

Quotes on Politics

Revision 6/1/2002

"Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor, for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword. It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind. And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all of their rights unto the leader and gladly so. How do I know? For this is what I have done. And I am Caesar."

Julius Caesar

"Anyone who tells you that "It Can't Happen Here" is whistling past the graveyard of history. There is no 'house rule' that bars tyranny coming to America. History is replete with republics whose people grew complacent and descended into imperial butchery and chaos."

Mike Vanderboegh

"What chance of survival does a culture have when its own elites actively seek its destruction?"

William S. Lind

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."

Aesop

"If America is destroyed, it may be by Americans who salute the flag, sing the national anthem, march in patriotic parades, cheer Fourth of July speakers – normally good Americans, but Americans who fail to comprehend what is required to keep our country strong and free, Americans who have been lulled away into a false security."

Ezra Taft Benson, *An Enemy Hath Done This*

"Experts and the educated elite have replaced what worked with what sounded good. Society was far more civilized before they took over our schools, prisons, welfare programs, police departments and courts. It's high time we ran these people out of our lives and went back to common sense."

Walter Williams

"A State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands -- even for beneficial purposes -- will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished."

John Stuart Mill

"For the average American family, filling out a tax form has become like attacking a puzzle to which, often enough, there is no right answer. But we're all supposed to swear, on penalty of perjury, that we've done our best to find it."

Paul Greenberg

"Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program."

Milton Friedman

"That the power to tax involves the power to destroy ... is not to be denied."

John Marshall

"It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress."

Mark Twain

"A liberal's like to be lax
When recommending a tax.
With a glut in his heart
And his brain low a quart,
He will give you the shirts off our backs."

F.R. Duplantier

"Powers once assumed are never relinquished, just as bureaucracies, once created, never die."

Charley Reese

"If politicians don't respect the law, why should citizens respect politicians?"

Debra Saunders

"A just fear of an imminent danger, though there be no blow given, is a lawful cause of war."

Sir Francis Bacon

"He is a very shallow critic who cannot see an eternal rebel in the heart of a conservative."

G.K. Chesterton, *Varied Types*

"The captain of a ship is not chosen from those of the passengers who comes from the best family."

Blaise Pascal

"We have never stopped sin by passing laws; and in the same way, we are not going to take a great moral ideal and achieve it merely by law."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

"What our country deserves from everyone who enjoys its fruits and freedoms is a little more gratitude -- and a lot less greed."

Michelle Malkin

"Because just as good morals, if they are to be maintained, have need of the laws, so the laws, if they are to be observed, have need of good morals."

Niccolo Machiavelli

"One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws, but conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws."

Martin Luther King

"The best way to put more money in people's wallets is to leave it there in the first place."

Edwin Feulner

"The test of every religious, political, or educational system is the man that it forms."

Amiel

"One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation."

Thomas B. Reed, 1886

"I love agitation and investigation and glory in defending unpopular truth against popular error."

James Garfield

"It is not the business of government to make men virtuous or religious, or to preserve the fool from the consequences of his own folly. Government should be repressive no further than is necessary to secure liberty by protecting the equal rights of each from aggression on the part of others, and the moment governmental prohibitions extend beyond this line they are in danger of defeating the very ends they are intended to serve."

Henry George

"In order to get power and retain it, it is necessary to love power; but love of power is not connected with goodness but with qualities that are the opposite of goodness, such as pride, cunning and cruelty."

Leo Tolstoy

"You may not be interested in war, but war is very interested in you."

Leo Tolstoy

"You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer."

Winston Churchill

"The main vice of capitalism is the uneven distribution of prosperity. The main vice of socialism is the even distribution of misery."

Winston Churchill

"If you have 10,000 regulations, you destroy all respect for the law."

Winston Churchill

"I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world, ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden."

Richard Rumbold

"I have long been convinced that institutions purely democratic must, sooner or later, destroy liberty, or civilization, or both."

