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Will More Money Fix Education?

Lisa Snell of Reason Foundation Addresses Problems in American Education.

Lisa Snell is the director of education and child welfare at Reason Foundation, a nonprofit think tank advancing free minds and free markets.

Snell has frequently testified before the California State Legislature and numerous other state legislatures and government agencies. She has authored policy studies on school finance and weighted student funding, universal preschool, school violence, charter schools, and child advocacy centers.

In January, she wrote for Reason Magazine: “The stimulus package will spend more than double the current total federal education budget, bringing federal funding of education to well over \$200 billion. Unfortunately, this huge expansion is unlikely to spur improvements in public education and will continue to encourage states and local districts to spend money with little regard to student outcomes.



Lisa Snell

In the last 30 years, the United States has doubled per-pupil spending in real dollars. We spend more money on education for K-12 than most other industrialized countries. Yet, outcomes for students at the end of their public education career have not kept pace with these large-scale investments. The average reading and math scores for 17-year-olds are no better today than they were in 1971; SAT verbal scores show a decline and SAT math scores have been essentially flat. U.S. graduation rates were 78 percent in 1972 and are 74 percent today; and U.S. 15-year-olds score below the international average on science and math literacy.”

Snell is a frequent contributor to Reason magazine, School Reform News and Privatization Watch. Her writing has also appeared in Education Week, Edutopia, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, San Francisco Chronicle, Orange County Register, Los Angeles Times, and numerous other publications.

Ms. Snell is also an advisory board member to the National Quality Improvement Center for the Children’s Bureau; is on the charter school accreditation team for the American Academy for Liberal Education; and serves as a board member for the California Virtual Academy.

Before joining Reason Foundation, Snell taught public speaking and argumentation courses at California State University, Fullerton. She earned a Master of Arts in communication from California State University, Fullerton.

From the President's Desk----



Brenda Montaine

Spring 2009 Greetings from your Southern California Republican Women and Men President

Many thanks go out to those who took the time to support Richard "Dick" McDonald at our March 14th Luncheon. Special thanks to Mr. McDonald for his thought provoking presentation on an alternative to Social Security, warning to beware of socialism, and his advice on

how to plan and save for a lucrative retirement.

At the beginning of our luncheon I asked the membership to help rate Obama's first days in office. Here are the results:

<i>SCRW&M Progress Report</i>		
Presidents name: <u>Barak Hussein Obama</u>		Date 3/14/09
Area of Focus	Grade	Comment
<i>Promise of Change</i>	10 out of a possible 10	Obama, you have certainly delivered change to the White House and Office of the Presidency.
<i>Public speaking; delivery of Message</i>	B+	Excellent use of Teleprompter
<i>Substance of plan for America</i>	D	A general lack of substance
<i>Economy</i>	-3 (Negative 3) out of 10	You continue to lose points as the stimulus plan fails to stimulate

Recommendations for future success: Your ideas for change in America are generally outside of the realms of power afforded to the federal government. The other half of the country that did not vote for you believes in limited government, a 50's era work ethic, and holds to a moral compass. Please spend some time reviewing the Constitution before you disenfranchise half of our great nation. Although you are a polished orator, when you are off script you are over using "um's" and "ah's" as you pause to collect your thoughts. Please work to limit your usage of these distracters which will earn you a higher grade in public speaking and help your plans for America sound more intelligent. More regulations, more taxes, more printing of money, and more rewarding of the bad behavior of big business is not what our economy needs. Instead, to help fix our economy you need to make it easier for private businesses to take risks and private legal citizens to keep the money that they earn. Your nation looks forward to hearing a more substantive plan for our future prosperity.

Please join us at our next meeting on Saturday, April 4th (First Saturday !) for a focus on current events. Hope to see you then !



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Members are encouraged to submit articles and political material for publication in the SCRW&M Newsletter.

SCRW&M reserves the right to accept, reject and edit letters and other editorial material.

Letters and editorial material must include the name, telephone number and address of the person making the submission.

SCRW&M does not return letters, photos, editorial material or other submissions.

Letters and editorial material may be mailed to: SCRW&M 2312 Cheremoya Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90068 or email to: equick1@sbcglobal.net

All letters, photos and editorial material submitted shall become the property of SCRW&M and may be published in any format.



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**Deadline for
May, 2009
Newsletter**

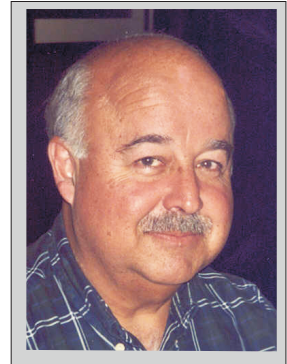
SUBMISSIONS:
April 30, 2009

Bill's Bills

The 800 lb gorilla in Sacramento continues to be the budget and taxes – more about that later. But you'll be happy to know (said with tongue firmly in cheek) that our legislators have been earning their \$120,000 annual salary. So far this session there have been 2,857 bills introduced. Who knew the state had that many problems? Thank goodness the boys and girls in the legislature are ever vigilant for solutions. Here's a few to whet your appetite – or spoil your lunch.

