

FACTS & OPINIONS

On Public Interest Issues

Quotes

The government was set to protect man from criminals, and the Constitution was written to protect man from government.

– Ayn Rand

I heartily accept the motto, “That government is best which governs least.”

– Henry David Thoreau

He who seeks rest finds boredom. He who seeks work finds rest.

– Dylan Thomas

William F. Buckley Jr. (1925-2008)

Rest in Peace

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, lovers of ideas everywhere were saddened to learn that William F. Buckley Jr., the architect of the revolution that inspired Barry Goldwater's 1964 campaign and culminated in the ascendancy of Ronald Reagan to the presidency, was found dead in his study at his home in Stamford, CT. Buckley, the founder of *National Review* magazine and the television program *Firing Line*, will be remembered, by many, as a conservative stalwart. Certainly he was. But he was much more.

He was, foremost, a lover of his country and its founding principle: freedom. With his considerable charisma and many talents he brought intellectual vigor and buoyancy to a conservative movement — and indeed a nation — that had been

suffering from a dearth of cultural confidence. In 1951 Buckley completed his seminal work *God and Man at Yale*, which challenged the fatalistic and nihilistic forces of liberalism.

In 1955 Buckley founded *National Review*. The magazine was a gauntlet at the feet of neo-liberalism, a challenge to the purveyors of collectivism and relativism. Yet despite its intellectual heft, *National Review* was not a pedantic tome of academic snobbery. Indeed, in the publisher's founding statement what stands out most is its simple and unapologetic defense of America and the truths it was founded upon: “[I]n its maturity, literate America rejected conservatism in favor of radical social experimentation. Instead of covetously consolidating its premises, the United States seems tormented by its tradition

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FACTS & OPINIONS

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President
Dr. Don Racheter

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Focus on Iowa Wesleyan College

Iowa Wesleyan College continues to grow: A total of 252 new students have enrolled for the 2007-2008 academic year — an increase of 7 percent from last year.

To observe the official beginning of reconstruction to the campus's Chapel Auditorium, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on 14 February, as the college commemorated its 166th Founder's Day celebration. The \$5.6 million project will create an additional 4,500 sq. feet of space and improve the auditorium's heating and ventilation systems, making it an even more attractive atmosphere for the performing arts.

On 4 March IWC kicked-off its annual Brown Bag Lecture Series. Held every Tuesday at noon for the duration of the month of March, the lectures are open to the public and focus on an array of historical subjects.

What's New at Public Interest Institute?

Public Interest Institute is pleased to announce a new addition to its staff. In March, Ellen Racheter joined the Institute as a Research Analyst. Ellen holds degrees from Indiana State University and Christian Theological Seminary.

From 2-5 April, Institute President Dr. Don Racheter was in Chicago for the Midwest Political Science Convention.

On 11 April Research Analyst John Hendrickson traveled to Arlington, VA for a conference hosted by the Philadelphia Society. The conference was the society's 44th national meeting and its motif was *Europe, the United States, and the future of Western Civilization*.

On 14-15 April President Racheter was in Seattle, WA for a conference titled, "Making Government Work for Taxpayers. The Conference was hosted by the Washington Policy Center.

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What Happened to America?

Ben Hayden

Lately the war in Iraq seems to be slipping out of the news and out of our minds. There is less news coverage of the situation and the candidates running for president barely seem to acknowledge the war in Iraq, and when they do, all they say is "Bring our troops home," or "America is succeeding in Iraq!" With this small amount of coverage from national outlets, it's extremely hard for the average American to understand that America *is* succeeding in Iraq. The last big media coverage of the war that America received was simply another fallacy about how America shouldn't be in Iraq. Without the help of most national news agencies, a large number of Veterans have taken it upon themselves to educate the American people about the truths of the war in Iraq. The largest group of these Veterans is Vets for Freedom. Vets for Freedom is a non-profit, non-partisan group dedicated to the education of Americans on the role of America in Iraq. I have joined this group in their march for success, as I know it is extremely important that our troops on the front lines have the backing of the nation for which they are fighting, trying

to keep us at home safe from terrorist organizations.

