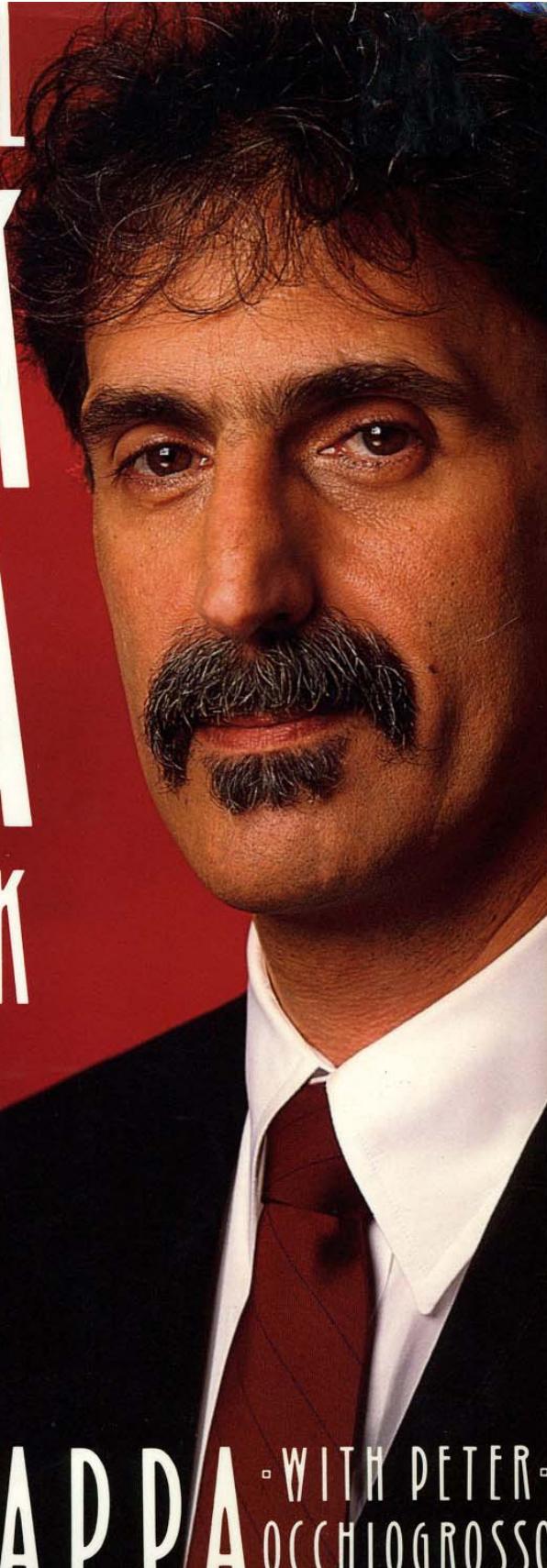


THE REAL FRANK ZAPPA BOOK

An autobiography of mostly
hilarious stories... fireside war tales
from the big bad days
of the rockin' sixties...
primer of the sonic
avant-garde, the book
bashes favorite Zappa
targets and dashes a few
myths about the man."

— V A N I T Y F A I R

BY FRANK ZAPPA WITH PETER OCCHIOGROSSO



CHAPTER 17

Practical Conservatism

Politically, I consider myself to be a (don't laugh) **Practical Conservative**. I want a smaller, less intrusive government, and lower taxes. What? You too?

Last tax season, I had a discussion with (*the wildly amusing*) Gary Iskowitz and (*the utterly fascinating*) Bob Kahan. Gary used to be the chief of the IRS audit division in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and Bob is one of the few decent Los Angeles attorneys.

Gary was providing the laughs with a recitation of Reagan's description of our new tax laws: "*Equity, simplicity and fairness.*" Come! Let us experience the curious warmth of Irish humor.