Thomas MacCaulay

"Every actual state is corrupt. Good men must not obey laws too well."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies."

Honore de Balzac

"A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves."

Bertrand de Jouvenel

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear."

Marcus Tullius Cicero (42B.C)

"A government can be compared to our lungs. Our lungs are best when we don't realize they are helping us breathe. It is when we are constantly aware of our lungs that we know they have come down with an illness."

Lao-Tzu

"In an unjust society the only place for a just man is prison."

Henry David Thoreau

"The government is best which governs least."

Henry David Thoreau

"After having thus successively taken each member of the community in its powerful grasp and fashioned him at will, the supreme power then extends its arm over the whole community. It covers the surface of society with a network of small, complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate, to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered, but softened, bent, and guided; men seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence; it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd."

Alexis de Tocqueville

"A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government."

Edward Abbey

"Man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains."

18th century French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau

"Morality is always the product of terror; its chains and strait-waistcoats are fashioned by those who dare not trust others, because they dare not trust themselves, to walk in liberty."

Aldous Huxley

"Idealism is the noble toga that political gentlemen drape over their will to power."

Aldous Huxley

"The direct use of physical force is so poor a solution to the problem of limited resources that it is commonly employed only by small children and great nations."

David Friedman

"It would be thought a hard government that should tax its people one tenth part."

Benjamin Franklin

"The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the Prohibition law. For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced. It is an open secret that the dangerous increase of crime in this country is closely connected with this."

Albert Einstein, "My First Impression of the U.S.A.", 1921

"Somehow strangely the vice of men gets well represented and protected but their virtue has none to plead its cause -- nor any charter of immunities and rights."

Henry David Thoreau

"The short memories of the American voters is what keeps our politicians in office."

Will Rogers

"There is good news from Washington today. The Congress is deadlocked and can't act."

Will Rogers

"I'm not a member of any organized political party. I'm a Democrat."

Will Rogers

"The difference between death and taxes is death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."

Will Rogers

"The end move in politics is always to pick up a gun."

R. Buckminster Fuller

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

Mao Tse Tung

"You [should] not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harm it would cause if improperly administered."

Lyndon Johnson, former President of the U.S.

"Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else."

Frederic Bastiat

"Sometimes the law defends plunder and participates in it. Sometimes the law places the whole apparatus of judges, police, prisons and gendarmes at the service of the plunderers, and treats the victim -- when he defends himself -- as a criminal."

Frederic Bastiat, "The Law"

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

John F. Kennedy

"One of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the great struggle for independence."

Charles Austin Beard (1874-1948)

"America is at that awkward stage. It's too late to work within the system, but too early to shoot the bastards. On the road to tyranny, we've gone so far that polite political action is about as useless as a miniskirt in a convent."

Claire Wolfe, "101 Things To Do 'Til The Revolution"

"The two highest achievements of the human mind are the twin concepts of "loyalty" and "duty". Whenever these twin concepts fall into disrepute, get out of there fast! You may possibly save yourself, but it is too late to save that society. It is doomed."

Robert A. Heinlein

"Violence, naked force, has settled more issues in history than has any other factor, and the contrary opinion is wishful thinking at its worst. Nations and peoples who forget this basic truth have always paid for it with their lives and freedoms."

Robert A. Heinlein

"Love your country, but never trust its government."

Robert A. Heinlein

"Every collectivist revolution rides in on a Trojan horse of 'emergency'. It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler, and Mussolini. In the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries of Europe, it was the cry of men striving to get on horseback. And 'emergency' became the justification of the subsequent steps. This technique of creating emergency is the greatest achievement that demagoguery attains."

Herbert Hoover

"A wholesome regard for the memory of the great men of long ago is the best assurance to a people of a continuation of great men to come, who shall be able to instruct, to lead, and to inspire. A people who worship at the shrine of true greatness will themselves be truly great."

