat in on took place. I am certain you are not the person who needs to take care of this matter, but I trust you will see this check gets to the proper party who needs to void it from the county financial records.

I thank you for your assistance with this matter.

:Michael Emhart, 0294.

"Let's rid our streets of all those inanimate objects that cause all our problems."

One Small Step, or A Giant Leap?

To Mayor David Hollister:

Since the gun buyback worked so well, why don't we take the idea and expand it to fix all the other ills of society?

To solve the drug problem, we can offer cash and coupons when people turn in crack pipes, marijuana rolling papers, or hypodermic needles-- no questions asked. And why don't we have a cigarette buyback, to solve the problems of cancer and second-hand smoke? What do you think, a penny for every cigarette turned in?

And how about a music turn-in: offering merchandise certificates for every Snoop Doggy Dog, NWA, or Metallica album collected. And think how much safer we would all be if we had a television buyback, to stop our children from watching Beavis and Butthead; and a trade-in of violent video game cartridges, like that awful Mortal Kombat.

Next we can start a gambling buyback, giving out tennis shoes when people turn in dice and decks of cards. And how about giving away leather jackets or other big items if people bring in a whole roulette wheel?

And then we can satisfy the Deja Vu protestors, and have a Playboy magazine buyback, and maybe double the value for any adult video brought in, in working condition or not. And I'm sure we can solve the problem of premarital sex by having students trade in their condoms for a months worth of the Disney channel for free.

Guns are only a small first step. Let's rid our streets of all those inanimate objects that cause all our problems. The possibilities are endless!

:Michael Emhart, 0294.

Post Office Box 80985 Lansing Michigan 48908-0985

"We have to protect people like David Koresh so that we're protected."

:Robert Glenn

WACO: The Big Lie

The "videotape you were never supposed to see," taken by agents of the BATF and intercepted from satellite feed by reporter Linda Thompson, played to a packed room at the March LAMM dinner meeting. The meeting featured Robert Glenn, host of "Absolutely Right," a local conservative cable TV show. Mr Glenn has been closely following the story of the Waco, Texas debacle, where more than 100 religious people met a fiery death at the hands of zealous government agents.

Glenn began the evening with the question "Is it too early or too late to head off the US" government who has "burned Americans alive solely and completely because they defended themselves?" He stressed "we are talking about murder... people were deliberately murdered at Waco for no cause whatsoever... at the approval of the highest officers of the US government."

The videotape presented evidence against the governments involvement in the tragedy. It traces the situation from its origins, well before the February 1993 initial raid, with the background of the Branch Davidians and their leader, David Koresh. After 60 years of peaceful existence; the trouble began when a rival of Koresh left the group, and got revenge by making false charges of adulterous sex, child abuse, and weapons stockpiling to government agencies and cult awareness networks.

The Texas Department of Social Services investigated the sex and child abuse charges, and

found no evidence of any wrongdoing. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has no jurisdiction over child abuse or polygamy charges, so their only legitimate interest in the sect was the suspicion that they may not have paid a \$200 tax on an otherwise legal machine gun, a report that the local sheriff investigated and found unsubstantiated; all sheriffs found was a legally acquired rifle that could be confused for a machine gun by an untrained person.

For this possible \$200 tax, the ATF surrounded the ranch, forcibly entered, flooded the house with tear gas, and used assault weapons on the house owners, resulting in the deaths of both residents and ATF agents. The Davidians refused to yield, and this began a three month standoff, which ended in a fire that killed every inhabitant, a fire that the government did not attempt to put out, and that the videotape seems to confirm was set by the government agents.

At one point in the standoff, the Davidians threw out four bedsheets sewn together, painted with the message, "God Help Us, We Want The Media!" The press was kept three miles away, and citizens were kept 5 miles away, so the only news that the American people heard was the government version of the story... lies, lies, lies.

Janet Reno lied about child abuse to make ATF mistakes seem justified, the agents lied about charges of drug manufacturing to be able to use tanks against US citizens, and the underlying charge of machine guns was also a lie-- not one illegal weapon was found in the rubble.

The meeting ended as it began, with a chilling thought, "The government should not be in the business of defining who's a cult and who's not. David Koresh was nuts, but that's not the point. If the government can do it to him, then who's next?" **Who indeed?** The government will continue to try to control the people until the people begin to control the government.

Absolutely Right, with host **Robert Glenn**, can be seen each Tuesday at 7pm on cable channel 37 in Lansing, Wednesday at 9pm on cable channel 56 in East Lansing.

The LAMM meets the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be:

Thursday, April 14, 1994
at **Sneakers Restaurant** in the **Frantor Shopping Plaza**, off US-127, Lansing. People begin showing up at 6:00 pm, dinner is served beginning at 6:30, and the meeting begins at 7:00.

The guest speaker will be **Robert Stepanovich**, owner of the **Capital City Mortgage Company**. Featured will be the video **"The IRS and Taxpayer Rights,"** and a question-and-answer discussion session.