The Good:

AB 141 Tran. Will help employees and employers achieve greater flexibility in work schedules by allowing workers to request and employers to mutually agree to a four-day compressed workweek without the payment of overtime.



William Saracino

AB 326 Garrick. Conforms the California Tax Code to Federal Tax Law, allowing a deduction for health savings accounts. Perhaps the most common sense bill currently in the legislature, one which would greatly simplify tax-time for average citizens, the Democrats and unions oppose it because it would reduce tax-revenue to the state.

SB 295 Dutton . Delays the implementation of AB 32 until the Air Resources Board completes additional economic analysis and the unemployment rate is below 5.8%. AB 32 is the environmental monstrosity passed last year that mandates enormous costs to businesses and increases in your electric and gas bills – all in the name of fighting “global warming”.

The Bad:

AB 1358 Hill, Would ban polystyrene food containers. It prohibits a food vendor or restaurant from dispensing prepared food to a customer in a disposable polystyrene food container. The purpose is to encourage the use of compostable containers. If there's one thing this legislature and Governor should be experts on, it's compost.

AB 68 Brownley. Places a minimum fee of 25 cents on use of paper bags in grocery stores. A Bag Pollution fund would be established via payment from stores to the State Board of Equalization. First paper was good...then plastic was good....then plastic was bad and paper was good...and now paper is bad. What a surprise that the solution is another tax going into state coffers.

AB 89 Torlakson. Imposes an additional excise tax of \$2.10 per pack of cigarettes. Another problem to be solved by sending more tax money to Sacramento. Ponder this please: what happens when increased costs decreases the number of smokers, and therefore decreases tax revenues to Sacramento? Anyone really think the state will live without that income, or will the tax simply be added to another commodity?

The Ugly

The budget. Remember the “solution” arrived at in February - the one that raised taxes but “solved” the budget problems once and for all. The latest estimates for the 09-10 budget which goes into effect on July 1 is that it is facing an \$8 billion deficit. Democrats are already floating new tax ideas...and given the history of Republican Quislings in Sacramento, don't bet against them.

Forum Highlights, a report by Eldon Quick

From Obama to Paris Hilton, from China to Israel, the Forum, under the leadership of Michael Lerew, ranged far and wide, covering a wide variety of subjects.

Our lead off question “What do you think of the just passed California budget?”, was answered less with words than with rude noises. I think the correct spelling is “Phffft!” This however, inspired the next question; “What would you do differently?” The consensus was, CUT SPENDING! Cut entitlements, cut benefits, let superfluous employees go, swallow the bitter pill, or die. California’s revenues can be increased by cutting taxes on Capital gains, drilling offshore, selling public land, make California business friendly again.



Eldon Quick

Now to National issues – “What do you care about most?” – Get government out of where it doesn’t belong, would seem to be the consensus. Health care and education were both better off and cheaper when government was less involved. Government’s involvement in energy production via ‘Cap and Trade’ will cost each of us about \$3,100 a year in taxes and increased costs. This for an improvement in the environment that will be too small to measure. In the wings and about to come to stage center is the Employee Free Choice Act. AKA Card Check. If this passes employees will have the freedom to avoid getting hurt by signing a card in favor of unionization in front of a union thug. We, (Americans) have to get realistic about who we are dealing with and take action to stop this legislation.

Concerning economics, what do we think of the pressure to Nationalize the banks? If banks are Nationalized, we all lose. The bank’s stock holders lose 100% of their investment. The Government will run the bank until a buyer is found. How would you like your bank run by the same kind of people that run the DMV? The ‘Mark to Market’ accounting change is a big cause of the loss of bank equity. Steve Forbes says – Get rid of it. Business cycles are normal and natural; it takes five years to hit bottom, and 5 years to come back up. Trouble is the Government wants to get rid of cycles.

Shortest discussion of the day was to the question, “Could Ahnoldt get nominated if he ran for Senator?” Answer, “Only if he ran as a Democrat.”

“What,” Michael asked, “will be the political effect if the economy gets worse or stays the same?” – The optimist said – a depressed economy will give Republicans a chance to get back in power. The pessimist said – since the recession was orchestrated in the first place, it will disappear when the media says it has (no matter the unemployment rate, or Stock Market average) The wit said – all we need is for Paris Hilton to say she is now a Republican. Do we have fun in the Forum, or what?

Rush Limbaugh has been in the news a lot lately; first for his remark that he would like to see the President fail – oooh, blaspheme! Like the Dem’s never publicly expressed desire for Bush to fail. But we all know the standards are different for Democrats. Then after his speech at the CPAC meeting they really went to town. Vilifying him and all Republicans by calling him the leader of the Republican Party. Do we think Rush is the leader of the Republican Party? – Rush is one of the most articulate spokesmen for the Conservative movement within the Republican Party. He often says he is a Conservative first. He is not, nor does he desire to be, a politician, nor a political leader. The Dem’s are following Sol Lewinsky’s advice to isolate and discredit a prominent opponent in order to defeat your opposition. I wish the Republicans would use that page from the play book.