Calvin Coolidge

"We do not need more intellectual power, we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge, we need more character. We do not need more government, we need more culture. We do not need more law, we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen, we need more of the things that are unseen.... If the foundation is firm, the superstructure will stand."

Calvin Coolidge

"I have little interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size. I do not undertake to promote welfare, for I propose to extend freedom. My aim is not to pass laws, but to repeal them. It is not to inaugurate new programs, but to cancel old ones that do violence to the Constitution ... or have failed their purpose ... or that impose on the people an unwarranted financial burden. I will not attempt to discover whether legislation is 'needed' before I have first determined whether it is constitutionally permissible. And if I should be attacked for neglecting my constituents' 'interests,' I shall reply that I was informed that their main interest is liberty, and in that cause I am doing the very best I can."

Barry Goldwater

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

Barry Goldwater

"Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it."

Thomas Sowell

"One of the common failings among honorable people is a failure to appreciate how thoroughly dishonorable some other people can be, and how dangerous it is to trust them."

Thomas Sowell

"One of the sad signs of our times is that we have demonized those who produce, subsidized those who refuse to produce, and canonized those who complain."

Thomas Sowell

"If you have ever seen a four-year-old trying to lord it over a two-year-old, then you know what the basic problem of human nature is and why government keeps growing larger and ever more intrusive."

Thomas Sowell

"If you have always believed that everyone should play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards, that would have gotten you labeled a radical 50 years ago, a liberal 25 years ago, and a racist today."

Thomas Sowell

"Over the past half century, far too many judges -- including justices of the Supreme Court -- have 'interpreted' laws to mean the direct opposite of what the written words of those laws plainly said. ...It is a question whether courts of law become arenas for arbitrary exercises of power -- the very antithesis of law. The people of this country have long had differing opinions on quotas, abortion, pornography and many other controversial issues. That is why we have elections at all levels of government and differing laws from one state or locality to another. But those who think themselves so far above ordinary people that they ought to impose their own opinions on the unwashed masses have supported judges who turn these political questions into constitutional issues without any basis in the constitution. At the heart of the constitution is a separation of powers, which limits each branch of government and allows other branches of government to stop it from over-stepping its bounds. Without that, we are at the mercy of whoever happens to be the most ruthless in grabbing power."

Thomas Sowell

"The fundamental principle is this: No matter how worthwhile an end may be, if there is no constitutional authority to pursue it, then the federal government must step aside and leave the matter to the states or to private parties. The president and Congress can proceed only from constitutional authority, not from good intentions alone. If Congress thinks it necessary to expand its powers, the Framers crafted an amendment process for that purpose. But too often, rather than follow that process, Congress has disregarded the limits set by the Constitution and gutted our frontline defense against overweening federal government."

Robert A. Levy

"Most Americans aren't the sort of citizens the Founding Fathers expected; they are contented serfs. Far from being active critics of government, they assume that its might makes it right."

Joseph Sobran

"Liberals have a new wish every time their latest wish is granted. Conservatives should make them spell out their principles and ideals. Instead of doing this, conservatives allow liberals to pursue incremental goals without revealing their ultimate destination. So, thanks to the negligence of their opponents, liberals control the terms of every debate by always demanding 'more' while never defining 'enough.' The predictable result is that they always get more, and it's never enough."

Joseph Sobran

"If Communism was liberalism in a hurry, liberalism is Communism in slow motion."

Joseph Sobran

"Politicians never accuse you of 'greed' for wanting other people's money --- only for wanting to keep your own money."

