



Life, Flight and Liberty - Part III

An Essay by Henry Nicolle

My helicopter ride back in March helped to save my life. My personal economic aftermath incited my review of how we evolved positive perceptions that conceal involuntary "entitlements" and irrational debt.

My previous commentaries were intended to preface conversations examining the seemingly high cost of American medical care. In my studied opinion, exaggerated costs originate from Federal misconduct and generational failures of judgment by most Americans.

The Federal government endeavors ceaselessly to increase control and revenue. Americans find more interest in comfort, convenience and security than in husbanding government activity.

One can do little more than observe the obvious; dogs bark, cats purr. Governments exploit while people acquiesce and "play the game". Issue politics replace productive and rational examination and debate. Beneath it all, we universally abandon our principles and the fundamental American tenets of individual Liberty, Inherent Rights and the uncertain freedom to pursue individual happiness.

Federal policies and conduct are generally unaffected by common opinion. Americans demonstrate little concern over Federal policies. It is a symbiotic/parasitic relationship of predator and prey. The federal government has slipped their leash and from our position of comfort, we really do not much care.

Medical care in America is a multi-national business for profit and market control. In the predominant course of business, patient well-being is a side-effect of effective business management and revenue generation for commerce and government.

The Federal government and their industrial stakeholders collaborate, simultaneously generating large revenue streams for both stakeholders and government while creating huge increases of control in the hands of the Federal policy-makers.

The Federally sponsored and managed American health care system demonstrates both competent performance and greed by the bureaucracies of government and industry. It an excellent example of good intentions gone horribly bad; thus delivering the unexpected consequences of unprepared decisions.

The foundations of our common tribulations are simple and easily comprehended. The remedies are not so easy or simple.

A common fault infects all three causes. We tend to make irrational decisions: "It sounds good, let's do it." without consideration of the real-world costs, complications and consequences. "If it saves the life of a single child, it is worth doing." Commendable in theory, but rife with tyrannical probabilities. "This is a community responsibility, a societal question that must be removed from private hands and placed under government implementation, public funding and institutional control." Usually mindless and insane justification.

Recipes for disaster, all of these. Is it no wonder why and how the three sources of disaster have successfully evolved?

The Federal government is engaged in activities that are not authorized and which by law, are either individual responsibilities or properly under State jurisdictions.

When the Federal government disregards our authority to enumerate Federal duties and prohibitions, Federal policies and officials are freed to unlawfully institute laws and regulations to empower private stakeholder exploitation of our markets and population. Unlawful Federal empowerment may have good intentions at the core, but enforcement in our communities by Federal bureaucracies relies upon threats of violence and actual exercise of violence.

Is violation of law that results in profit and control for the powerful and yet yields a portion of public benefit a good thing, or only an acceptable or tolerable bad thing?

Then there is us individually and collectively, Americans of all colors and stripes and opinions. Following our predisposition for convenience, our lack of concern and living life in full in our time, we have abrogated our authority and duty to manage our governments and to discipline disobedience and failure in public office and employment.

The subjects of Federal and Federal stakeholders' interest are you and me. We have no voice in the policy decisions or recourse for the inevitable harm done. Public benefits are as often as not, superficial or even destructive. On the other hand, we get what we ask for without realizing that we are maneuvered into asking only for what is offered.

Commercial entities seek regulation by the Federal government to authorize certain products and services and prohibit unauthorized (competitive equivalent) products and services from American markets. Very often the commercial stakeholders actually write the legislation and regulations that serve their purposes, relieving the real law-writers of the necessary thought and labor.

One study of regulated pharmaceuticals revealed that greater than 90% of approved drugs examined were ineffective in treatment of the intended ailment. We have an additional concern for doctors who have a monetary interest in prescribing sponsored drugs and other regulated items. From my recent personal experience, I was prescribed a blood clotting control compound which the doctor described as ". . . a little pricey". (An honest evaluation by that Doctor.) "A little pricey" meant \$500 per month for at least a year from the pharmacy. A few moments of research and comparison deferred my drug selection and billing to a more rational level of \$17 per two-month supply with the same effect as the pricey article.

A large portion of the expense of modern goods and services can be laid at the doorstep of the Federal Congress and the Federal Reserve. Following the 1964 to 1972 abandonment of hard currency, monetization of debt and conversion of the U.S. dollar to Federal Reserve "notes" (unredeemable evidence of debt), the purchasing value of our currency has decreased by a factor of twenty and higher. For example, an unadjusted hour of helicopter operating expense that would have been \$600 in 1967 could easily be 20 times \$600 today, or \$12,000 per hour equivalent cost, adjusted for deliberate monetary inflation or currency devaluation. (Currency inflation, deflation and devaluation are not identical terms. But that is a different conversation.)

When Federal government economic policies, Federal monetary policies and industry stakeholders combine with a contrived public demand for services and security at Federal expense, the practical effect on our lives and needs becomes burdensome and our losses of choice and liberty become oppressive.

My opinions, of course.

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Please join this conversation.

Your opinion and comments are crucial!

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