

Reclaiming the National System and Our Nation

“What We do or don’t do in 2008 will directly determine the quality of our national future”

The viable national future that we American citizens desire to build for our Common Good must begin to take form during the 2008 Presidential/Congressional campaign. And, it needs to be sealed with a historic exclamation mark to be driven into the ground on the November 2008, National Election Day!

If the Congress has moved the National Election Day to the first Saturday in November from the first Tuesday as proposed in An American Agenda, we will vote on Saturday 11-4-08. If and probably not, we will vote as usual on a Tuesday, that is 11-4-08.

However, it will be far from usual. Even if the National Election Day remains on a Tuesday for the critical 2008 vote — every potential voter is directly challenged to take it upon themselves to vote — even if they need to take part or the whole day off from their job. It is that important of an event for our nation and is a small price for any of us to pay considering what is at stake.

Why Vote

Actually, many Americas will (finally) need to register to vote before that date and be warned that the voter registration cut-off date varies by state. In most places it only involves a simple trip to your local Department of Motor Vehicles (motor-voter) to fill out a form and you are good-to-vote!

I challenge those that do not always vote, maybe have never registered or typically do not see the point of it considering the poor choices we normally have to pick from — and how little those elected actually accomplish for the average person. I have talked with many that fall somewhere within that group.

It is to them and the many others among us that are so understandably fed-up with the whole process, that I offer two (2) considerations.

First, to make the November 2008 Presidential/Congressional campaign and Election Day the historic national experience all that they need to be, We must show the Parties and politicians that we are involved. And short of showing up in greater numbers at 2008 campaign events that would generally demonstrate are increased involvement, a real “surge” in reported voter registration during 2008 across the whole country will provide a message they will not be able to ignore. It will create a political energy within the population. States could have an

informal competition on how high a percentage of their illegible voters are registered by July 4th.

Secondly, and this is difficult to put in words so please bear with me. With the end of the military Draft in the 1970's and its replacement with an all voluntary military service system, the average American does not have to do anything except pay taxes as a price for living in this great country. And we all like to b_____ about paying taxes!

Therefore, the Civil Right and Responsibility that each American citizen has to vote, is the only way the Majority have to contribute in serving the country – to vote in or out those that are supposed to make public policy and protect our Common Good. It is an old line to draw on to say that those in our military are fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places around the world today – are protecting our Freedom and Rights, such as voting, but it is the Plain Truth.

I say the fact so many of us do not at least vote, is a primary reason that we have so many problems in our country and why we find our precious troops in such an avoidable mess as Iraq. In the 2006 election those that did vote were telling Congress in general and the Democrats in particular to get us out of Iraq. To take power away from George and Dick, and be our leaders! But not enough of us showed up. The message sent to our national leadership was not strong enough — We did not demonstrate our collective displeasure forcefully enough and so the Democrats (and Republicans) in Congress did not take the necessary actions. As a result our troops continue to die and the dynamic duo is building the case to expand their optional war into Iran. It must end.

Well shame on the Congress and shame on us! On a single day in early November 2008, We the People, have the opportunity and solemn obligation to those in Harm's Way, get off of our collective asses and start fixing this country.

And, We the People do it by taking a few hours out of one (1) day and marching to the polls. Understanding, that we will be firing our private single shot with every vote cast to throw out the incompetent, the dysfunctional, and the so-called leadership of the nation. We will finally be rid of Bush II and his sidekick thanks to the Constitution, but we must act to remove the rest of the failures – or at least 468 of the 535-Club.

Did I make my point?

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Come Election Day 2008, every employer (they also happen to be voters) will be challenged to make it very easy for their people to have adequate time to vote. One suggestion is to allow employees with a last name starting with A thru M to

arrive as late to work as necessary in order to go to the polls and vote — and to allow employees with a last name starting with N thru Z to leave work for the day in the early afternoon in order to go to the polls and vote. And to be paid for the time if possible! Either way – everyone just please do it!

Also, if Tuesday remains the Election Day for 2008, We could conduct a nationwide civil action that would make 11-4-08 a virtual national holiday. All across the nation people could take that day off as a non-violent civil action and vote! Parents could take their children with them for the experience.

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Either way, We will let the politicians know that we all intend to get out and VOTE in November 2008 no matter if it is Tuesday or Saturday. That united and shared national mindset will begin the Changes required within our population and our national leadership's day-to-day agenda.

The November 2008 vote will be a magnificent and historic, revolutionary action by We the People. And not even a single shot will need to be fired. As a result, the door will be opened for certain national and local level policies to be realistically confronted for the Common Good, corrective action agreed to, and implemented without senseless delay.