Taxation is the subject everyone loves to hate, so come join in the constructive debate!

The **Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan** was founded in 1981 to promote ideas that support and enhance personal freedom, free market economics, and political liberty. The LAMM is not responsible to any other group that calls itself "libertarian." The LAMM is run without officers for the benefit of those who attend its meetings. For information about the LAMM, call **Jon Addiss** at 517/394-0122.

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"It pains me to think that I am continually forced to accept responsibility for the failures of others."

Not Interested in Riding the Government Gravy Train

To Representative Nick Smith:

I want to thank you for your "small efforts," and let you to know they do not go unnoticed. I am referring in particular to your vote on the "California Earthquake Relief legislation."

Every American over five years old knows that California is located along fault lines. Anyone who chooses to live in Los Angeles does so at their own risk, and when an earthquake does hit, they had better have prepared in advance to dig themselves out. The same was true for past "disasters" we have heard so much about. Who does not know that Florida is prone to hurricanes? And when you live on the banks of the river that divides our country, the Mississippi, can you really claim to be surprised that the river might flood when there is a lot of rain?

It amazes me how many people do not prepare themselves for what should be expected, and then believe the rest of the nation should come and rescue them from their lack of foresight.

I have perused my copy of the United States Constitution many times lately, and I still can not find the articles that determine it is the proper role of the federal government to pay for the effects of

hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, or extremely cold winters. Am I missing something, or is it those who are expecting this aid who are in the wrong?

I pains me to think that I am continually forced to accept responsibility for the failures of these folks, that my hard-earned tax dollars should go to cover their inability to plan-- or worse, that the government should increase the federal deficit to pay to feed and house these people. It is not the responsibility of the government or the taxpayers to provide this aid. I would want my legislators to vote against even basic earthquake or other disaster relief, and when I read the reports detailing all the pork-barrel riders that were attached to this legislation, it made me furious!

I see that an extra \$200,000 for papaya growers in Hawaii, \$10 million for the redevelopment of Penn Station in New York, and \$300 million in low-income heating assistance for Midwesterners, to name just a few, were all added to the "earthquake relief bill." The absurdity of this would almost be something to laugh at, if it wasn't such a serious waste of my money, and such a serious breach of the trust I have placed in my elected legislators.

I realize, Representative Smith, that you voted against this folly. I would like to thank you for standing up for what your constituents believe in, even if the rest of the legislature passes such ludicrous laws right past you. Your voting for what is truly right in instances like this is what will win you re-election.

Please know that the residents of your district are not interested in riding the government gravy-train-- they are interested in helping you derail it before it plummets off a cliff, taking all of us with it. Please continue to vote against such wastes of our tax dollars, and against such silly programs that increase the deficit.

:Michael Emhart, 0294.

Monday, Jan. 31, 1994

COPS AND COURTS

Handgun buys on the rise

DETROIT — The number of new handgun registrations in Michigan increased 15 percent in 1993 over the previous year.

"The industry has never seen anything like this," said Wayne Knowles, operator of Target Sports in Royal Oak.

Police agencies statewide registered 96,522 handguns in 1993, a 15 percent increase.

Compiled from wire reports.

Tuesday, March 1, 1994

YOUR OPINIONS

The State Journal's bias is showing. Why did you put the three-sentence report on a 15 percent rise in handgun sales under the heading "Cops and Courts?"

Why do you assume that a purchase of a firearm will lead to a situation that will involve a law enforcement officer or a legal proceeding? Of the 96,000 handguns registered to law-abiding Michigan citizens in 1993, only the tiniest percentage of those will ever be involved in any confrontational situation, and only a fraction of those will be used for the commission of an illegal activity instead of self-defense.

I do not understand why you find it necessary to pretend there is a cause-and-effect relationship there. You should take more care to think about the myths and stereotypes you perpetuate with such careless news placement.

MICHAEL EMHART,
Lansing

"You should take more care to think about the myths and stereotypes you perpetuate."

An Open INVITATION...

Would you like to see your views or news in print here? We certainly would! You are invited to send in your thoughts, comments, and **Open LETTERS** on any topic pertaining to public policy, individual liberty, personal responsibility, or economic opportunity. Your ideas will be printed with little or no editing, based on relevance (and space permitting), and shared with hundreds of people in the mid-Michigan area. If you are a member of a group working towards increasing liberty or shaping political policy, send in updates about what you are doing... there are many others who may like to join you.

Open LETTER is edited and laid out in the **Freedom Reading Room** by Michael Emhart. Printing is paid for by Liberty Coins. Postage is paid for by Jon Addiss. The views printed here are not necessarily the opinions of the editor or sponsors, although most **Interested Parties** probably do agree!

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

If PT Barnum was right, and there really is a sucker born every minute, that means it took approximately three years to give birth to all of the people who voted Yes on the Proposal A tax hike.

Know Your Taxpayer Rights, the day before they're due-- at the Thursday, April 14 LAMM meeting.
(Details inside...)

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