THE TIME IT TAKES TO PREPARE YOUR RETURN*

Form	Recordkeeping	Learning about the law or the form	Preparing the form	Copying, assembling, and sending the form to IRS
1040	3 hrs., 7 min.	2 hrs., 28 min.	3 hrs., 7 min.	35 min.
Sch. A (1040)	2 hrs., 47 min.	25 min.	1 hr., 1 min.	20 min.
Sch. B (1040)	33 min.	8 min.	16 min.	20 min.
Sch. C (1040)	7 hrs., 4 min.	1 hr., 11 min.	2 hrs., 9 min.	25 min.
Sch. D (1040)	1 hr., 2 min.	45 min.	54 min.	35 min.
Sch. E (1040)	3 hrs., 12 min.	1 hr., 2 min.	1 hr., 22 min.	35 min.
Sch. F (1040)	10 hrs., 53 min.	2 hrs., 2 min.	4 hrs., 10 min.	35 min.
Sch. R (1040)	20 min.	16 min.	22 min.	35 min.
Sch SE (1040)				
Short	20 min.	11 min.	13 min.	14 min.
Long	26 min.	22 min.	37 min.	20 min.

* Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service

This eventually led to a discussion of a paper Gary wrote in college, about what would happen if the U.S. income tax were

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removed, and replaced with a national sales tax on all goods and services. Here're a few points he made (my paraphrasing):

[1] We'd save a fortune on the yearly budget of the IRS itself. The sales tax could be administered with approximately five percent of the current IRS staff.

[2] Because people would be taxed only when they **spent** money, the entire economy would get a boost as people received more of an incentive to **earn** money.

[3] Certain folks who always seem to avoid paying taxes (defense contractors and church-owned businesses, for example) would be allowed to make a glowing debut as Major Stars of the U.S. tax base.

[4] Drug dealers don't file tax returns, but they do spend money. As long as drugs are illegal, this is the only way to derive tax revenue from them.

[5] All of the cash in the 'subterranean economy' would now be part of the tax base.

I believe we are entitled to the benefits of large-scale services which only a Federal Government can provide—national defense, Social Security, high-ticket research, help for the homeless, etc.—*only so long as we are willing and able to pay for them*; however, **if** such services are requested and rendered, it should be the goal **and the responsibility** of the government to make the deal work at a bargain price, with the **least** amount of fuss—not with the *largest amount of paperwork, the highest payroll, and endless, insufferable layers of bureaucracy*.

Efficient Federal Government should present social policy choices to the electorate in clear language:

"If you want these services, it will cost this much. Are you sure you want them now? Here is a list of ways they can be paid for—choose one. If you say you want these services,

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we'll take care of it for you. If you say no—next case."

That's right, folks: *Utopia*.

If we know we want services on a national scale, and if we know we have to pay for them *somehow*, who'd object to this plan?

Answer: **many of the people who claim to be 'conservative' today**—especially the ones who seem so eager to turn America into a place where morality is dictated by religious dogma, certified by bizarre judicial decisions, legislated by semantic chicanery (*Ever try to read a California ballot?*), maintained by 'emergency police measures' and, occasionally, implemented by selective enforcement of the tax code. These not-so-conservative—in fact extremely radical—varmints prefer to keep the IRS just the way it is, and don't mind paying a little extra to have it available as a tool for political extortion.

By the way, have you ever wondered what the specific 'mission' of the Internal Revenue Service is? Here's the 1964 version, still in effect:

Statement of some principles of Internal Revenue tax administration.*

The function of the Internal Revenue Service is to administer the Internal Revenue Code. Tax policy for raising revenue is determined by Congress.

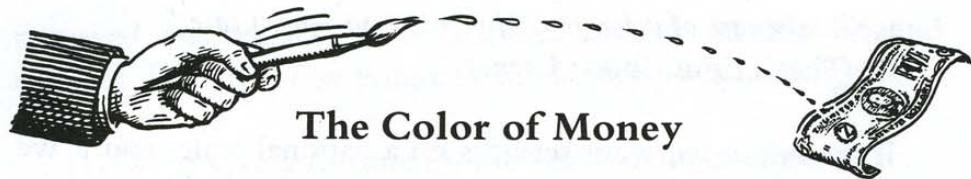
With this in mind, it is the duty of the Service to carry out that policy by correctly applying the laws enacted by Congress; to determine the reasonable meaning of various Code provisions in light of the Congressional purpose in enacting them; and to perform this work in a fair and impartial manner, with neither a government nor a taxpayer point of view.

At the heart of administration is interpretation of the Code. It is the responsibility of each person in the Service, charged with the duty of interpreting the law, to try to find the true meaning of the statutory provision and not to adopt a strained construction in the belief that he is "protecting the revenue." The revenue is properly protected only when we ascertain and apply the true meaning of the statute.