The pure intent is that in the months leading up to Election Day, We the People will be openly discussing the slow decline in both the economic and social quality of daily life in America and the hard reasons for it – some of which have been presented for your consideration in CS2. We will challenge all candidates on our issues – such as those on the Grievance List during the campaign season – forcing them to respond with direct answers not the normal evasive and meaningless rhetoric. And then! We will physically demonstrate our Common Disgust with the Congress and both political parties with our historic national vote.

For a Shared Understanding

A primary objective of my writing to you in CS2 has been to communicate how absolutely crucial it is for We the People to acknowledge and increase our common awareness of the real functioning of the America's National System. The way America runs on a day-to-day basis and I mean the way it really works – which too often is in opposition to the practical concerns and the Common Good of our CITIZENS...

Various political, business, and industry Special Interests that are currently key components of the National System routinely oppose and/or discount the potential benefits of any proposed change to the way things currently work –

guarding against any changes to their part of the status quo. They will continue in overt and covert ways to attempt to block and/or weaken corrective change. It is unfortunately the nature of the ‘political’ game and is what much of the congressional lobbying business is all about. Protecting the status quo no matter what or who it hurts or kills! And that is not over-stating the situation.

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Never forget my fellow Americans that we all came from peasants. And if we do not desire to become peasants again or continue to be treated as such, we *must* actively work to prevent it from happening – otherwise *in the normal course of human events* – our society will be led to that natural, evolutionary end!

It is the control of the National System that we the American electorate must aggressively insert our united will and voting power into for our Common Good. Otherwise we must resign our selves and our descendents to living with a status quo that has been and will increasingly *be controlled* by those not concerned with the fate of the masses — We the People.

It is Basic Survival of the Fittest

Both corporate and public entities, their lobbyists, and the people that support them will not like to see “true Change” coming. It must objectively be acknowledged that some of their resistance as a natural, self-preservation reaction. It is often just a person’s, an agency’s, a corporation’s, and an entire industry’s survival instinct kicking in.

Many of us including yours truly, have known that odd feeling at some point in our working lives, when we thought our employment status could be or was in jeopardy for whatever reason, and we had no real control over the decision process. However, for corporate management it comes down to maintaining annual revenues, profits, earnings, and the sometimes “un-holy” grail of stockholder dividends.

By this time we are all unfortunately aware of the potential negative outputs of questionable corporate management practices, that being the “false profits” and destroyed employees of corporations such as Enron, MCI, and too many others.

And we must not forget. We are living with oil and energy related costs that are higher than they have any practical reason to be or would be, IF, the oil companies (windfall profits), the U.S. Congress (in the pockets of Energy industry lobbyists), and the Bush I and II White Houses (old oil money) were working for people. But they are not! And such entities have collaborated for over three (3) decades to prevent any viable move toward alternative energy

options.

“It” has been profits over people, other businesses, and country. “It” will be reversed!

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At the same time, we must aggressively support responsible American businesses and industries, and the necessary employment that they bring to the table. This is absolutely in our national self-interest – Americans need viable jobs! We are no longer a society that can make our living off the land. And living in the greatest country in the world is not free, i.e., the cost of living! Existing jobs and businesses must be maintained and viable new ones created.

Therefore, as the Moody Blues once wrote it is “*a question of balance*”. We must weigh the self-serving *screams* of any individual, business or an entire industry about the negative impacts of proposed changes, against the benefits to other businesses and most importantly to our society as a whole. The leadership of all nations weighs these situations, and too many including American leadership are ignoring some key and growing imbalances.

It is now brutally essential for us to debate, agree upon, and implement certain socially and economically radical, yet controlled adjustments within our National System. What do you think the first American Revolution was all about and accomplished!

Or, we will be satisfied being timid peasants and just to get used to being treated as such.

Isn't it nice to have such clear choices...

National Course Corrections are Required NOW

Today, in order to solve our major problems we must *boldly resolve* to make some critical course corrections on what I call America's national voyage – the one that began on July 4, 1776. It is time for us to put our nation on the right course toward a better future – and a desired future that starts to take real form in 2008.

We will set a course with a Common Vision that our fellow Americans can mutually agree to, as a united people and a Democratic nation. We will each be reconciled to make personal sacrifices and know that additional course corrections will need to be made along the way, as required. Overall, We will accept that there are no perfect solutions to our national problems and that not all individuals and groups could ever be totally pleased with the solutions and

approaches finally selected By the People for implementation.

In social change, we must always be sensitive to the needs of individuals with special and/or possibly difficult situations, because they are some of us! And we must take care of our own citizens – all of us! However, and I do mean ‘however’ we must quit decreasing the quality of life of the Masses to address the less than reasonable desires of the Few.

