



Life, Flight and Liberty - Part V

An Essay by Henry Nicolle

Liberty, Responsibility and Government Constructive Prospects and Avoidable Handicaps

Humans are constantly challenged by other biological, living entities, by chemistry, by misadventure and accident and by other humans. Our first personal responsibility is to avoid or minimize those hazards in our lives. Our equal priority is our creation of social structure and community. These are our ultimate tools for survival, security and prosperity.

My last essay ventured into a simplified discussion of Federal influences on the cost of medical care. I have used my personal experience as a tool to begin a series of conversations exploring the complex topics of shifting relationships between people and what we loosely term "government".

With this essay, I am turning our attention to similar effects of central government policies on other aspects of our daily lives, prosperity and security. The complexity of human endeavor allows me to meander through a multitude of topics surrounding the core subject of it all. That core subject is the relationship between people and their ruling structures.

Life and living are complex experiences. In my discussions, I will conflate these terms as one, "life" which includes all aspects of a human experience.

The combined term "Life" can be extended to include the conjectural "butterfly wings affect global weather". (This is actually a comment related to chaos theory and fractal patterns.) Small and insignificant events may trigger large consequences. As I write, I am suggesting that our small, local efforts to improve our lives and communities may influence other people and their communities, amplifying our successes with unexpected, possibly larger consequences.

Suffice to say for the moment, that people tolerate governments because there is daily convenience to be received. Often momentous achievements can be gained through the processes of involuntary submission and institutional violence. People willingly abrogate Liberty and self-reliance in exchange for ephemeral and temporary advantage of perceived "free stuff" and the convenience of irresponsibility.

Societies communicate. They **MUST** communicate. Communication today demands words and coherent syntax with common understanding in the society. It follows that words have meaning. Right off the bat, we have problems. Words and language evolve over time. New words are invented by deliberate thought or by accidental creation and popular adoption. From time to time, useful words are hijacked and given unrelated meanings, most often for polemic or propagandist intent.

We communicate between individuals and between groups. We communicate for social interactions, for commerce, for organization and for entertainment. The list is longer, but these few are sufficient for this conversation.

We have common language for ordinary purposes. We also have uncommon language for limited

purposes. The languages of law and regulation, for example is peculiar to the administrations of government and large organizations. Their language looks like and sounds like our common language, but it is not. The words, phrases and language of government and similar institutions are different from our ordinary speech.

People tend to adopt the language of those with presumed authority. We err by conflating our common words and phrases with those utilized by authority figures. Similarly, we assume that when we communicate with authority figures, that we are communicating with a common language with implicit understanding, definitions and purpose. Our error places us at serious disadvantage and often in grave jeopardy

When we mimic authority language, we invite abuse of our common understanding. This abuse often results in painfully gross misunderstandings which can include prosecution, persecution, imprisonment and forfeiture of our valuable possessions.

More on this later. It becomes a recurring theme which will follow us through most discussions.

I have mentioned that all politics is local. All prosperity and security are also local. The foundations of prosperity and security begin in our homes and project from our families to our friends, neighbors, associates and to our general community.

In Wyoming, we have small communities compared with the mega-metropolises that dominate America. We have only a few communities in Carbon County with more than a thousand population. The vast majority of our communities have populations numbering from a hundred or fewer to much less than a thousand inhabitants. These are self-manageable local communities. Our communities are friendly and comfortable.

At our core, we have a variety of physical natural resources. We have an abundance of energy, talent and initiative in our neighbors. Within our communities, we have a wealth of entrepreneurial energy, skills, experience and enterprise. We have a multitude of small organizations and volunteers working for self-assistance and improvement of life for our communities and neighbors.

Carbon County and our communities are the locus of my comments. As in needlepoint and pointillism, a larger picture will be created from discussions of seemingly insignificant details.

Carbon County has a little more than 15,000 permanent inhabitants today. We have one hospital. About half our population has a job or a small business. About 40% of our working population are small businesses and one-third of our job holders are government employees.

About 1/3 of our commercial and government organizations are employers. Double that number are "non-employer companies". . . . that is, micro-entrepreneurs. Almost 80% of our employed/entrepreneurs have some college education and more than half of those have university degrees. We have a very capable community.

Our largest non-government enterprise and employer is Sinclair Oil Refinery. Sinclair has a nominal employment count of about 530 for most of the year. When Sinclair performs an annual maintenance project, the facility employment may increase by as much as 2,000 personnel during the 4 month operation. The Sinclair facility is surrounded by the town of Sinclair, home to about 400 people.

We have around 300 clubs, non-profits and other organizations in the county. The non-profit organizations bring over \$5,000,000 annually to our communities. These represent an enormous self-interest within our People, our County, cities and towns!

It is patently obvious that we have the capacity to build a self-directed prosperity and enhanced pride in ourselves and for our communities. I believe that we do not need to stick our hands in the monkey-traps of federal largess and foreign corporate, parasitic investment for renewed prosperity and to avoid the demeaning "boom and bust" fatalism of the past.

I will be exploring these constructive beginnings and the degenerative effects of avoidable Federal central government policies in my upcoming essays.

Your comments, advice and criticism are critical for this conversation. You are important. Your opinions and advice are critical for positive development of our communities. Please add your two cents!

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