The Service also has the responsibility of applying and administering the law in a reasonable, practical manner. Issues should only be raised by examining officers when they have merit, never arbitrarily or for trading purposes. At the same time, the examining officer should never hesitate to raise a meritorious issue. It is also important that care be exercised not to raise an issue or to ask a court to adopt a position inconsistent with an established Service position.

Administration should be both reasonable and vigorous. It should be conducted with as little delay as possible and with great courtesy and considerateness. It should never try to overreach, and should be reasonable within the bounds of law and sound administration. It should, however, be vigorous in requiring compliance with law and it should be relentless in its attack on unreal tax devices and fraud.

* *Internal Revenue Cumulative Bulletin, 1964*



The Color of Money

Even if we leave the IRS alone, there is a world of delinquent payments waiting to be collected. In order to identify the taxable dollars from drug dealing and other unreported income, it has been suggested that we **change the color of our currency**. Nothing *green* would be legal tender anymore—the government would trade everybody straight across.

At the point of the coupon exchange, Mr. Tax Man gets a good squint at your cash flow, and bills you accordingly. Personally, I'd rather dump the Federal income tax.

National Defense

If you own something, you will fight to protect it. If you don't—who gives a shit?

The strongest defense any nation can have is a robust economy. What **is** that? Have we ever really seen one? The trickle-downers think it's 'robust' when the guys in the *Fortune 500* clean up. A nation is really strong when everybody's got a piece of the action. **Everybody**.

We have been criminalized by our own tax code—ninety-seven percent of the population has to chisel and scam to survive. This is not 'robust.' Are we too stupid to create a **real national defense?**

Thanks to our schools and political leadership, the U.S. has acquired an international reputation as the home of 250 million people dumb enough to buy '*The Wacky Wall-Walker*.' Let's face it: **Without us, everybody else who wants to sell stuff would be in Big Trouble.**

As long as we remain marginally literate, materially insatiable and stupid enough to *merger* away our future to the point that we become competitively impotent, we are covered by a '*Strategic Life Insurance Policy*'—with the premiums willingly paid by our trading partners.

It is only a slight exaggeration to suggest that if the Russians were to launch a U.S. invasion, Japan would gladly provide battalions of ninjas to take care of the 'problem' for us. If we get blown away, who's buying next year's Toyotas?

And the Russians? Considering how badly we're doing these days, can we afford to nuke **any nation** willing to spend one hundred dollars for a pair of Levi's? (*And what about all that Pepsi Nixon arranged for us to sell over there?*)

Star Wars

Does anybody reading this *actually* believe America is prepared for a 'conventional war' with **anybody**? If trouble breaks out, what are we gonna do? Whatever it is—unless the guy in the White House is a lunatic—it's not going to involve our *Fabulous and Totally Expensive Nuclear Arsenal*.

We are not going to have a big-ass Mondo Nuclear War. Period.

Nuclear explosions under the Nevada desert? What the fuck are we testing for? We already know the shit blows up. We're building machinery for a war that is as **unlikely** as it would be **unwinnable**, and, in the process, creating environmental side effects that defy contemplation.

Defense money should be put into manpower and equipment appropriate to the kinds of conflicts we are **really** going to encounter in the next quarter-century. The manpower should be dedicated, the equipment should be easy to operate and maintain, and the management of military assets should be streamlined.

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Let's say we have to make some 'show of force.' The most common scenarios involve small guerilla or terrorist groups. *Nuclear retaliation?* It has been suggested by others that Aerosol Pork Grenades would be a better deterrent—Islamic martyrs are denied entrance to heaven if they show up at the gate smelling like a pig. Denial of The Big Payoff removes a certain cachet from acts of voluntary self-destruction.

If we were to subtract that portion of the defense budget dedicated to '**weapons we will never use**' (*either because they could backfire on us, or guys with U.S. high school diplomas are sort of 'unqualified' to operate them—or maybe they never worked at all, but because they provided jobs in some guy's home district for five years, Congress kept the contract going*), and apply it to education, low-cost housing and **non-military R&D**, we'd all be better off.

But noooooo! We spent blobs of money on a start-up contract for SDI and find out later that the initial research reports that said "*It will work!*" were falsified by omission.

