

January 2011



West Charlotte County Republican Club



“One Nation Under God ”

WCCRC * PO Box 271 * Placida, FL 33946

www.charlottecountygop.com

Editor—Peter Watson
copterpete@comcast.net

Location: American Legion
3436 Indiana Road,
Rotonda West , FL 33946
3rd Tuesday each month
Cash Bar 6:00 to 6:30 PM
Dinner & Meeting 6:30 PM

President’s Message

2011 Officers

President—Douglas Tucker

1st V.P.—Lou Spacco

2nd V.P.—Dennis Curtis
dcurtis@ewol.com
(941) 697-6274

Secretary—Nina Stamoulis

Treasurer—Dick Wieland

Past President—Ray Corcoran

Director—Peter Watson

Director—Walt Fatz

Director—Debra Rodi

Committee Chairs

Chaplain—Ed Lines

Parliamentarian—Open

Candidates—Ray Corcoran

Membership—Debra Rodi

Ways and Means/Julie Cotton
Socials

Legislative—Walt Fatz

Newsletter—Peter Watson

Webmaster—Peter Watson

Dear Fellow Republicans,

As we begin a new year, we always have a tendency to look back and reflect on the positives and negatives of the prior year. Nationally we saw a wave of Republican support that swept state houses and the halls of Congress.

However, we saw a deepening divide across the nation between the two parties that some say will get even worse over the next two years.

One thing that we can say was a positive was that people across this great nation stood up and said, “The path that the Republicans were going down wasn’t the GOP way anymore.” We had lost our way with spending, the constitution was being torn apart, and we needed to take a stand and say NO MORE! The Tea Party, along with other groups like the 9/12’ers showed us that this country was still a center right nation, and we needed to instill the trust lost.

Without the fire from these groups, would we have changed course so fast? Would the people have supported good candidates, and worked hard to convince the other folks that conservative political leaders would cut spending?

This was a team effort. Both the Republicans and the Tea Party worked to help get good conservatives elected, and if we continue our success will continue.

The only thing that would act to stop the momentum is our own Arrogance and Pride on the part of both sides.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Tucker, President



The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the West charlotte County Republican Club, it's Board, Officers, or Members. They represent the views of individual writers who are solely responsible for the content. Not responsible for typographical errors.

★ **Membership Drive, Special Deal for membership meetings.** ★
★
★ We are currently starting a membership drive, and we have a special offer to our members: If you ★
★ bring in a new member (someone or a family that has not been a member in the past) You and ★
★ the new member eat for free! ★
★ This is limited to one meal for the current member and one meal for the new member. If you have ★
★ 2 in your party and 2 in the new member party only a total of 2 get to eat for free out of the 4. This ★
★ is a 50 to 100% meal discount based on the number in the party. ★
★
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★

Next Meeting — January 18th

- Menu Choices:**
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Baked Fish
Chef's Salad

For reservations: Denny Curtis dcurtis@ewol.com
(941) 697-6274

Please get reservations in by Sunday January 16th

Program for Meeting

This month's speaker will be Ray Sandrock, the County Administrator.

Ray has been with Charlotte County Government since 1999, when he started as a Finance Manager with Public Works. In 2002 he was promoted to Assistant Budget Director and later spent 4 years as the Director of Budget and Administrative Services. The department received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award each year that Ray was Director. From May 2009 until August 2010, Ray served as Assistant County Administrator.



Join us at the next WCCRC Social

February 1st

Johnny Leverock's
7092 Placida Rd, Cape Haze

5:00-7:00 PM

\$5.00 includes 2 drink tickets and appetizers
Bring your Republican friends

Stay for dinner after the social and the club receives 15% of what
you spend

It is time to pay your 2011 membership dues

Couples \$30
Singles \$20

Mail checks to:

West Charlotte County Republican Club
P.O. Box 271
Placida, FL 33946

THE WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CLUB EXTENDS
A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Beth M. Baker
Bruce Stirling
William & Hilary Dahms

THE HOUSING CRISIS – COURTESY OF DODD, FRANK, RAINES, & GORELICK

ANN COULTER

The Republicans are back in charge in the House of Representatives this week, and not a moment too soon! Forget "stimulus" bills and "shovel-ready" bailouts (for public school teachers, who need shovels for what they're teaching), the current financial crisis, which is the second Great Depression, was created slowly and methodically by Democrat hacks running Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac over the past 18 years.

