

OCPA FaxLine Report

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

Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Maybe I am just a sentimentalist at heart. When I look at a fireworks display each Fourth of July, I marvel at the brilliant display of bursting colors against the night sky and I think about the remarkableness of America. I wonder what my thoughts will be this year. Will I once again think about the men and the women who sacrificed so much in order for us to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave for the last 233 years? Or will my thoughts turn to current events and my stomach churn with anxiety? This thing I know. There's something not right about what's going on in our nation now and it anguishes me. It seems that our elected representatives aren't very concerned about our freedoms anymore as they pass new legislation which restricts our personal liberties while requiring us to shoulder the increasing financial burden of an intrusive and expanding federal government. All the while, they tell us over and over again that it's all for our own good, and they act insulted that some of us would question their wisdom or motivation.

First, let's discuss their *wisdom*. If the so called, "cap and trade legislation," passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, is an example of prudent leadership abilities, we all are in for a lot of trouble. Supposedly, the legislation is designed to help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, but according to The Heritage Foundation "this is all being done for a change in the temperature too small to ever notice." *The Wall Street Journal* says, "Americans should know that those Members who vote for this climate bill are voting for what is likely to be the biggest tax in American history." Adding insult to injury, most who voted for it, admittedly, never read the proposed legislation before passing it! Wouldn't that be considered "taxation without representation?" If the Boston Tea Party fellows were still around I bet they would ask incredulously, "why do you tolerate such malfeasance anyway?" We would be ashamed of ourselves as we struggled for an answer. How can those we entrust with elected office represent us if they don't take the time to read the legislation before they vote? It doesn't make sense, unless of course, there is something more behind it.

That leads us to the second possibility -- *motivation*. Could we be sinking into a totalitarian morass with the help of collaborating lawmakers who believe they will benefit somehow by going along with plans that undermine our Constitution and Bill of Rights? Outlandish, you say? Then go back to the first possibility and think about it for a few more minutes. At best, we have inept lawmakers. At worst, they are betraying us. Which do you prefer? And more important, what are you willing to do within your constitutional rights to engage in meaningful legal dissent?

As I look into the night sky this Fourth of July along with my fellow Americans to observe another spectacular fireworks display, I will, no doubt, once again think about our country and our great heritage. I will wonder what the future holds and how long it will take for that magnificent spirit of independence to once again ignite in the hearts of my countrymen to preserve this land of the free and the home of the brave. For it will be at that very moment we will be worthy of our founding fathers' legacy.

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

Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc., 1401 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104

Tel: 405-602-1667 / Fax: 405-602-1238 / Website: www.ocpathink.org

OCPA is a research and educational organization promoting public policies consistent with the principles of individual liberty, free enterprise and limited government. Contributions to OCPA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Nothing written in an OCPA FaxLine Report is to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of the membership of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc., or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill before the Oklahoma House or Senate, United States Congress, or any other government body.