Want to get something off your chest? Come join us for the SCRW&M Forum 11:30 a.m. April 4th at the Smoke House Restaurant.

Don't Get Angry, Get Even

Comment by Michael Reagan

Reprinted from Town Hall Daily March 26, 2009

When the members of the National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis) wanted to use anger as a political weapon they burned the Reichstag and blamed it on the Communists.

It's an old tactic -- when you are in trouble, create a crisis and then create a straw man to blame for the crisis. We are now seeing it played out as a giant insurance company, AIG, is given the role of straw man.

It's working. I'm mad, you're mad, and our anger over the mess created by Washington politicians and their Wall Street buddies is now being diverted away from Capitol Hill and toward AIG and a handful of executives, some of whom got huge bonuses as their company was being bailed out by the federal government.

In the entire furor, nobody has bothered to ask for the details behind the bonuses, such as why were they given to some AIG employees and whether they were legitimate and deserved.

One of them, Jake DeSantis, who like AIG's CEO Edward Liddy has been donating his services for the princely sum of one dollar a year, sent a letter of resignation to Liddy which was published as an editorial in The New York Times Wednesday.

DeSantis explained what he had done to earn his nearly \$800,000 bonus. "Like you [Liddy], I was asked to work for an annual salary of \$1, and I agreed out of a sense of duty to the company and to the public officials who have come to its aid. Having now been let down by both, I can no longer justify spending 10, 12, 14 hours a day away from my family for the benefit of those who have let me down."

He might have added that he is now being rewarded by having members of Congress -- the body largely responsible for the financial crisis -- aim the public's anger not at Congress itself, where it belongs, but at him and his fellow AIG employees.

Noting that AIG's equity and commodity units which he headed were consistently profitable, generating net profits of well over \$100 million, DeSantis wrote, "during the dismantling of AIG-FP, I was an integral player in the pending sale of its well-regarded commodity index business to UBS. As you know, business unit sales like this are crucial to AIG's effort to repay the American taxpayer.

"The profitability of the businesses with which I was associated clearly supported my compensation," he wrote, adding that he was donating his entire bonus -- nearly \$800,000 -- "to organizations that are helping people who are suffering from the global downturn."

That's the side of the story the media and the sanctimonious members of Congress haven't bothered to tell the American people because they don't dare. If they did the anger might be directed at them, where the blame lies.

Congressmen have a tendency to react, and we, unfortunately, tend to over-react with them because that's what we do when we are mad. The problem with anger is when you are mad you make terrible decisions.

When you are angry at your children you say and do things you'd never do or say when you aren't mad. Ditto with your spouse. The fact is, you can't make sensible decisions when you are on fire.

That's what's going on here. You have a government and a slavishly subservient media pointing the finger of blame at AIG. As a result, spurred on by duplicitous members of Congress and their media stooges, you are enraged at AIG and their bonus recipients such as Jake DeSantis, and not at such miscreants as Sen. Chris Dodd and Rep. Barney Frank, who were among the real villains behind the financial meltdown.

Lost in the shuffle is the fact that it was Dodd who wrote the legislation that required AIG to pay the disputed bonuses in the first place.

As a result of your anger, you are willing to allow Dodd and Frank and their congressional colleagues and President Obama to burn down AIG and slander some of their executives when the blame lies elsewhere, on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

Don't get mad, folks, get even.

Michael Reagan, the eldest son of Ronald Reagan, is heard daily by over 5 million listeners via his nationally syndicated talk radio program, "The Michael Reagan Show."

Notes from the Board

For those of us in the 26th Senatorial District, or for those of us who want to support an excellent candidate for the 26th Senate District. Be aware of the Conservative Republican, Rabbi Nachum Shifren. (AKA the surfing Rabbi) The runoff election is May 19th. Contact him at www.rabbiforsenate.com, or rabbisurf@aol.com. We need your financial support, and physical support. Call our SCRW&M member Maureen Johnson at (310) 822-2456, or (310) 486-5735 to volunteer.

By the way vote NO on props. 1A thru 1F. More on this later.

The SCRW&M Position Paper for April is not available at Newsletter publication time. Michael has been called out of town and hasn't had time to prepare it yet. But it will be done soon.

Reminder, if you have a suggestion to improve the SCRW&M experience, contact a Board Member, or call a Board Member to attend a Board Meeting. Also, we are always looking for exciting speakers so if you hear of someone you think would be right for our meeting, call or email Rick Montaine at montaine@pacbell.net.



SCRW&M wishes to thank the following returning and new members for 2009

If you wish to continue your membership in 2009, fill out the form below and mail it to Bill Saracino at 3625 Angelus Avenue, Glendale, CA. 91208

or

If you have paid your 2009 dues and are not on this list, call Eldon Quick at 323-467-7654

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