As even Obama's treasury secretary admitted in congressional hearings, "Fannie and Freddie were a core part of what went wrong in our system." And if it's something Tim Geithner noticed, it's probably something that's fairly obvious.

Goo-goo liberals with federal titles pressured banks into making absurd loans to high-risk borrowers -- demanding, for example, that the banks accept unemployment benefits as collateral. Then Fannie re-packaged the bad loans as "prime mortgages" and sold them to banks, thus poisoning the entire financial market with hidden bad loans. Believe it or not, the loans went belly up, banks went under, and the Democrats used taxpayer money to bail out their friends on Wall Street. So far, Fannie and Freddie's default on loans that should never have been made has cost the taxpayer tens of billions of dollars. Some estimates say the final cost to the taxpayer will be more than \$1 trillion. To put that number in perspective, for a trillion dollars, President Obama could pass another stupid, useless stimulus package that doesn't create a single real job. Obama's own Federal Housing Finance Agency reported recently that by 2014, Freddie and Fannie will cost taxpayers between \$221 billion to \$363 billion.

Over and over again, Republicans tried to rein in the politically correct policies being foisted on mortgage lenders by Fannie Mae, only to be met by a Praetorian Guard of Democrats howling that Republicans hated the poor. In 2003, Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee wrote a bill to tighten the lending regulation of Fannie and Freddie. Every single Democrat on the committee voted against it. In the House, Barney Frank angrily proclaimed that Fannie Mae was "just fine." Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., accused Republicans of going on a "witch hunt" against Fannie Mae and attempting a "political lynching of Franklin Raines" (which, in a game of "bad metaphor Scrabble" would have been a double word score). Fannie was pressuring banks to write mortgages with no money down and no proof of income. What could go wrong?

In 2004, Bush's White House Chief Economist Gregory Mankiw warned that Fannie was creating "systemic risk for our financial system." In response, Barney Frank went to a champagne brunch with his partner "just because."

Democrats saw nothing of concern in the Fannie debacle. Bad mortgages don't contain sodium, do they? They don't engage in "hate speech." And they don't emit carbon dioxide. There was nothing to catch a Democrat's eye.

In 2005, when the housing bubble burst, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., introduced a bill allowing Fannie Mae to buy up even more schlock mortgages, apparently reasoning that if owning some toxic mortgages is bad, owning lots of them must be better! He accused Republican opponents of his suicidal bill of being against affordable housing. (And that is a specific example of how liberals love the poor so much, they promoted policies to create millions more of them.)

As late as 2008, Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who had received more than \$133,000 in political contributions from Fannie Mae, called Fannie "fundamentally strong" and "in good shape" -- which is the kind of thing the Politburo used to say about Yuri Andropov right after he died. (Amazingly, Dodd was only the second most embarrassing Democrat to run for president in 2008, but only because John Edwards was also running that year.)

As the titanic losses were racking up, Fannie Mae's operators, Franklin Raines and Jamie Gorelick, disguised the catastrophe by orchestrating a \$5 billion accounting fraud -- all the while continuing to pressure banks to make absurd, politically correct loans and denouncing Republicans as enemies of the poor.

In Gorelick's defense, at least when she was wrecking the economy, she wasn't able to wreck national security by building any more walls between the FBI and the CIA. Have you ever noticed that whenever there's a major calamity in this country, the name "Jamie Gorelick" always pops up? I think I'll pull some articles about the Great Chicago Fire from Nexis to see if there was a "Gorelick" living on Catherine O'Leary's block.

As Peter Schweizer points out in his magnificent book "Architects of Ruin," which everyone should read, Enron's accounting fraud was a paltry \$567 million -- and it didn't bring down the entire financial system. Those involved in the Enron manipulations went to prison. Raines and Gorelick not only didn't go to jail, they walked away with multimillion-dollar payouts, courtesy of the taxpayer.

(Here's more fascinating Jamie Gorelick trivia: That giant wall she built between the FBI and the CIA, making 9/11 possible? It was financed with a risky loan from Fannie Mae.)

Under the Democrats' 2010 "Financial Reform" bill (written by Chris Dodd, Barney Frank and Goldman Sachs), Raines keeps his \$90 million, Jamie Gorelick keeps her \$26.4 million, and Goldman keeps its \$12 billion from the AIG bailout.