For those of us still stupid enough to desire ownership of this preposterous system, I suggest that it could have been paid for **fifteen minutes ago** with about ten percent of what this 'fiscally conservative administration' has already spent on balloons, bunting, straw hats, confetti and the rest of the detritus required to make a narcoleptic pinhead look 'presidential' for the last eight years.

SDI won't save us from nuclear suitcase bombs, poison gas, bio-weapons or cocaine smugglers—and it carries a trillion-dollar price tag. *Attention shoppers!* Let's take the trillion, divide it by our total population and pass out the results of the arithmetic—in **cash**—along with a bazooka and a box of grenades to every family in America. Given the choice between terminal taxation and this 'incentive program,' I think most Americans would opt to **defend themselves** (*and their exciting new bank accounts*) against anything as unlikely as a full-scale Russian invasion.

Central America

Washington, D.C.: a city infested with statues—and Congressional Blow-Boys who **wish** they were statues.

Did these fine statesmen **really** think Nicaragua was a menace to our national security? Yeah? Then why the fuck did they hire an **amateur army** to look after our ‘interests’ down there? Wait a minute—what **are** our ‘interests’ down there?

We have just spent eight years being governed by dorks who acted like building a wall around Texas to ward off Sandinistas marching up through Mexico could be a super-bitchen strategic idea. (*Unless we used another amateur army of ‘illegal alien’ laborers, we couldn’t even afford it—the Teamsters contract for hauling in the raw material could easily cripple the economy.*)

If we expect to protect our legitimate business interests on foreign soil, we are going to have to develop more efficient and **appropriate** tools for the job. These might include:

PSYCHOLOGY

Persuading the population of whatever country we’re not getting along with this week that WE are the Good Guys—if the Russians can do it to us, think what we could do to everybody else with a little help from Madison Avenue.

DIPLOMACY

Making honest and enforceable deals—and reliably living up to them.

ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Help their economies to grow—don’t just move in and rape the labor force. Besides, these developing nations could become important new customers. (It’ll take ‘em a while to find out how cheesy our products actually are, and, until they catch on—or we learn how to build better stuff—we can pretend to be The Greatest Nation On Earth for a few more years.)

And, **if necessary**, pork spritzers or gunpowder—not plutonium or nerve gas.

South Africa

It is a strategic necessity (as much as a moral one) for the U.S. to see that apartheid is brought to an end. You say you don't care? It doesn't matter that much to you? No big deal? If one of the competing black factions takes over, will you **really** sleep better knowing that whoever wins the inevitable inter-tribal war has an **H-bomb?** *And how about that growing segment of the white population marching around with a nouveau swastika flag, piling flowers on the local Hitler shrine, hoping to oust the existing government, so they can have the bomb?* Folks: Pork Cologne will not work on these people.

The Middle East

It is absurd that people are dying over such a miserable piece of real estate. Israel has a right to exist **AND** the Palestinians are entitled to their own state.

The land issue would have been settled long ago if it weren't for the religious fanatics on both sides, the misguided efforts of the U.S. Israel lobby, the weakness and shortsightedness of several U.S. administrations, and our old friends in the weapons business. Guys who live on yachts purchased with the proceeds of bullet sales tend to feel awkward and out-of-place in the unemployment line. This often leads them to ingenious forms of 'product promotion.' Is it not a slight embarrassment that many of these gentlemen are of the American persuasion?

Government in 'the New Perfect America'

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: *Politics Is the Entertainment Branch of Industry.*

C-SPAN's coverage of governmental proceedings is wonderful. **Caution! Buffoons on the Hill!** Wallowing in blabber and spew, regiments of ex-lawyers and used-car salesmen at-

tempt to distract us from the naughty little surprises served up by deregulated corporate America.

Has it become impossible to govern the U.S. by reason or logic? America under Reagan saw the rise of governance by trickery, fear, disinformation and superstition. Oh Jesus! Here come those fucking balloons again.

Nancy's War on Drugs

Speaking of superstition and balloons, let's examine the U.S. drug policy.

Once upon a time, we had a stupid law called Prohibition, based on the notion that alcohol was an 'immoral' chemical compound. Instead of saving the National Soul from demon rum, this policy was directly responsible for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of innocent people being murdered in gang wars or poisoned by severely unripened beverages.