Recently, I came off active duty from the United States Marine Corps. I was an active duty Marine for four years. During my tour as a Marine, I served in two deployments to Iraq. My first deployment was from February of 2004 to October of 2004, and my second deployment was from August of 2005 to April of 2006. As any younger Veteran can attest, when you tell someone that you are a Veteran, they instantly thank you for your service. They then proceed to ask you if you ever served in Iraq, but they don't ask this like a normal question. Instead, they seem to "beat around the bush." When it comes up in a conversation, it usually sounds something like this; "Yeah, I got out of the Marine Corps in June of last year." "Oh really? Wow, thank you for your service. Did you ever, umm, you know, go *overseas*?" They always emphasize "*overseas*," and say it at a whisper level. It's almost like they feel guilty for asking us if we served in

Iraq. I can't comprehend why someone would be ashamed to ask a Veteran about his or her service to their country because Veterans tend to be extremely proud of their service and love to tell people about their experiences. Is it because they didn't serve in the Military, and feel guilty about it? Is it because they feel sorry for us? I personally, along with almost all of the Veterans that I've spoken with, believe it's because they feel ashamed of the way that Americans seem to be acting. Now, it isn't *all* Americans. A lot of Americans support us AND what we do, and for that you have our heartfelt thanks. But a lot of Americans seem to feel just the opposite, which includes those that "support the troops, but not the war." No Veteran can seem to figure that statement out, but I'll get into that later.

There has been a situation brewing in Berkeley, California, since January of 2008. It's one of the main reasons that I felt compelled to write this article. The

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Facts & Opinions

Question of the Quarter:

Should Iowa ban smoking in all public bars and restaurants?

Send your thoughts on this issue to us at public.interest.institute@limitedgovernment.org. We may publish some of your ideas in the next issue of *Facts & Opinions* in August 2008 and on our Website at: www.limitedgovernment.org.

What Happened to America?

Ben Hayden

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town of Berkeley has decided to take a stand *against* the United States Marine Corps by allowing a group of protestors to protest the current situation in Iraq, right outside the Marine recruiter's office. The fees for the parking space outside of the recruiter's office and other cost involved with hosting a protest were waived for the group by the town of Berkeley. Most of America agrees that what the town of Berkeley did was wrong, and Berkeley did decide that they would withdraw a letter they sent to the Marines telling them that they were unwelcome in their town. Again, most of America believes that what Berkeley did was wrong. Congress and other lawmakers urged Berkeley to rethink what they had done by threatening to withhold state and federal funds from them. But my question is how many Americans sent the town of Berkeley a letter, an email, or even a phone call describing their distaste for what they did? How many Americans wrote, emailed, or called Code Pink (the group protesting in Berkeley) to let their distaste with that organization be known? If Code Pink had done

this in January of 2004 it would have outraged America. Now, it barely makes the evening news.

In November of 2007 I attended a forum at the University of Northern Iowa in which six professors each were allowed several minutes to offer why they thought America should not be in Iraq. Each professor gave various reasons ranging from historical perspectives to the apparent lack of backing by the American people, and my favorite reason being the financial aspect of the war. Some people believe that the war has cost too much money and that America needs to retreat before we spend any more. This is a terrible thing to say. This tells the families of the victims of September 11th, 2001, that their loved one's life isn't worth the cost of fighting. It's telling the families of those Marines/Soldiers who haven't come home yet that their lives and sacrifices aren't worth it. What a sad day for America. The University failed, however, to offer an opposing view on why we *should* be in Iraq. When asked if they would like to host a debate on the same topic with Veterans that have actually *been* to Iraq, the University's political science department declined. It should also be noted that at the end of the forum, the moderator, (Phil Mauceri, from the political science department), allowed for questions from the audience

"You cannot support the troops, if you don't support the war. It's the same as saying you support teachers but not education or that you support doctors but not healthcare. Supporting the troops goes hand-in-hand with supporting their mission in Iraq."

which included primarily UNI students. Two Veterans that were students at UNI voiced their opinions noting that they felt "unappreciated." The entire panel then said that they didn't mean to offend anyone, and that they were grateful for the service of the Military. But their point was already made. You *cannot* support the troops, if you don't support the war. It's the same as saying you support teachers but not

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education or that you support doctors but not healthcare. Supporting the troops goes hand-in-hand with supporting their mission in Iraq.