Let's get it back. Twelve billion, one hundred and sixteen point four million dollars might not sound like a lot to you, but it starts to add up.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Visit our facebook page.

Just go to Facebook.com and search for West Charlotte County Republican Club. This site was created by our First Vice President Doug Tucker who also does the maintenance and updates. — Thanks Doug!

A MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

BY: THE HONORABLE ERIC CANTOR
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

We began our new majority with a simple, but highly important act. For the first time in recent history, the House gathered together and actually read the Constitution. It served as an important reminder that this institution is the People's House.

We have also adopted new rules to establish a Constitution-focused House of Representatives. From this moment forward, every bill must be accompanied by a statement of Constitutional authority that permits it.

Our new Majority stands for a different and better way. We believe in a government that controls less and spends less. This Congress will be a "cut-and-grow" Congress. We are going to cut spending and job-killing government regulations, and grow the economy and private sector jobs. Click here to watch the Weekly Republican Address, in which I discuss where Congress needs to go.

For too long, families and small businesses across America tightened their belts while the federal government continued its spending spree. Therefore, our first piece of legislation was to cut our own Congressional budgets - saving the taxpayers millions of dollars in the first year alone.

It passed the House overwhelmingly and our first spending cut is now in effect.

This is only the beginning.

Regards,

Rep. Eric Cantor
House Majority Leader

GLOBAL WARMING

The Washington Post

The Arctic ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department yesterday from Consulafft, at Bergen, Norway. Reports from fishermen, seal hunters, and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes. Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared.

Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts which have never before ventured so far north are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds.

Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable.

This report from the Associated Press was published in the Washington Post on November 2, 1922 – 89 Years Ago !!!

Thank You!

The millions of you who have given up looking for work are taken off the unemployment rolls. That makes me look better! If all the unemployed check receivers were added back on, unemployment would be 17%. So, **have a beer on me!**

LABOR REALITY

Why look for work when you get paid not to?

Plus, Obama supports us for "giving up looking!" He just gets better.



Jim Graham



Remember 9/11!



THE CLOWARD – PIVEN STRATEGY IS THE ROOT OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) succeeded the National Welfare Rights Organization in the execution of the Cloward-Piven grand tactics of using the poor as cannon fodder to tear down the capitalist system. It was low-income, mostly black and Hispanic people, who were used by ACORN guerrillas to take subprime toxic mortgages.

An Obama campaign dispatch on October 6 had the right perspective in observing that "the backward economic philosophy and culture of corruption that helped create the current crisis are looking more and more like any other major financial crisis of our time." True enough.

The root causes for the 2008 financial panic were sown some 40 years ago when the Institute for Policy Studies, the notorious "Think Tank of the Left," held socialist seminars geared toward undermining the American capitalist system. Beginning in 1964 and continuing to the present day, the Institute for Policy Studies has used seminars especially scoped to influence congressmen and their assistants to support the "progressive," that is to say "socialist," viewpoint. A 1969 "Housing and Property" seminar, hosted by the Institute for Policy Studies, for example, treated Capitol Hill denizens to mind-stretching leftism. Bringing together speakers from big-city tenants councils, neighborhood legal services, FHA insurance, savings-and-loans entities, and the Shannon and Luchs Realty Company, the Institute for Policy Studies "plinked" the first domino that led to the current crisis.

First proposed in 1966 and named after Columbia University sociologists Richard Andrew Cloward and Frances Fox Piven, the "Cloward-Piven Strategy" seeks to hasten the fall of capitalism by overloading the government bureaucracy with a flood of impossible demands, thus pushing society into crisis and economic collapse.

Inspired by the August 1965 riots in the black district of Watts in Los Angeles (which erupted after police had used batons to subdue a black man suspected of drunk driving), Cloward and Piven published an article titled "The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty" in the May 2, 1966 issue of *The Nation*. Following its publication, *The Nation* sold an unprecedented 30,000 reprints. Activists were abuzz over the so-called "crisis strategy" or "Cloward-Piven Strategy," as it came to be called. Many were eager to put it into effect.

In their 1966 article, Cloward and Piven charged that the ruling classes used welfare to weaken the poor; that by providing a social safety net, the rich doused the fires of rebellion. Poor people can advance only when "the rest of society is afraid of them," Cloward told *The New York Times* on September 27, 1970. Rather than placating the poor with government hand-outs, wrote Cloward and Piven, activists should work to sabotage and destroy the welfare system; the collapse of the welfare state would ignite a political and financial crisis that would rock the nation; poor people would rise in revolt; only then would "the rest of society" accept their demands.

