

The State Church, “*Public Education*”

Chapter Eight – Of Bonds and Bondage

When the founding fathers began the process to layout the foundation and principles that would govern the new nation, they had just created they had much to ponder and to reason. Of the most important concerns the new leaders had for this new nation its citizens and those who would follow was the danger regarding how the nation would be financed and all debt(s) the nation would be obligated to repay. One of the most brilliant minds that played key roles in the birthing of this new nation was Thomas Jefferson. He is known for his position, warnings and quotes made during the early years the colonies were being shaped into a new nation and world power. Below are a few quotes by Jefferson during that time regarding prosperity and debt.

- 1) *To take from one because it is thought that his own industry and that of his father’s has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association-the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it.*
- 2) *We must not let our rulers load us up with perpetual debt.*
- 3) Loading up the nation with debt and leaving it for the following generations to pay is morally irresponsible. Excessive debt is a means by which government oppress the people and waste their substance. No nation has a right to contract debt for periods longer than the majority contracting it can expect to live.

-Thomas Jefferson

For the past several decades leaders at the helm and in control of this country have lost all touch and sight of the principals and foundation of which this country was derived. One of the most disturbing things to observe is how the overwhelming majority of the population regardless of political affiliation that has followed suit in regard to living above your means. It is exceedingly rare to find someone that truly has any belief or yearning for the freedom and liberties that were once quite common just a century ago in this nation. The subtle changes that have taken place over the past century have been implemented with stealth tactics that have not disrupted the day to day lives of citizens. They did not create ripples large enough to get the attention of everyday people who have been busy chasing the elusive America dream. The steps by elected state and national leaders that have reshaped

The State Church, “*Public Education*”

Author-Jeff Mashburn

Commonsenselaw.org

All Rights Reserved-2024

and led this nation into a hybrid socialist and communist like nation were slow, intentional and by design. The very prosperity and success that working individual in this country desire has caused them to take their eye off the ball regarding freedom and liberties granted in the US Constitution. To work hard and climb the ladder of success and create a comfortable life for yourself and family is a noble endeavor and good virtue to have. But when success and prosperity cause the general population and citizenry to lose sight of their rights and freedoms granted in the US Constitution it is time to slow down and start taking a deep look at what is going on around you before it's too late.

The type of government this nation was founded on is not fully understood by the majority of the population of this nation. The idea of democracy and the democratic process used by the general population to elect leaders that are trustworthy and will uphold the rule of law is nothing short of a complete fantasy today. One does not have to look far in any direction in this nation to understand we have problems everywhere. The United States is actually a constitutional federal republic of individual states. It is a system that is governed by a rule of law defined in the US Constitution. The system that most Americans believe in is the very system that has created the societal problems we are facing across the nation today. There is no better example than the government run public education system in this nation.

In the remaining portion of this chapter, we are going to examine the problems with the process and system of democracy used at every level of government in this nation. A government that has increased in size disproportionately to the actual benefit(s) derived from such government is no longer valid, useful, or legal. The Declaration of Independence warns the citizenry of such times and conditions. While the majority of this country would agree there are issues and problems that must be resolved at the federal level, these same individuals are blind to the problems at the local level and in their own backyards. The government run public education system is and has been the beginning of the downfall of this nation that started over fifty years ago. As was stated earlier in this chapter the changes that have taken place have been subtle and are manifested in places most citizens are numb to and this includes the arena of public education.

The cost of education in this nation has skyrocketed out of control. Tens of thousands of people have lost their homes and their wealth due to the increase of property taxes year after year based on unrealized gains accessed by corrupt central appraisal districts working in collaboration with corrupt school boards. In Hill County Texas where I live is the center of corrupt government at every level. Local school districts adopt falsified budgets that are funded by the central appraisal districts and these budgets are never questioned or audited by any state agency to prove their validity. Taxpayers in counties throughout the north central Texas area are fighting back and exposing fraud and corruption by county governments, court systems, central appraisal, and local school districts. Over the past decade the increase in property taxes has caused individuals and families to lose their homes. State and local government leaders have helped subsidize big business by granting lucrative tax breaks to

The State Church, "*Public Education*"

Author-Jeff Mashburn

Commonsenselaw.org

All Rights Reserved-2024

green energy companies to construct solar and wind farms in multiple counties in the north central Texas area. Local school districts have been used as pawns in the high stakes game of organized crime and racketeering by state and local government officials. As these stories start to make their way into the mainstream news and are exposed to the general public taxpayers are taking a stand and fighting back.