In closing, I feel it necessary to discuss the current situation in Iraq. As many people know, the surge is working. In December of 2007, US Military deaths fell to the lowest level they have been since February 2004. Overall attacks in Iraq have dropped 55%. Over 70,000 Iraqis (Sunni and Shiite) have joined Concerned Local Citizens (CLC) groups to stand up against al-Qaeda in Iraq. General David Petraeus, the top general in Iraq, will return to America this spring and is expected to announce that the surge has worked as planned. Yet some people are *still* against us. People say that the US Troops want to come home, and that that they miss their families, however, this doesn't mean they don't believe in what they are fighting for. Anytime I'm away from my family, I miss them. I would be afraid of the person that didn't. It is tragic that American lives have been lost, and my thoughts and prayers go out to those families, but every American that is currently in Iraq either joined the Military, or re-enlisted while operations in Iraq were going on. Re-enlistment rates have never been higher. The reason behind this is because the men and women that have been to Iraq, that have first-

hand accounts of what is actually going on in Iraq, are *wanting* to go back to Iraq a third, fourth, and sometimes a fifth time, because they see the change, they see that we're actually helping people. A vast majority of the Servicemen and women returning will tell you that we are making substantial progress in Iraq. Between my first and second deployments I saw Iraq grow in leaps and bounds, yet most of the media outlets in America will lead you to believe the opposite. As Veterans of the Armed Forces, it was, is, and always will be our job to keep America safe. We know what dangers there are in the world because we have seen the eyes of the enemy. We know that he will come to America to prey on the rights and freedoms that we have worked so hard to keep. Please, help us in making sure that those rights and freedoms are never infringed upon by anyone, foreign or domestic.

Ben Hayden is State Captain of the Iowa Chapter of Vets for Freedom.

*For more, visit:
www.vetsforfreedom.org*

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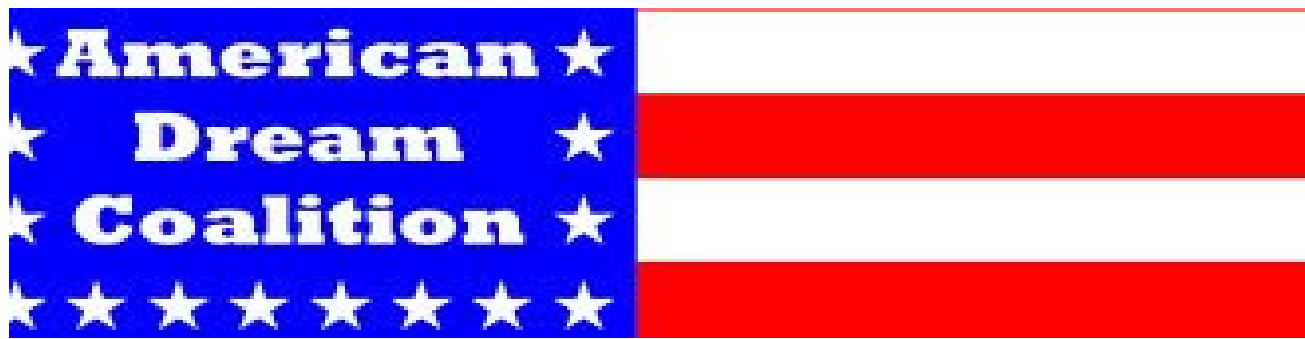
Kristyn Birrell

"**S**timulus: something that incites or rouses to action; an incentive." In February, Congress approved a \$168 billion economic stimulus package to help our slowing economy. One hundred and sixty-eight BILLION dollars -- a staggering amount to most of us, but only a drop in the bucket of our \$14 trillion dollar economy.

At first glance, the bill looks like a great idea. Downturn in the economy, spending down, government to the rescue with rebates and tax breaks, more money to spend, spending up, economy back on top, right? Many of us can look forward to receiving a check in the mail in the coming months. While 'free money' is always nice, a bit of economic observation may temper our initial excitement.