The key to sparking this rebellion would be to expose the inadequacy of the welfare state. Cloward-Piven's early promoters cited radical organizer Saul Alinsky as their inspiration. "Make the enemy live up to their (sic) own book of rules," Alinsky wrote in his 1972 book *Rules for Radicals*. When pressed to honor every word of every law and statute, every Judaeo-Christian moral tenet, and every implicit promise of the liberal social contract, human agencies inevitably fall short. The system's failure to "live up" to its rule book can then be used to discredit it altogether, and to replace the capitalist "rule book" with a socialist one.

The authors noted that the number of Americans subsisting on welfare -- about 8 million, at the time -- probably represented less than half the number who were technically eligible for full benefits. They proposed a "massive drive to recruit the poor onto the welfare rolls." Cloward and Piven calculated that persuading even a fraction of potential welfare recipients to demand their entitlements would bankrupt the system. The result, they predicted, would be "a profound financial and political crisis" that would unleash "powerful forces ... for major economic reform at the national level."

Their article called for "cadres of aggressive organizers" to use "demonstrations to create a climate of militancy." Intimidated by threats of black violence, politicians would appeal to the federal government for help. Carefully

orchestrated media campaigns, carried out by friendly, leftwing journalists, would float the idea of "a federal program of income redistribution," in the form of a guaranteed living income for all -- working and non-working people alike. Local officials would clutch at this idea like drowning men to a lifeline. They would apply pressure on Washington to implement it. With every major city erupting into chaos, Washington would have to act.

This was an example of what are commonly called Trojan Horse movements -- mass movements whose outward purpose seems to be providing material help to the downtrodden, but whose real objective is to draft poor people into service as revolutionary foot soldiers; to mobilize poor people en masse to overwhelm government agencies with a flood of demands beyond the capacity of those agencies to meet. The flood of demands was calculated to break the budget, jam the bureaucratic gears into gridlock, and bring the system crashing down. Fear, turmoil, violence and economic collapse would accompany such a breakdown -- providing perfect conditions for fostering radical change. That was the theory.

Cloward and Piven recruited a militant black organizer named George Wiley to lead their new movement. In the summer of 1967, Wiley founded the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). His tactics closely followed the recommendations set out in Cloward and Piven's article. His followers invaded welfare offices across the United States -- often violently -- bullying social workers and loudly demanding every penny to which the law "entitled" them. By 1969, NWRO claimed a dues-paying membership of 22,500 families, with 523 chapters across the nation.

Regarding Wiley's tactics, The New York Times commented on September 27, 1970, "There have been sit-ins in legislative chambers, including a United States Senate committee hearing, mass demonstrations of several thousand welfare recipients, school boycotts, picket lines, mounted police, tear gas, arrests - and, on occasion, rock-throwing, smashed glass doors, overturned desks, scattered papers and ripped-out phones." "These methods proved effective. "The flooding succeeded beyond Wiley's wildest dreams," writes Sol Stern in the City Journal. "From 1965 to 1974, the number of single-parent households on welfare soared from 4.3 million to 10.8 million, despite mostly flush economic times. By the early 1970s, one person was on the welfare rolls in New York City for every two working in the city's private economy." "As a direct result of its massive welfare spending, New York City was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1975. The entire state of New York nearly went down with it. The Cloward-Piven strategy had proved its effectiveness.

The Cloward-Piven strategy depended on surprise. Once society recovered from the initial shock, the backlash began. New York's welfare crisis horrified America, giving rise to a reform movement which culminated in "the end of welfare as we know it" -- the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which imposed time limits on federal welfare, along with strict eligibility and work requirements. Both Cloward and Piven attended the White House signing of the bill as guests of President Clinton.

Most Americans to this day have never heard of Cloward and Piven. But New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani attempted to expose them in the late 1990s. As his drive for welfare reform gained momentum, Giuliani accused the militant scholars by name, citing their 1966 manifesto as evidence that they had engaged in deliberate economic sabotage. "This wasn't an accident," Giuliani charged in a 1997 speech. "It wasn't an atmospheric thing, it wasn't supernatural. This is the result of policies and programs designed to have the maximum number of people get on welfare."