Joseph Sobran

"Communism had been approvingly described as 'liberalism in a hurry,' and liberals like Roosevelt affectionately dubbed Stalin 'Uncle Joe.' Even today, few liberals blame Roosevelt for his abject truckling to Stalin. The wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union ended with ten Christian countries falling to Communist tyranny, with persecution on a scale Nero would have blanched at -- a persecution liberals didn't, and still don't, care to talk about. Today's liberals also like to forget that Roosevelt extended admiration and aid to Stalin long before World War II. He knew a kindred spirit when he saw one. After all, 'liberalism in a hurry' sought the same sort of social order American liberalism seeks --a secularist, materialist society in which power is centralized and the state controls economic life. When Americans finally awoke to the evil of Communism, liberals had harsher words for Joe McCarthy, who cost a few people their government jobs, than for Joe Stalin, who cost tens of millions of people their lives. ... If Communism was liberalism in a hurry, liberalism is Communism in slow motion. Where Communism smashed, liberalism erodes. The end result is the same: a soulless society in which liberty perishes and tradition is forgotten. There is ample testimony that liberalism and Communism are essentially interchangeable, and much of that testimony comes from liberals themselves."

Joseph Sobran

"The difference between a politician and a pickpocket is that the pickpocket doesn't get indignant when you tell him to keep his hands to himself."

Joseph Sobran

"The study of history is a powerful antidote to contemporary arrogance. It is humbling to discover how many of our glib assumptions, which seem to us novel and plausible, have been tested before, not once but many times and in innumerable guises; and discovered to be, at great human cost, wholly false."

Paul Johnson

"American voters should understand that Congress will always find a way to spend every last dollar sent to Washington. Remember, politicians get votes by promising everything to everyone, always at the expense of some other invisible taxpayers. ...The federal government cannot maintain a budget surplus any more than an alcoholic can leave a fresh bottle of whiskey untouched in the cupboard."

Representative Ron Paul (TX-R)

"There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs. There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don't want the patient to get well."

Booker T. Washington, 1911

"Government schools will teach children that government is wonderful."

Neal Boortz

"Once the government becomes the supplier of people's needs, there is no limit to the needs that will be claimed as a basic right."

Lawrence Auster

"The republic was not established by cowards, and cowards will not preserve it."

Elmer Davis

"In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant."

Charles de Gaulle

"The reason this country continues its drift toward socialism and big nanny government is because too many people vote in the expectation of getting something for nothing, not because they have a concern for what is good for the country. A better educated electorate might change the reason many persons vote. If children were forced to learn about the Constitution, about how government works, about how this nation came into being, about taxes and about how

government forever threatens the cause of liberty perhaps we wouldn't see so many foolish ideas coming out of the mouths of silly old men."

Lyn Nofziger

"These things I believe: That government should butt out. That freedom is our most precious commodity and if we are not eternally vigilant government will take it all away. That individual freedom demands individual responsibility. That government is not a necessary good but an unavoidable evil. That the executive branch has grown too strong, the judicial branch too arrogant and the legislative branch too stupid. That political parties have become close to meaningless. That government should work to insure the rights of the individual, not plot to take them away. That government should provide for the national defense and work to insure domestic tranquillity. That foreign trade should be fair rather than free. That America should be wary of foreign entanglements. That the tree of liberty needs to be watered from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. That guns do more than protect us from criminals; more importantly, they protect us from the ongoing threat of government. That states are the bulwark of our freedom. That states should have the right to secede from the Union. That once a year we should hang someone in government as an example to his fellows."

Lyn Nofziger

"Government machinery has been described as a marvelous labor saving device which enables ten men to do the work of one."

John Maynard Keynes

"No age is unique in producing privileged persons who can happily dichotomize condemnation of their society and enjoyment of its fruits. The eighteenth century had its landau liberals as the nineteenth would have its carriage Communists."

Alf Mapp, Jr.

"History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster."

Douglas MacArthur

"To be prepared for war, is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

George Washington

"There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation."

George Washington

"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."

George Washington, in a speech of January 7, 1790

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

George Washington

"Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles."

George Washington

"When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators."

P. J. O'Rourke

"Giving money and power to Government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

P. J. O'Rourke

"All the public business in Congress now connects itself with intrigues, and there is great danger that the whole government will degenerate into a struggle of cabals."

John Quincy Adams

"The laws of man may bind him in chains or may put him to death, but they never can make him wise, virtuous, or happy."

John Quincy Adams

"Always stand on principle, even if you stand alone."

