

OCPA FaxLine Report

a public policy information service for members of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc.

Dear OCPA Member:

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees. That's the way many people feel these days about the many dramatic new developments from Washington D.C. to expand the scope, size and control of the federal government. If you get caught up in the many details of the latest big government bailout scheme, you can't see what is actually occurring right before your eyes -- the wholesale paradigm shift of thinking by our elected officials from free market capitalism to big government socialism.

That's why Texas' Gov. Rick Perry's recent remarks about secession are so important. While everyone knows at this time that such talk is a bit over the top, it's imperative that it is said because it causes people to pause a moment and think about our nation's historic understanding of the proper role of government. It's past time. In a few short months we have turned from a nation of self-sufficiency to one of great dependency, the price of which is going to be far worse than we can ever imagine.

As Gov. Perry stated, "Since the U.S. Constitution was first ratified, the federal government has slowly, steadily and successfully eroded the notion of state's rights. The Founding Fathers understood that a one-size-fits-all approach just doesn't work, especially in a country the size of America, and it certainly doesn't work for Texas.

"Our economic strength, compared to the federal budget mess and other states' troubles, is evidence that Texans know what's best for Texas. We're proof that good things happen when governments lower taxes, reduce spending and encourage private sector growth.

"When Washington interferes with our proven approaches, experience tells us what the outcome will be, and it isn't pretty.

"Like the Constitution and the other 26 amendments, the 10th Amendment has been the subject of extended debate, by scholars and lawyers of every sort, but I come down on the side that favors state's rights over unrestrained federal power.

"I believe the Constitution does not empower the federal to override state laws without restraint. . . . I believe the federal government has become oppressive in its size, its intrusion into the lives of our citizens, and its interference with the affairs of our state.

"Texans need to ask themselves a question: do they side with those in Washington who are pursuing this unprecedented expansion of power? Or do they believe in the individual rights and responsibilities laid out in our foundational documents? . . . Returning to the letter and the spirit of the U.S. Constitution, and its essential Tenth Amendment, will free our state and, ultimately, strengthen our Union."

Fortunately, *Newsweek* magazine was wrong. ***We are not all Socialists, now!***

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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