Prohibition also made it possible for organized crime to develop and thrive on a scale never imagined by any of the legislation's sponsors. Have we detected any similarity to late-eighties America yet?

Illuminated by the rosy glow of a trillion-dollar global drug business, our covert war in Nicaragua looks like a badly directed snuff film, shot on location in a cocaine money laundry.

There has always been a symbiotic relationship between right-wing administrations and purveyors of 'sinful goods.' As long as the moralizers control the government, the purveyors' products remain *officially forbidden*. This keeps the price up and inflates their profits—a perverse system of international agricultural price supports. Would we really be surprised to discover that triple-rinsed coca-bucks have financed Republican campaigns at all levels for years?

Alcohol Prohibition gave us Eliot Ness. Drug Prohibition gives us Nancy Reagan, George Bush, Manuel Noriega, Oliver North, the jolly lads in the Medellín Cartel, and, of course, their

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local distributors over by the school yard.

Alcohol Prohibition introduced us to the thrilling exploits of wise-guy gangsters, supplying the entertainment needs of a booze-guzzling public—held hostage by a truly stupid piece of legislation. They dressed sharp, threw good parties, greased city hall and had enough money left over at the end of the day to buy a few unions and build Las Vegas.

Prohibition today has produced cartels of international party-boys who take in enough cash daily to finance the LBO of any corporation on the planet. Darlin', every crystal that crawled up your nose (at least since January of 1980) has helped to create the economic power base for a worldwide secret government.

Suicide

The reasons why people opt for the dubious thrill of 'controlled substance consumption' vary, but one factor seems consistent at all social levels: *IN SPITE OF THE OBVIOUS PHYSICAL RISKS, PEOPLE WILL CONSUME THEM, NO MATTER WHAT.*

Party Chemicals, including alcohol, are usually consumed because Mr. Party Guy wants to achieve some variation on a condition we'll call "*blotto*." For some, this amounts to a slow death—and they *still* want to do it. "**Suicide—fast or slow? Should any government have the right to force an adult to stay alive if that individual chooses death—fast or slow?**" In some instances, perhaps. Generally, not.

I believe that people have a right to decide their own destinies; *people own themselves*. I also believe that, in a democracy, government exists because (and only so long as) individual citizens give it a 'temporary license to exist'—in exchange for a promise that it will *behave itself*. In a democracy, you own the government—it doesn't own you.

Along with this comes a responsibility to ensure that individual actions, in the pursuit of a personal destiny, do not threaten the well-being of others while the 'pursuit' is in progress.

A Matter of Semantics

It disturbs me to hear news reports describing the "menace of drugs" sandwiched in between commercials for off-the-shelf painkillers, sleep inducers, diet capsules and beer.

Any societal "menace" involved would be more accurately catalogued as "substance abuse behavior"—a generic term to describe any chemically induced irresponsible conduct, whether derived from glue, nutmeg, dietary supplements, alcohol or the current list of compounds on the "controlled substances" list.

A drug is neither moral nor immoral—it's a chemical compound. The compound itself is not a menace to society until a human being treats it as if consumption bestowed a temporary license to act like an asshole.

There are many compounds which chemically alter human behavior. They pose individual health risks, and risks to the safety of third parties who might depend on the unimpaired competence of the user who is piloting a 747, performing open-heart surgery, judging a murder trial or writing federal legislation.

The fact is, no complete psychopharmacological 'behavior table' exists for the multitude of substances (controlled or otherwise) which humans might ingest—even accidentally—including foodstuffs, which could, based on an individual's body chemistry, produce hallucinations, psychotic episodes, or any number of other undesirable physical conditions leading to 'impaired behavior'—but, for some reason, we have fixated on "drugs."

The "drug problem" is real—but it has been muddled by

bad semantics. If we could eradicate every compound on the controlled substances list tomorrow, the “criminal” acts resulting from chemically altered states of human behavior (if we assume that people are basically well-intentioned animals, and only get weird when alien molecules attack them) would still continue.