John Quincy Adams

"In republican governments, men are all equal; equal they are also in despotic governments; in the former, because they are everything; in the latter, because they are nothing."

Charles De Secondat, "The Spirit of Laws" (1748)

"Were parties here divided merely by a greediness for office,...to take a part with either would be unworthy of a reasonable or moral man."

Thomas Jefferson to William Branch Giles, 1795. ME 9:317

"Were we directed from Washington when to sow , and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

Thomas Jefferson

"Laws provide against injury from others, but not from ourselves."

Thomas Jefferson, Notes on Religion

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion."

Thomas Jefferson

"The mobs of the great cities add just so much to the support of pure government as sores do to the strength of the human body. It is the manners and spirit of a people which preserve a republic in vigor. A degeneracy in these is a canker which soon eats to the heart of its laws and constitution."

Thomas Jefferson: Notes on Virginia Q.XIX, 1782. ME 2:230

"I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in large cities as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe."

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, 1787. Papers 12:442

"I view great cities as pestilential to the morals, the health and the liberties of man. True, they nourish some of the elegant arts; but the useful ones can thrive elsewhere; and less perfection in the others, with more health, virtue and freedom, would be my choice."

Thomas Jefferson to Benjamin Rush, 1800. ME 10:173

"I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary; too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious."

Thomas Jefferson

"Parties are... censors of the conduct of each other, and useful watchmen for the public. Men by their constitutions are naturally divided into two parties: 1. Those who fear and distrust the people, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes. 2. Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise, depository of the public interests. In every country these two parties exist, and in every one where they are free to think, speak, and write, they will declare themselves. Call them, therefore, ...Whigs and Tories, Republicans and Federalists, Aristocrats and Democrats, or by whatever name you please, they are the same parties still, and pursue the same object."

Thomas Jefferson

"All men having power ought to be mistrusted."

James Madison

"It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known, and less fixed?"

James Madison, Federalist Papers 62

"The voice of the majority is no proof of justice."

Johann von Schiller

"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

George Bernard Shaw

"Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."

Thomas Paine

"Corruptissima re publica plurimae leges."
(The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws.)

Tacitus, *Annales*, 1st century A.D.

"Formerly we suffered from crimes; now we suffer from laws."

Publius Cornelius Tacitus

"In the struggle between those seeking power there is no middle course."

Tacitus

"Extreme taxation, excessive controls, oppressive government competition with business, frustrated minorities and forgotten Americans are not the products of free enterprise. They are the residue of centralized bureaucracy, of government by a self-anointed elite."

Ronald Reagan

"If history teaches us anything, it teaches that simple-minded appeasement or wishful thinking about our adversaries is folly."

President Ronald Reagan in Orlando, Florida, 3/3/1983

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

Ronald Reagan

"I believe the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism. ...The basis of conservatism is a desire for less government interference, less centralized authority, more individual freedom, and this is a pretty general description also of what libertarianism is."

Ronald Reagan

"Republicans believe the best way to assure prosperity is to generate more jobs. The Democrats believe in more welfare."

Ronald Reagan (1972)

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Ronald Reagan

"Are you willing to spend time studying the issues, making yourself aware, and then conveying that information to family and friends? Will you resist the temptation to get a government handout for your community?"

Ronald Reagan, from the speech "A Time For Choosing"

"An informed patriotism is what we want."

Ronald Reagan

"I just wanted to speak to you about something from the Internal Revenue Code. It is the last sentence of section 509A of the code and it reads: 'For purposes of paragraph 3, an organization described in paragraph 2 shall be deemed to include an organization described in section 501C-4, 5, or 6, which would be described in paragraph 2 if it were an organization described in section 501C-3.' And that's just one sentence out of those fifty-seven feet of books."

Ronald Reagan

"When you start talking about government as 'we' instead of 'they,' you have been in office too long."

Ronald Reagan

"Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief efforts to trying to prove that the other is unfit to rule -- and both commonly succeed and are right."