DEMOCRATS AND LEFTIST CONTROLLED MEDIA OUTLETS BLAME THE TEA PARTY AND SARAH PALIN FOR SHOOTING OF REP. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

As U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords fights for her life after a mad gunman shot her on Saturday, some Democrats and major media have moved to pin the blame for her attack on the tea party movement and conservatives like Sarah Palin, despite the fact that the shooter was both deranged and fascinated by leftwing politics.

Giffords' Democratic colleague, Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva, told Mother Jones magazine within hours after the rampage that the "political tone and tenor" created by Palin and the tea party movement had set the stage for the shooting. Grijalva said Palin's "apparatus" had put Giffords' and his own life at risk. "Both Gabby and I were targeted in the apparatus in that cycle [saying] these people are 'enemies.'" He added: "The Palin express better look at their tone and their tenor."

The liberal New York Times was not far behind Grijalva, publishing a lead story headlined "Bloodshed Puts New Focus on Vitriol in Politics." The Times insuated that conservative criticism of President Barack Obama and his policies may have been at the root of this weekend's violence, noting "... it was hard to separate what had happened from the heated nature of the debate that has swirled around Mr. Obama and Democratic policies of the past two years." The paper even suggested tea party criticisms of Obama's healthcare plan, the debate over Arizona's new rules on police handling of illegal immigrants and even the fact Giffords was Jewish could have played a role. The Times also claimed that the fact Palin's political action committee had targeted Giffords for defeat may have played a role. But tea party figures and conservatives have assailed such characterizations.

Judson Phillips, the founder of Tea Party Nation, noted on his website that Giffords is "a liberal," but added, "that does not matter now. No one should be a victim of violence because of their political beliefs." Indeed, the profile of the accused shooter, 22-year-old Jared Loughner, that continues to emerge is that of a deranged young man whose mind was deeply disturbed, but who also tinkered with both anarchist ideas and leftwing politics.

ABC News reported Saturday night that Loughner had identified among his favorite books "The Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx, Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and the fiction classic "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" -- hardly the reading list of a Palin supporter.

CLEARLY, LOUGHNER WAS NOT INFLUENCED BY ANY CONSERVATIVE VIEWPOINTS, BUT WAS INSTEAD, A FAR LEFT WING RADICAL, AND PROPONENT OF VIOLENT REVOLUTION

U.S. Naval Institute - December 23, 2010

President Barack Obama was outmaneuvered by the Russians and should have abandoned the New START negotiations instead of seeking a political victory, says former nuclear plans monitor Vice Admiral Jerry Miller, USN (Ret).

"The Obama administration is continuing a dated policy in which we cannot even unilaterally reduce our own inventory of weapons and delivery systems without being on parity with the Russians," Miller told the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Md. "We could give up plenty of deployed delivery systems and not adversely affect our national security one bit, but New START prohibits such action - so we are now stuck with some outmoded and useless elements in our nuke force."

After meeting resistance from several Republicans, the U.S. Senate ratified the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Russia by a vote of 71-26 on Wednesday.

"The Soviets/Russians were done in by Reagan and our missile defense program because they cannot afford to build such a system," said Miller. "They instead try to counter our program with rhetoric at the bargaining table. And they won by outmaneuvering Obama. START plays right into their hands."

Former President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is often credited with bankrupting the U.S.S.R. because the Soviets were unable to keep pace with the technology being developed by the United States.

"We have always been superior in quality of our nuclear force, so we did not have to negotiate with a party we do not trust," said Miller. "If Obama wanted to save some money and improve national defense, he should have gotten out of the nuke negotiations and acted unilaterally. START is simply a political victory for Obama."

Miller, who helped prepare the National Strategic Target List and Single Integrated Operational Plan for waging nuclear war and later participated in arms control meetings with the Soviet government, expressed concern that START could leave the United States vulnerable to other emerging threats.

"The treaty prohibits the conversion of an existing ballistic missile system into a missile defense system," said Miller. "We might want to do that with a Trident or an ICBM sometime in the future, particularly if the Chinese alleged threat materializes."

HOMELAND SECURITY HASN'T MADE US SAFER

by: ANNE APPLEBAUM (Columnist – Washington Post and Slate)

Hardly anyone has seriously scrutinized either the priorities or the spending patterns of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its junior partner, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), since their hurried creation in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Sure, they get criticized plenty. But year in, year out, they continue to grow faster and cost more -- presumably because Americans think they are being protected from terrorism by all that spending. Yet there is no evidence whatsoever that the agencies are making Americans any safer.