Life could be described as a complex form of *electrochemical entertainment*: electrical charges modifying chemical compounds which recombine to make electrical charges which etc., etc., etc., eventually leading to “**Life As Behavioral Theater**” (with performances perceived via electrochemical sensors—which create charges, modify compounds, create more charges and so on). *Still with me?* In short, even before we had LSD, there were mushrooms—and before PCP, we had maniacs, robbers and murderers. Can we win **any** “war on drugs”? Are you kidding?

The biggest danger from the drug trade is not the occasional lethal blunders committed by users and street dealers—the real evils lurk in the financial and political power which flows upstream to the cartels’ overlords. These guys have enough loose cash to snatch up a chunk of **any nation** on a whim.

U.S. drug users are financing the lower half of this equation, while our licensed representatives finance the rest by making life easy for the big guys with unenforceable pseudolegislation and a hilariously inept war on drugs. What do you say when U.S. Customs officers, asked to engage in *vigorous interdiction*, find it inconvenient to be tested for drug consumption themselves?

Send In the Marines?

Should we declare that a state of war exists between the U.S. and each drug-producing, drug-distributing and/or money-laundering nation, in order to legitimize the involvement of all military branches? What do we do about China? They have an H-bomb and a fairly large army. “*Oh, well . . . heroin’s not that*

big a problem *anymore*—let's just go after those bad cocaine dealers.”

Are we to seriously consider armed international conflict because middle-aged men in the entertainment community need illicit pharmaceutical assistance in order to keep their dicks hard?

Are we gonna roll out the leftover Agent Orange and fuck up somebody's jungle because 'creative people at the network' rely on *native medicine* when making the complex aesthetic decisions which determine American television's fascinating content?

Law and Order

Part of what we have licensed the government to do is maintain 'law and order'—first, to create enforceable laws to provide an outline for the practical aspects of social existence, coupled with a license to use force, if necessary, in order to apply them. What the fuck went wrong?

For one thing, we had a bumper crop of lawyers a while back, and every one of them wanted to earn a living—but, with so many lawyers competing for the *criminal dollar*, how could they expect to get **their** rightful hunk of American Pie? The answer was obvious: America *needed* more criminals. Not the really bad kind that do murder and rape and stuff—we needed regular, easy-to-defend, middle-class neighborhood criminals, with cash and equity. The lawyers of America set out to create a world where their services would be *indispensable*.

They ooched into the governmental machinery at every level, and, while we weren't looking, created a body of incomprehensible, contradictory, unenforceable laws (the IRS Code, for instance) which could be transgressed by anybody, anytime, *without their even knowing it*, thereby placing entire families in economically life-threatening situations—unless they knew a (don't laugh) **good lawyer**.

Then, the peculiarities of our **case law** system took over. **Case law** is what happens when a stupid judicial decision from

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one place gets cited as a “legal precedent,” forming the basis for another stupid judicial decision somewhere else—like a computer virus.

Remember: In the beginning, we gave this *theoretical temporary license* to the *theoretical government* to create this *theoretically organized social system*, to be administered on a democratic basis—and part of the deal required that the *license holder* would create **law** for us and, with it, maintain **order**.

It was supposed to be done by guys who knew **something** about **how to do it** (and wanted to do it, because *we needed it*). They *said* they could do it. We believed them. We voted for them. But what did we get? A mutant subspecies that tells lies for a living, unwittingly assisted by semiliterate juries (*chosen by the lawyers themselves*) who do the rest of the damage to the system by excreting mounds of **case law**.

We could thin out the ranks of the legal profession a bit if it were required that everything lawyers **and** judges say in court be under oath, with treble punishment and property confiscation penalties for **them** if **they** lie—or if any of the documents generated or used as evidence are found to be *written forms of lies*.

Zero Tolerance?

The new drug law that mandates the death penalty and confiscation of property connected with any drug-trafficking operation could lead to some intriguing conversations with Mrs. Thatcher. British offshore banking policy allows—even promotes—practices which assist in the laundering of drug money.

Of all foreign governments involved in the current epidemic of LBOs and purchases of American assets—including the Arabs, the Germans and the Japanese—Britain (or unknown entities acting through British banking agents) has grabbed the most.

In many respects, the U.K. is well on its way to becoming a Third World nation—where the fuck are they getting all the cash to buy **us** up?

Is it an act of war to buy somebody's country out from underneath him? If somebody offers to buy your country (or what amounts to economic control of your country), and you sell it to him, does that mean your country plans to go into 'retirement'? What are we gonna do? Take the cash and move to Switzerland?