H. L. Mencken

"The state remains, as it was in the beginning, the common enemy of all well-disposed, industrious and decent men."

H. L. Mencken

"Government is actually the worst failure of civilized man. There has never been a really good one, and even those that are most tolerable are arbitrary, cruel, grasping and unintelligent."

H. L. Mencken

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and thus clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

H.L. Mencken

"What is a left-wing socialist but a Marxist without a gun?"

Don Feder

"A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man; a debt he proposes to pay off with your money."

G. Gordon Liddy

Suppose they gave a war, and nobody came? Why then, the war would come to you!

Bertol Brecht

"When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall, one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."

Edmund Burke

"Political correctness is simply tyranny with manners."

Charlton Heston

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

Theodore Roosevelt

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong."

Voltaire (1694-1778)

"In general the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one class of citizens to give to the other."

Voltaire

"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

Plato

"The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs, is to be ruled by evil men."

Plato

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."

Plato

"If large numbers of people believe in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech even if the law forbids it. But if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them."

George Orwell

"If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face, forever."

George Orwell

"The ordinary man is passive. Within a narrow circle, home life, and perhaps the trade unions or local politics, he feels himself master of his fate. But otherwise he simply lies down and lets things happen to him."

George Orwell, *Inside the Whale*, 1940

"The difference between a welfare state and a totalitarian state is a matter of time."

Ayn Rand

"Independence is the recognition of the fact that yours is the responsibility of judgement and nothing can help you escape it -- that no substitute can do your thinking, as no pinch-hitter can live your life."

Ayn Rand, *"Atlas Shrugged"*

"There's no way to rule innocent men. The only power any government has is the power to crack down on criminals. Well, when there aren't enough criminals, one makes them. One

declares so many things to be a crime that it becomes impossible for men to live without breaking laws. Who wants a nation of law-abiding citizens? What's there in that for anyone? But just pass the kind of laws that can neither be observed nor enforced nor objectively interpreted and you create a nation of law-breakers."

Ayn Rand, "Atlas Shrugged", Part II, Chapter 3

"When you see that trading is done, not by consent, but by compulsion - when you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing - when you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors - when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you - when you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice - you may know that your society is doomed."

Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged, Francisco's "Money Speech"

"Did I say "republic?" By God, yes, I said "republic!" Long live the glorious republic of the United States of America. Damn democracy. It is a fraudulent term used, often by ignorant persons but no less often by intellectual fakers, to describe an infamous mixture of socialism, graft, confiscation of property and denial of personal rights to individuals whose virtuous principles make them offensive."

Westbrook Pegler in the New York Journal American of January 25th and 26th, 1951, under the titles "Upholds Republic of U.S. Against Phony Democracy" and "Democracy in the U.S. Branded Meaningless."

"One day posterity will remember these strange times, when ordinary common honesty was called courage."

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Russian poet, 1969

"The test for whether one is living in a police state is that those who are charged with enforcing the law are allowed to break the laws with impunity."

Jon Roland

"The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow."

Abraham Lincoln

"We must all hang together, or we shall certainly be hanged separately."

Benjamin Franklin

"The evils of tyranny are rarely seen but by him who resists it."

John Hay, 1872

"The public cannot be too curious concerning the characters of public men."

Samuel Adams

"How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!"

Samuel Adams (1722-1803), letter to John Pitts, January 21, 1776

"If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."

Samuel Adams (1780)

"Were the talents and virtues which heaven has bestowed on men given merely to make them more obedient drudges, to be sacrificed to the follies and ambition of a few? Or, were not the noble gifts so equally dispensed with a divine purpose and law, that they should as nearly as possible be equally exerted, and the blessings of Providence be equally enjoyed by all?"

Samuel Adams

"You know your country is dying when you have to make a distinction between what is moral and ethical, and what is legal."

John De Armond

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their consciences."

C. S. Lewis

"History is a vast early warning system."

Norman Cousins