



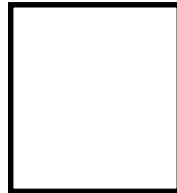
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Winter 2007/2008 ACTION Newsletter



A Message from the President

by Robert Kettering

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end!” What a great passage to think about during the Christmas season and as we begin the new year. Elections will come and go. Politicians will come and go, but the great thing is that thru it all, Christ’s kingdom is increasing and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

This coming year promises to be quite busy. All State representatives will be elected or re-elected. With the recent retirement of State Senator Armstrong, voters in the 13th district will be electing a new senator. Congressman Joe Pitts will be running for another term and of course in addition to all of this, we’ll be electing a new president. Please pray for God’s will to be accomplished in this year’s elections. Yes, it certainly does promise to be a busy year so before it heats up, let’s remember to keep it all in perspective, that the most important thing is that each of us is doing our own part to fulfill Christ’s kingdom. After all, of His kingdom “there will be no end.”

From all of us at Lancaster County ACTION, have a great Christmas season and a Prosperous New Year!

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
Edmund Burke

Home Rule Perspective

By Jim Bednar, Lancaster County Government Study Commissioner

I would like to share some thoughts as to how the process of writing a Home Rule Charter is going, following the prior nine months of study. I will be sharing from the Minority perspective, explaining why I voted against moving to Home Rule and why I believe that this decision is wrong for Lancaster County and for any government.

I have been called an obstructionist and have been accused of fearing change. For any of you who have worked with me previously, you know that I am a consensus-builder and enjoy empowering people to reach their maximum potential.

Let's begin with the formation of this country and what our forefathers, in their infinite wisdom, gave to us in our current form of government. We are a Democratic Republic by design, in that we elect representatives to make decisions that affect our lives on a daily basis. If we disagree, we are able to redress our representatives, by informing them of our disagreements, or, if needed, we make our choices at the ballot box.

Since the legislation of 1972 which gave us the option of creating a Home Rule form of government in Pennsylvania, only six counties have made that choice, increasing the size of their government by electing or appointing more people into positions of authority and increasing their cost of government, but that will be debated by our majority colleagues. It's bad enough that government has become our largest employer and our largest landowner, daily taking more power out of the hands of its people, becoming more and more bloated. Let's not make it worse.

A Home Rule Charter typically takes more decisions away from the people, and places those decisions in the hands of appointed individuals, whose loyalty is no longer to the citizens, but to those individuals who appointed them, which has the potential for "chronyism". Please remember that we are dealing with people regardless of the form of government.

Our government was never designed to be run like a business. It was designed to be run by the citizens, through their elected representatives, who come from the

private sector, serve for a time and then return to their occupations, having been able to use their God-given talents to improve the process. As Abraham Lincoln said, "This is a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

We have made it through the study process and, by majority vote, are moving forward by writing a Home Rule Charter, which will be presented to the voters, most likely next November.

We, in the Minority, will be fully engaged in the writing of this charter, but will be actively informing the electorate regarding the details and why we oppose this choice for Lancaster County.

I encourage each of you to become involved by attending our meetings and using our website to learn more of what we are doing.

Lancaster County has been a county that has enjoyed a culture of Biblical perspective, traditional family values, smaller government and lower taxes. Let's not use the disruptions of the last several years as an excuse to change what has previously worked well for 290 years.

During the study phase, we only visited one county to see how they function under Home Rule. There are several counties, Montgomery and Bucks, that are substantially larger than Lancaster County and they are working very effectively under the commissioner form of government.

It has been stated that our County Commissioners are working on overload, so why not give them some additional help under our current form of government rather than adopting a Home Rule charter.

As a disclaimer, please remember this is my personal perspective. Thank you for letting me share my thoughts.

Jim Bednar also serves as an advisor to LCA.

Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting



Saturday, January 12, 2008

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Leola Restaurant, 365 West Main St, Leola

Speakers: Jim Bednar, Greg Sahd, & Jim Huber

Home Rule: Just Say "No"

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-569-0148) by Wednesday, January 9, 2008. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

A Message from the Treasurer - Is Your Membership Current?

Please take a moment to make certain that your membership is current, by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are up-to-date. The number "2008" should appear in the parenthesis on the label. If it does not, please fill out the form below and mail to:

Lancaster County ACTION, Office of the Treasurer, 1939 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

clip and send

I would like to begin/renew (\$20.00 per household) my membership in Lancaster County ACTION.
(Please make check payable to **Lancaster County ACTION.**)

I'd like to volunteer for the following ACTION Committee(s):

- Church Contact/Prayer Fund Raising Legislative Issues Newsletter School District Coordinator
- Education Growth/Membership Library Quarterly Breakfast Voter Guides

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Township: _____ Polling Place: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please clip and return to Lancaster County ACTION,

. Thank you!

Can America Continue on This Path??

About the time our original thirteen states adopted their new Constitution in 1787, Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years earlier:

“A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government.”

“A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury.”

“From that moment on, the majority always vote for the candidate who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship.”

“The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, those nations always progressed through the following sequence:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith;
2. From spiritual faith to great courage;
3. From courage to liberty;
4. From liberty to abundance;
5. From abundance to complacency;
6. From complacency to apathy;
7. From apathy to dependence;
8. From dependence back to bondage

Professor Joseph Olson of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, points out some interesting facts concerning the 2000 Presidential election:

- Number of states won by: Gore: 19 Bush: 29
- Square miles of land won by: Gore: 580,000 Bush: 2,427,000
- Population of counties won by: Gore: 127 million Bush: 143 million
- Murder rate per 100,000 residents in counties won by: Gore: 13.2 Bush: 2.1

Professor Olson adds:

“In aggregate, the map of the territory Bush won was mostly the land owned by the taxpaying citizens of this great country. Gore’s territory mostly encompassed those citizens living in Government-owned tenements and living off various forms of government welfare...”

Olson believes the United States is now somewhere between the “complacency and apathy” phase of Professor Tyler’s definition of Democracy, with some forty percent of the nation’s population already having reached the “governmental dependency” phase.

Currently our Congress is considering granting amnesty, citizenship, and welfare benefits to 20 million illegal immigrants.

**Announcing
Lancaster County ACTION's
Visit to
Mount Vernon**

Saturday, June 14, 2008

Lancaster County ACTION will be hosting a tour of Mount Vernon, home of President George Washington. The cost will be \$70.00 per adult and \$60.00 per child (10 and under). This price includes motor coach transportation, admission to Mount Vernon grounds and Gristmill and a buffet dinner. A \$20 down payment per seat will hold your reservation until April 15th. For more information or to call in your reservation, please contact Kirk Radanovic at 665-5106 or fill out the reservation form below.

Please make check payable to: Lancaster County ACTION

Mail to: Kirk Radanovic, 310 Silverwood Drive, Lititz, PA 17543

“Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, he should labor to subvert these great pillars.”

- Excerpt from George Washington's Farewell Address

American has been a magnificent tower founded on the rock of Christ and His Word. But today, forces of secularism are trying to *replace* the Christian-based America with a secular tower built on a faulty foundation – with devastating results in our country.

The America of the
FOUNDERS

VS

The America of the
SECULARISTS

Freedom of religion

Freedom from religion

God, the Ten Commandments,
and prayer in our schools

Police dogs in the halls,
metal detectors at the doors,
and chaos in the classroom

Biblical morality
as the basis for law

Abortion, homosexual “marriage”
and homosexual adoption,
moral relativism, anarchy

Families that pray together -
and stay together

Pornography, divorce, and a trail of
shattered lives

One Nation Under God

Separation of Church and State

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

- Psalm 33:12 NKJV