Other Options

If we were to decriminalize and commercially 'recontrol' the "controlled substances" (dispensing them on a rack next to the alcohol in *State Stores*, or in chains of *Federal Party Pharmacies*, for example), benefits to the U.S. Treasury could be substantial, as would domestic 'cocaine brewery' profits.

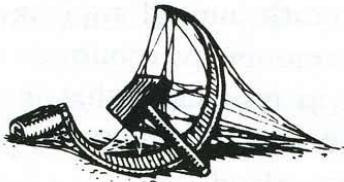
At least one aspect of our agricultural problem would be solved ("What should we plant next year, Wanda?"), the prison population would diminish, and, most importantly, we could put a crimp in the pipeline feeding cash to the guys in the jungle.

I don't know about you, but I have never issued a 'temporary license to govern' to **any guy in any jungle**, but, because they made so many friends in Washington during the last eight years (*just helping out with 'the war effort'*), they act as if it had been granted by proxy.

Would 'recontrol' put the cartels out of business? Probably not. What if RJR Nabisco decided to open a 'brewery division' —Dan Dorfman would report rumors of another big takeover, the stock would soar (a lot of church and pension-fund buying) and the cartel would wind up as a legit U.S. business—just like some of our most illustrious old-money families who hit it big when the booze trade got redignified.

What if a kinder, gentler CIA chose to produce a low-cost 'designer drug' with special 'social engineering characteristics,' and mount yet another covert civilian *test for profit*, arranging for this *New Buzz* to drive Traditional Flavors out of the marketplace? It worked with LSD. (And doesn't PCP—*makes you*

crazy; takes five guys to hold you down; etc.—have a sort of ‘militarily useful’ aura about it?)



Communism

Mr. Gorbachev has apparently stumbled onto one of the best-kept secrets in recent Soviet history: **Communism doesn't work**. *It's against a basic law of nature: “PEOPLE WANT TO OWN STUFF.”*

Perestroika virtually certifies this as an axiom. You still want to call it “*Communism*”? Sure—g’head—call it what you want. We don’t need to say, “*I told you so.*” Leave a guy some dignity. The Cold War? Have another Pepsi—it makes you moonwalk.

In exporting their philosophy, the Soviets employed a technique reminiscent of U.S. evangelical TV ministries. They told people who were hungry and sick they’d give them food and penicillin. The evangelists forced them to read the Bible; the Communists made them read *The Little Red Book*—and if you couldn’t read, the motherfuckers would recite it to you through a bullhorn.

The Soviets have spent many years (and a lot of money) marketing and maintaining a political Edsel, fueled by the assumption that *entire populations* will cheerfully endure Spartan conditions, then hand over the fruits of all labor to a benevolent bureaucracy which would redistribute the wealth in an ‘equitable manner.’ What?

In every language, the first word after “**Mama!**” that every kid learns to say is “**Mine!**” A system that doesn’t allow ownership, that doesn’t allow you to say “**Mine!**” when you grow up, has—to put it mildly—a fatal design flaw.

From the time **Mr. Developing Nation** was forced to read *The Little Red Book* in exchange for a blob of rice, till the time he figured out that waiting in line for a loaf of pumpernickel

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was boring as fuck, took about three generations. Television helped to speed up that cycle.

Decades of indoctrination, manipulation, censorship and KGB excursions haven't altered this fact: **People want a piece of their own little Something-or-Other, and, if they don't get it, have a tendency to initiate counterrevolution.**

Why, then, do so many Americans, while professing to adore Freedom and Democracy, support—even **demand**—that actions be taken by their own government which bear a striking resemblance to **Old-Style Evil Empire Communism?** (*Censorship? Disinformation? The Public Library Spy-Squealer Program?*) **Are we really that unspeakably stupid?**

Use It or Lose It

Americans like to talk about (or be told about) Democracy but, when put to the test, usually find it to be an 'inconvenience.' We have opted instead for an authoritarian system *disguised* as a Democracy. We pay through the nose for an enormous joke-of-a-government, let it push us around, and then wonder how all those assholes got in there.

Communism doesn't work because it is out of phase with human nature. Are we going to wake up one day to find this statement equally true when applied to the concept of Western Democracy?