It is the growing domestic economic and political power imbalances that make our Second American Revolution absolutely necessary.

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Remember, just as Americans desire and need leaders and their leadership; the peoples of other countries need and desire good leadership and positive models as well. And if the American people do not to stand and lead the world toward a better place, who will?

We the People – Then and Now

On January 10, 1776, a regular American colonist, but one that was soon to become the great revolutionary writer Thomas Paine, *anonymously* published the 30-odd-page paperback size pamphlet simply entitled, *Common Sense*. Paine had only been in the American colonies for 18 months when the pamphlet was published. The determined 37-year old released a second edition *under his name* the very next month. It was 46 pages in length and is the one accepted as the classic revolutionary version. One of the true masterpieces ever written in the people's Common Interest.

Paine wrote to his fellow American colonists in the “common language of the day” and presented the politically radical, yet socially practical rationale as to why the colonists of the 13 American colonies of the great British Empire should join together to make what he called a “*declaration of independence*” from England. He challenged the colonies to become an independent nation with a new Representative form of government. He was asking the colonists, the regular people to declare a physical war upon the oppressive, tyrannical government of King George III.

Prior to Paine's publication, Sam Adams' personal evaluation of the colonial population “sentiments” toward such a break with England were evenly split with equal numbers for, against, and undecided. After reading the words of *Common Sense* the general public sentiment that had been unsettled regarding a major confrontation with England began to shift. The people could now sense that it was “possible” for them to control their own destiny. That those considered to be peasants could dare to defy the almighty King and his ministers and do what had seemed the impossible. That they could bring into daily reality what until “their moment in time” had only been a peasant's dream — to become free men and women, living in a nation of their own!

To do so, they would have to succeed in conquering a single enemy that was regrettably comprised of their fellow British subjects – for this was to be America's first Civil War. The colonists would be required to act as a united people in order to achieve what they could not possibly do as separate colonies. Theirs would prove to be one of the grandest accomplishments in all of human history – a victory that was achieved for the Common Good of the Masses.

Less than 6 months later, on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia, the assembled Representatives to the Continental Congress of the thirteen American colonies signed the *Declaration of Independence*. Their war of independence from England that had been coming to a boil since the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775 was officially declared!

The challenge of Paine's message to his fellow American colonists was for them to come together to unite to birth a nation – their nation, that is our nation today.

The American colonists — the common people – stood together, they fought, and some 25,000 – about one (1) percent of the population *died* in the fighting, and in the end they were victorious. Their independence was achieved by virtue of individual and united *public action* producing the world's first and still finest Democracy. The world was changed forever, and for the better. And our very future was made possible.

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It is 230 Years into Our National Voyage

***“Their decision was about Creating their Democracy.
Our decision is about the Civil Responsibility required
to Preserve that Democracy”***

So it is the year 2008 and some 232 years since Thomas Paine boldly challenged our national ancestors to personal sacrifice and united action. And now another regular American has freely decided to prepare these confrontational contents for review by my fellow American citizens — to challenge you to personal action and We the People to united action.

In the end, the actions of Americans such as yourself and future events will be the ultimate judge of how effective a communication this has been. Only time will validate the public acceptability of this analysis of our “National System” – the way America really works on a day-to-day basis – for the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The essence of my message to *you*, my fellow American is for us to once again come together, to unite in Common Purpose to preserve our nation, our American Democracy, and so to insure the Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness of all American citizens. And I cannot stress enough that the challenge is to insure nothing less than the Common Good of all American citizens.

The colonist’s decision was about Creating American Democracy. Our ultimate decision is about Preserving American Democracy.

Today’s challenge is for us to make a national “***declaration of responsibility***” at every level of American society. We will clarify once and for all our basic societal expectations and raise the bar of Civil Responsibility for each citizen, community, town, county, city, and state. And at the national level, we are talking directly to the current and future members of the U.S. Congress and the Supreme Court. Further, this Civil Responsibility challenge applies directly to all entities within business and industry, as well. Overall, We will expect more of each other and demand it from our elected officials and business leaders.

Herein, we have calmly reviewed the functional status of some key parts of our National System. Now, We will decide whether or not to confront the Plain Truth that the National System is increasingly controlled in critical areas by civilly irresponsible entities — comprised of people, groups, and entire industries that are functionally not supportive of, nor do they feel any human or national obligation to the Common Good of our citizens or even to our society. Not that “all” such entities are intending to be of negative impact on American society, but the net results of their collective efforts are just that!

Whether it is their willful intent to ignore or suppress the needs of the People – or – just the grinding, natural evolution of economic forces found in every country toward a have/have-not society, neither rationale will be considered acceptable. We will not stand for it!

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