DHS serves only one clear purpose: to provide unimaginable bonanzas for favored congressional districts around the United States, most of which face no statistically significant security threat at all. One thinks of the \$436,504 that the Blackfeet Nation of Montana received in fiscal 2010 "to help strengthen the nation against risks associated with potential terrorist attacks"; the \$1,000,000 that the village of Poynette, Wisconsin (pop. 2,266) received in fiscal 2009 for an "emergency operations center"; or the \$67,000 worth of surveillance equipment purchased by Marin County, California, and discovered, still in its original packaging, four years later. And indeed, every U.S. state, no matter how landlocked or underpopulated, receives, by law, a fixed percentage of homeland security spending every year.

As for the TSA, I am not aware of a single bomber or bomb plot stopped by its time-wasting procedures. In fact, TSA screeners consistently fail to spot the majority of fake "bombs" and bomb parts the agency periodically plants to test their skills. In Los Angeles, whose airport was targeted by the "millennium plot" on New Year's 2000, screeners failed some 75 percent of these tests.

Terrorists have been stopped since 2001 and plots prevented, but always by other means. After the Nigerian "underwear bomber" of Christmas Day 2009 was foiled, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano claimed "the system worked" -- but the bomber was caught by a passenger, not the feds. Richard Reid, the 2001 shoe bomber, was undone by an alert stewardess who smelled something funny. The 2006 Heathrow Airport plot was uncovered by an intelligence tip. Al Qaeda's recent attempt to explode cargo planes was caught by a human intelligence source, not an X-ray machine. Yet the TSA responds to these events by placing restrictions on shoes, liquids, and now perhaps printer cartridges.

Given this reality -- and given that 9/11 was, above all, a massive intelligence failure -- wouldn't we be safer if the vast budgets of TSA and its partners around the world were diverted away from confiscating nail scissors and toward creating better information systems and better intelligence? Imagine if security officers in Amsterdam had been made aware of the warnings the underwear bomber's father gave to the U.S. Embassy in Abuja. Or, for that matter, if consular officers had prevented him from receiving a visa in the first place.

Better still, DHS could be broken up into its component parts, with special funding and planning carried out at the federal level only for cities and buildings that are actually at risk of terrorist attack. Here is the truth: New York City requires a lot more homeland security spending, per capita, than Poynette. Here is the even starker truth: Poynette needs no homeland security spending at all. The events of 9/11 did not prove that the United States needs to spend more on local police forces and fire brigades; they proved that Americans need to learn how to make better use of the information they have and apply it with speed and efficiency.

“Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of crap by the clean end.”

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Always a pathetic RINO

Highly endeared by Democrats

Becoming New Media Darling

Voted for all 4 of Obama's crucial
Lame Duck items



She never did pass
the smell test

Jim Graham

Recent Senate Votes

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 - Vote **Agreed to** (79-16, 5 Not Voting) Congress agreed to this short-term spending bill that funds government operations at 2010 levels through March 4, 2011. The president signed the bill into law on December 22, 2010.

Sen. Bill Nelson voted **YES**

Sen. George LeMieux voted **NO**

START Treaty Ratification - Vote **Agreed to** (71-26, 3 Not Voting)

The Senate ratified this treaty with Russia that would reduce the size of each country's nuclear arsenal by 30 percent.

Sen. Bill Nelson voted **YES**

Sen. George LeMieux voted **NO**

Recent House Votes

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act - Vote **Passed** (215-144, 74 Not Voting)

The House gave final approval to this bill overhauling the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory authority. The Senate passed the bill by voice vote on December 19, 2010. The president is expected to sign the bill into law.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **NO**

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 - Vote **Passed** (193-165, 75 Not Voting) Congress agreed to this short-term spending bill that funds government operations at 2010 levels through March 4, 2011. The president signed the bill into law on December 22, 2010.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **NO**

James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act - Vote **Passed** (206-60, 168 Not Voting) Congress cleared this \$4.2 billion measure for the president that will reopen the Victim Compensation Fund and make payments to people exposed to toxic material at Ground Zero. The Senate passed the measure by voice vote earlier in the day. The president is expected to sign the bill into law.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **Not Voting**