Local school districts have forfeited hundreds of millions of available tax revenues that should be flowing into the local economy and help fund the government run public education system. Elected state and public leaders are getting their pockets lined in various ways from big business while the average citizen and taxpayers are falling into the realm of third-world economic and poverty levels in Texas and across the nation. All of this is happening while local school districts and life-long public educators will make petitions to the public and state leaders for more money year after year to build new schools, special event centers, multi-million-dollar football stadiums, and etc. These extravagant stadiums may only be used eight or nine times in a typical school year.

The question that many taxpayers are beginning to ask is, how do these things happen and why? This is a valid question and deserves an answer. It is extremely hard to get the attention of anyone for five minutes that is complaining about out-of-control property taxes. Most taxpayers only scream and complain when they receive their annual tax statement from the local central appraisal district. Many will simply say we need to appoint smart and morally ethical individuals to the local school boards, and this will prevent these things from occurring. With the current system of government and democratic process this will never take place in Texas. The only individuals that will ever be elected to a school board will have the same beliefs and position about funding the public school system as elected leaders and public educators. If a physically conservative minded individual were elected to a local school board their voice and vote would be silenced by the majority vote of the board members. This plays out year after year in school districts all across Texas and the nation.

The problem with the cost of education and the declining academic achievement levels of school age children in Texas can be described by a scene in an old classic movie from the 1940's, Mr. Blanding's Builds His Dream House. There is a scene in the movie where the father Mr. Blanding's and his daughter discuss how marketing works. The daughter describes marketing like this, "**marketing is when you convince someone to buy something they don't need with money they don't have.**" This describes exactly what happens when citizens living within the local school district decides they need a \$100,000,000.00 football stadium to play eight or nine games a year in. They can only do this by putting forth a bond program and asking naïve citizens to vote on the measure so they can issue bonds to finance the new football stadium. Everyone is excited about the approval of the bond package and are looking forward to attending the first football game in the new stadium. It is when the annual tax statements are received by the voters for property tax evaluations and taxes due when everyone starts to scream about the bill for the new stadium for the next ten, fifteen or plus years.

The State Church, "*Public Education*"

Author-Jeff Mashburn

Commonsenselaw.org

All Rights Reserved-2024

There are more ramifications to the poor decisions by school boards and public officials that are starting to come to light regarding multi-million-dollar bond programs. The warning that was stated over two-hundred and forty years ago by Thomas Jefferson is now starting to resonate with the general taxpaying public. School boards and taxpayers are starting to realize the debt from bonds and bond programs can never be paid back. Many of these bond programs were passed by previous school board members no longer serving on the board and by citizens that no longer live in the school district where they voted in favor of such large bond programs. Innocent citizens and homeowners are losing everything they have by poor decisions made by individuals they never knew or given the opportunity to prevent the financial devastation that has followed. This is a fundamental flaw in the system and process of government in this state and nation today.

Citizens living in school districts where bond packages have been passed that far exceed the available tax revenues even in good economic times and who voted against the bond package now find themselves in debt to someone else's poor judgment. In many north central Texas communities' property values are falling but central appraisal districts are lagging behind in property tax relief and keeping up with real market conditions. This has put a huge strain on the financial status and condition of many north Texas families. Homeowners and taxpayers are exposing fraud and corruption within central appraisal districts working in collaboration with school districts to inflate property values to increase tax revenues to fund school districts and continue to service the debt taken on by passing lucrative bond packages that cannot be afforded by taxpayers any longer. Ever since the state of Texas passed legislation to use a system of ad-valorem taxation on personal property central appraisal districts have ignored US Constitutional law that protects taxpayers and citizens from unrealized gains on personal property.

In Texas this is the making of the next civil war. Citizens and taxpayers are bankrupt. There is no more money to be stolen in the form of illegal taxation. The level of taxation by federal and local government in the US today is many times more in percentage of income than what the colonist were experiencing from the British government during the mid-1700's. The future of the state of Texas and this nation faces some very troubling times ahead. The answers to these problems are actually quite simple. Taxpayers must get the government out of the way completely to unwind the decades of poor decisions and government overreach. Citizens must regain their rights and control of their lives and how their money is spent and used to better the futures of their children and grandchildren. The next chapter will discuss how the needed change can take place that will restore freedom and liberties to individual citizens and taxpayers that were enjoyed over one hundred years ago in this country.