Economic Lesson #1: There is no such thing as a free lunch. Milton Friedman may have passed on, but his economic teachings have not. Children generally do not consider the origins of that \$20 from Mom and Dad — it's just "free money." Assuming the money is rightfully the parents

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Free Lunch Money

Kristyn Birrell

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to give (i.e. it is not stolen), there are three possible sources: (1) Mom and Dad took the money from their wallet, thus, although the child's spending can increase, the parent's spending must decrease. (2) Mom and Dad borrowed the money from a third party, so their spending doesn't have to decrease in the short run. In the long run, however, Mom and Dad (or the child) will have to pay the money back, decreasing future consumption. (3) Mom and Dad are lucky enough to actually have a money tree in the backyard that grows money on command.

Those receiving stimulus checks are not children, so they should ask, "Where is this money coming from?" Economist Russ Roberts puts it best. "The money has to come from somewhere. If you raise taxes to fund the plan, the people who are taxed are poorer and they'll spend less. If you borrow money to fund the plan, the people who buy the government bonds have less money to spend and that offsets the stimulus. It's like taking a bucket of water from the deep end of a pool and dumping it into the shallow end. Funny thing — the water in the shallow end doesn't get

any deeper."

Of course, the government actually does have a money tree so they could just print more money. Increasing the money supply, however, causes inflation, and inflation makes the money we have worth less.

Economic Lesson #2: Incentives matter. Incentives incite action. What actions will the stimulus package spur?

Imagine parents who give each of their children \$20. Do they all go out and spend it? Depending on the child's preferences, the child may spend all of the money, save all of it, or split the windfall between consumption and savings. Society as well exhibits various preferences and spending patterns.

A one-time increase like the stimulus check is more likely to be saved than a permanent increase, which explains their historically lackluster effect on energizing the economy.

Economic Lesson #3: Politicians often focus too much on the short run. The economic stimulus package is like giving children lollipops. The sugar may give them a short burst of energy, but they will soon crash. To ensure long-term energy and health, the children must be provided with a consistent nutritious diet. Real problems underlie our current slowdown, and real reform is necessary. Congress could better focus its energy on actions that provide long run productive incentives, like lowering both corporate

"The money has to come from somewhere ... if you raise taxes to fund the plan, the people who are taxed are poorer and they'll spend less. If you borrow money to fund the plan, the people who buy the government bonds have less money to spend and that offsets the stimulus."

and personal income taxes and economic deregulation in general.

Politicians, though, are elected in the short run not the long run. It's no wonder the economic stimulus package got such quick bipartisan support in an election year. Parents might give their children money with no ulterior motives, but Congress is not so altruistic. What were they really hoping to stimulate? Russ Roberts says, "Usually, the only thing that gets stimulated is a politician's approval rating."

Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. has declared the stimulus package "a gift to the middle class." Parents teach their children to be grateful and not assess the value of a gift, but this is one gift horse you may want to look in the mouth.

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**William F. Buckley Jr.
(1925-2008)**

Rest in Peace

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of fixed postulates having to do with the meaning of existence, with the relationship of the state to the individual, of the individual to his neighbor, so clearly enunciated in the enabling documents of our Republic."

Buckley will be remembered for his role in creating and shaping the conservative movement, but politics was only one of his many passions and talents. Indeed, he was a renaissance man personified. He spoke Spanish and French fluently.

His command of the English language (his critics called it verbiage) was so extensive that it has become a thing of legend. When Buckley once used the word "irenic" an infuriated *Frontline* guest demanded to know why he didn't just say "peaceful." Buckley's response: "I desired that extra syllable."

He was, at different times in his life, a musician, sailor, novelist, and spy. He loved the finer things and possessed a Tory-like air of sophistication, yet Buckley was contemptuous of elitism. This scorn is perhaps best revealed in his famous comment that he would rather be governed by the first 100 names in the Boston phone book than the Harvard faculty.

Over the years Buckley's

celebrity was enhanced by his extraordinary manners and class, and he would eventually inspire generations of young conservative minds — many of which wanted to *be* Bill Buckley.

Some of us never had the privilege of meeting him in person, but on one thing friends and admirers of the man can agree:

The world will be a smaller, sadder place without WFB.

Jon Miltimore is a Research Analyst at the Public Interest Institute.