

Cow Country Reporter



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NEWS FROM YOUR CEO

July is the month we celebrate our freedom in the U.S.A.! It is a time when history is read to us or printed in some form for us to consider. Like our founding fathers, CPL is small in numbers, but our mission "to keep the cattle industry in Louisiana sustainable and growing" is alive and well. As you are aware this is the time to renew your membership (June 1, 2011-May 31, 2012 our fiscal year) so I encourage you to keep your membership current. I have had many conversations with CPL members in the last six months and have come to two conclusions. One, we may be few in number but we want to do the right thing for our cattle industry. Two, we are not good about telling others about CPL and what we are all about. Yes, our organization does not direct, dictate or establish an agenda, but rather facilitate the needs and desires of members in their regions. For CPL to accomplish these goals you the members need to tell us what your needs, concerns and desires are. When hearing this statement from me, some members respond, we just don't know what we need or do know but don't know if it is important enough. Let me assure you as members you are important (so are your needs) and always remember a dumb question is one that was never asked. One suggestion I have to address this

issue is have a "brainstorming" meeting with a group of your fellow cattlemen, businessmen and/or neighbors. I would gladly come to facilitate this meeting and from that point on it could develop into a regular weekly, monthly, quarterly meeting. You have to take the first step. There are great opportunities for CPL in the future. Louisiana is ready to be a leader, it just needs to get jump started. CPL could be the catalyst to get it going. Have you tried our toll free number 1-888-528-6999 extension 3 to hear our updated weekly market report? Have you used our email address info@lacattle.org to share your thoughts? If you haven't, give it a go! Remember, Cattle Producers of Louisiana is your organization. Look at the change a couple of inches of rainfall makes on your dried up pastures. Look at the difference one USDA report has on the markets (USDA, NASS Corn planting acreage). The markets are off and running higher again. Let's have some meetings to discuss markets, drought, hay, pasture conditions, supplements and how important agriculture is to Louisiana and the U.S.A.

Dave Foster



PCC UPDATE – SPECIAL EDITION

July 4, 2011

Those of us who live in the US of A are celebrating Independence Day today. I thought this would be a good time to share some Independence Day thoughts – powerful and unique thoughts that you won't find anywhere else. Enjoy...

INDEPENDENCE DAY THOUGHTS FROM THE CORNER CHAIR –

by Brett Pharo (Michigan), BPharo@elkrapidsnet.com

On this weekend, we in the united States of America celebrate what we recognize as the birthday of our union. John Adams, writing to his wife, stated, “The second day of July, 1776, will be a memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great Anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward forever.” He was off by a couple days, but he got the gist of it right.

We Americans have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for. The Europeans, and others, that came to this land did not find it empty of inhabitants, but they did find a land whose resources and people were comparatively undeveloped. Why people living in such a rich land would still be so undeveloped is something I've given much thought to since at least junior high, but that's a topic for another day. Through great effort, prudent use of sound moral principles, and trust in God, we developed the resources on this continent to the point that this collection of states became the most powerful political entity on the planet. With that, we've done much good and earned the respect of the world.

Unfortunately, as with all other historic great empires, our success has sown the seeds of our destruction. Our people no longer see ourselves as needing to lean upon sound moral principles and great effort, but now seem to believe that by virtue of being Americans we are deserving of consumption to our heart's desire without worrying about matching our consumption with production. After all, that's what all the outlying regions of our empire are for. If we are to produce a widget that someone in the outer empire would produce for a small sum, we must be given a high wage, pension, health benefits, short work week, etc. Why? Because we're Americans – not because the production of our work is any more valuable. At the same time, we demand that the widget be sold to us at a cheap price. Why? Because we're Americans and as such should have all the trinkets our hearts desire.

To be sure that the world fully understands its place in relation to us, we squander our wealth maintaining military force in virtually every nook and cranny around the world. Why? Because left to their own the outer reaches of the empire might not realize that they want to be like Americans and want to keep producing for us. Most of all, we're sure they must want democracy, so we use powerful, destructive force to bring democracy to people who have shown little or no inclination in that direction when left to themselves.

That's an interesting concept when you realize that those who signed the Declaration of Independence found pure democracy to be abhorrent. James Madison said, “Democracy is the most vile form of government ... democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.” Why did they feel this way? Because, as the common proverb goes, democracy is two wolves and one sheep deciding what to have for dinner. Our union was not established as a democracy. It was established as a representative republic relying on the rule of law to protect the interests of both the majority and the minority. To our detriment, of late there has been an effort to move toward a democracy. As Plato said, “Democracy passes into despotism.” The result is always tyranny of the majority.