Health Care Repeal Rule - Vote **Passed** (236-181, 2 Present, 15 Not Voting)

The House approved the rules for debating H.R.2, the bill to repeal the 2010 health care law. The rules provide for seven hours of floor debate. The vote on H.R.2, which was scheduled for Jan. 12, was postponed following Saturday's shootings in Tucson, AZ.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **YES**

Reducing the amount authorized for salaries and expenses - Vote **Passed** (408-13, 11 Not Voting)

The House voted to reduce operating expenses for lawmakers and committee offices. Budgets for House salaries and office expenses in 2011 and 2012 will be 5 percent less than the 2010 level.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **YES**

A STRANGE CONFLUENCE OF DATES ?

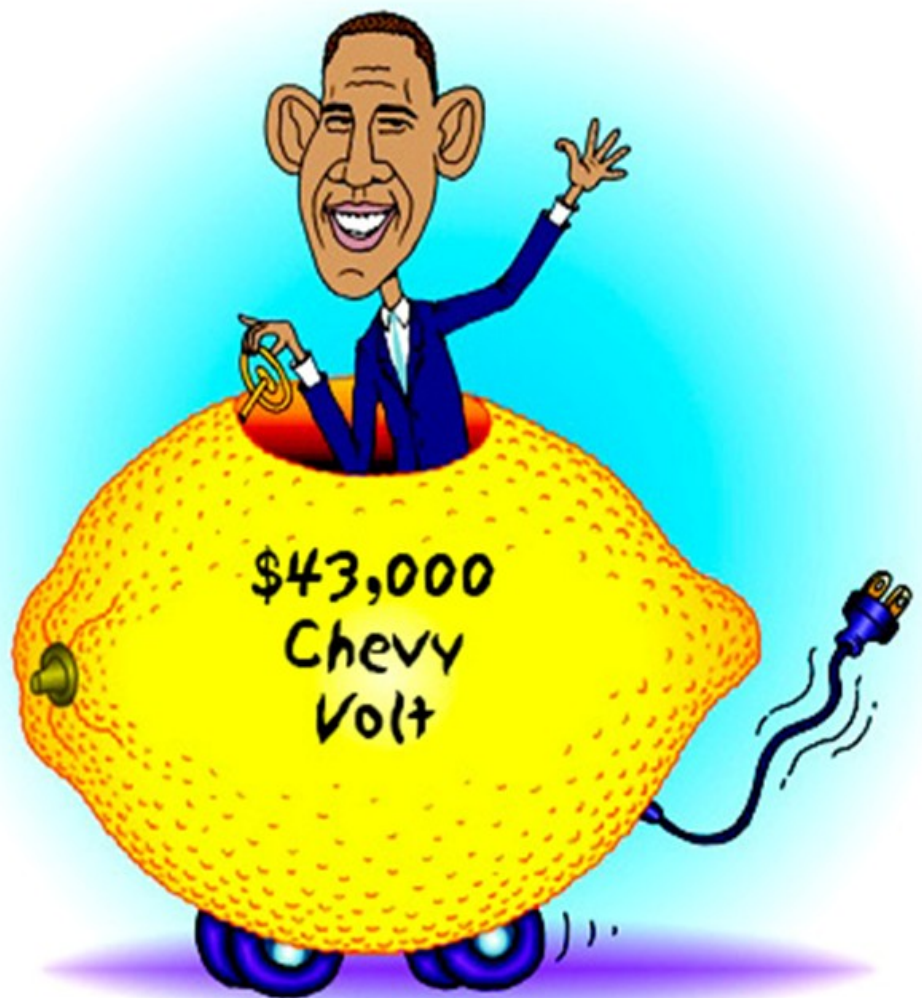
This year, both **Groundhog Day** and the **State of the Union Address** occur on the same day. "It is an ironic juxtaposition of events....."

One involves a meaningless ritual in which we look to a creature of little intelligence for prognostication, while the other involves a groundhog.

Obama's \$5 Gas



Obama's Solution



Get up to 39 miles on every charge!

Jim Graham

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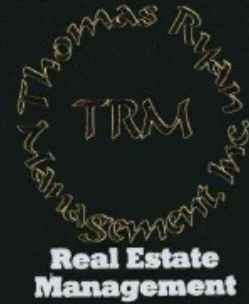
**COLDWELL
BANKER**

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