My hope is that the States of this American union long last, but we must buckle down, go to work and return to the values that made us great.

THE ALTERNATIVE –

by Fritz Groszkruger (Iowa), 4SelfGovernment@gmail.com

Happy Independence Day to all my friends who read this. Being a libertarian, this day is very special to me. At least as special as a public day can be. Anyone who has read something other than government school textbooks knows the people responsible for our independence from England were libertarians.

The world seems full of revolution nowadays. We are very lucky to live in a country founded by a revolution

with the goal of forming a government whose sole purpose was to protect the natural rights of its citizens. When I visit with people not familiar with libertarianism, I find many misunderstand the concept. They say, “so you don’t believe in any government.” For the record, libertarians believe government is okay, with strict limits.

Most revolution today looks as though it is more a flailing about of spoiled brats at weaning time than a replay of 1776. Greece is a great example of this, and a preview of things to come here. I usually like what Pat Buchanan has to say but was shocked when he called the rioters in Greece anarchists. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are rioting to protest cuts in government spending. Anarchists would advocate zero government spending. As a libertarian, I find myself having more in common with anarchists than the statist who control 99% of our government and media today.

You might too, considering an objective look at the sad state of affairs promising to bounce us into a modern day version of East Germany. I get emails from conservatives rightly pointing out the ridiculousness of EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulations such as a ban on the sale of incandescent light bulbs starting in 2012. It is a silly, expensive and possibly dangerous (mercury contamination) rule. Note: it is not a law, it is a rule, made by appointed bureaucrats, not elected representatives. I also have to share something I found while researching Honda CRVs. A diesel CRV gets 36 miles per gallon compared to ours at 22. The rest of the world gets 39% better fuel mileage with their CRVs and with less pollution. Thanks EPA. We pay office workers to print crop reports that contradict each other, producing wide swings in prices making it impossible to make rational decisions. We would get along just fine without all this top-down control.

The real issues are not mercury levels or mileage figures however. The real issue is what our revolution was fought over, freedom. It is outlandish so many wave the flag and sing the National Anthem while surrendering to the dictatorial regime in Washington. It is outlandish we have gone from a nation based on individual rights to one where individuals play second fiddle to a collective.

Now is a good time to remember that in 1776 England was our country. The Revolutionary War was fought against our own government, not a foreign invader. If an invading force were to be defined as an enemy taking away our freedom, our own government qualifies nicely. Any politician promising to make destructive programs more efficient is an enemy as well. When we salute the flag and sing the National Anthem we should bear in mind NAZI Germany didn’t all of a sudden usher Jews into gas chambers. They incrementally took power from congress and handed it to the executive branch. They made enemies out of already unpopular groups to rally the populous to expand government. They expanded government with benevolent intent.

A proper way to celebrate Independence Day and honor those who sacrificed so much would be to demand adherence to the constitutional principles that made this country so great – not a flag or government.

56 MEN –

Have you ever wondered about the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? What kind of men were they? What became of them?

Twenty-four of the 56 men were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants and nine were farmers and large plantation owners. These were men of means who were well educated. Nevertheless, they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. In signing the Declaration of Independence, these 56 men pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

Five of the 56 signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, while another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to keep his family on the move. He served in the Congress without pay, while his family was kept in hiding. All of his possessions were taken from him. Vandals and/or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. Nelson quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. His wife died within a few months after being captured by the enemy. John Hart was driven from his wife’s bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children had to flee for their lives. For more than a year Hart lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children gone.

Folks, I suggest you take a few moments to consider the price that these 56 men were willing to pay for freedom – and then I want you to consider where you and I might be today had these patriots not been willing to pay that price. Freedom is NEVER free! It is my hope and prayer that there are still a few men and women, in this once great nation of ours, with enough courage and determination to stand up and fight for the freedoms that we have lost in the last 50 to 100 years.

Over the years, Big Brother Government has gradually taken away one freedom after another – often with our blessings. With the exception of a few (very few), I have no faith in the Republican and Democratic parties. They are the status quo – and they are the problem. They have both ignored the U.S. Constitution and led our country into the insolvent welfare state that it is in. Brother Brett accurately refers to the Republican and Democratic parties as, “... the party of big and powerful government, and the party of bigger and more powerful government. Folks, it is time for change – a REAL CHANGE!

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