The American Peasant Party (APP)

The Congressional System Monarchy

The Second Coming of Common Sense (CS2) is a 5-part book. Part 5 – We the People – Will Decide Our Nation’s Future is focused upon discharging and replacing the current 535 members of the US Congress. Thus, reclaiming our ownership and control of our government from publicly abusive lobbyists for the wealthy and certain large industries – prime examples being Oil, Medical Insurance, Pharmaceutical, Tobacco, Banking (more Wall Street and Commodities), and our ever popular Defense Industry i.e., the Military Industrial Complex. And while there are certainly others those head the list of industries that will need to be pragmatically “restructured” in order to support a realistic economic policy. More on that later.

This 5-page piece is a bit longer than the others, but this is where the rubber meets the road folks. As the sentence above hinted this is not a politically correct analysis of the true State of Our Union. We can handle the Truth.

Some Perspectives on the Dysfunctional US Congress

If you review Thomas Paine’s original vision on the design of representative government “defined” in Common Sense, those elected to Congress are chartered,

“to solve the problems that arise in society that are too large in scope for the “local” citizenry to work out or resolve amongst themselves.”

My comment would be that is the official job description of the U.S. Congress in 25-words, plain and simple. They have too obviously forgotten who they work for and what their responsibilities are to us.

Some related selections from CS2,

• My personal opinion is that in too many cases over the last decade or so the nation has functionally had a Republican and semi-Republican Party! Consider that grim political reality for a few moments. It demonstrates the growing power of the Special Interests in driving both parties and the U.S. Congress.

• Throughout all of human history up to this very day, the Many have most often been oppressed by the Few and intentionally kept down within their own society, rather than being led to higher ground.

• Truly responsible political and public leaders will guide their society, the Masses where they desire to go, leading them on the often difficult path that needs to be traveled in order to progress.

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As a reminder CS2 was completed in early February 2008, before that year’s gasoline price run-up by the Oil industry and the Financial industry created crisis (Depression that is). Economic events since then ONLY help make my case for the involuntary restructuring of certain critical and now clearly predatory national industries. It will be a very loud national discussion both entertaining and informative.
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What is in a Name

Remember all of the talk We heard about ‘Change’ during the 2008 Presidential and Congressional campaigns? That alleged honeymoon between the parties lasted about two (2) weeks and it was business as usual back in Congress. Peace, love, and the dove died on Capitol Hill… And things have only gone downhill since.

Right now the political system does nothing to draw us together and only makes it harder all of the time for any competition to come along whether a person or a whole new party. After the last dozen years with such manipulated and self-serving national leadership in Congress and especially under eight (8) years of Bush II, our economy and our nation’s future are currently at the cruel mercy of the selfish Few. They are not even trying to hide the fact anymore. No good has, will, or could ever come from such a continued political power imbalance and it is time to put our national house in order.

Fair to say nothing much changed in Congress in the last 2½ years to help the People. There was the huge Financial Industry bailouts, plus the more than a year of the Medical System Reform circus and then implementing the best bill that Medical industry lobbyists would “allow” their Congress to pass, and now with Republican stone-walling about eliminating tax breaks for the wealthiest and raising the National Debt Ceiling – it is all too clear who it is that both parties in both houses on Congress really serve – and it is not the peasants!

Bluntly, over the last decade and with growing glee in the last year, the greedy Few in political power and the Congress that they blatantly control, simply do look at us like Peasants. Therefore, it seemed only fitting and proper to me that a new political party formed to protect the Common Good of the Masses should declare ourselves as the (current) national leadership actually views us – lowly peasants, avoidable, disposable, replaceable, and they believe We are totally unaware of how they are sucking the blood our pockets for fun, plus corporate and executive profit.

That is the origin of the name the American Peasant Party. And just as our national ancestors did in 1776, We shall join together and act to remove the government oppression from our lives. We shall constitutionally deal with Congress and the network of big industry lobbyists that so control any ‘serious’ legislation that the Republicans and Democrats in both houses of Congress are allowed to pass.

Regarding Our Electoral Revolution

Much has already been written and will be for your consideration on the Electoral options We have under the Constitution to actually replace our dysfunctional US Congress. Unlike so many other Peoples of the world, We Americans are blessed with the U.S. Constitution giving us the peaceful means to that end. And, We can thank the Founders and God for that written miracle.

The bottom line is that the American Electorate always has the voting ability to replace all 435 members of the US House of Representatives, as well as 33 or 34 of the 100 members of the US Senate – every two (2) years. That is a potential 86% replacement every 2 years! And although the Electorate has shown some of its disgust in recent years We foolishly keep re-electing well over 70% of them. Yes, I said foolishly the Electorate keeps sending our legislative abusers back to Washington to do it to us some more. Go figure!

We know our nation is struggling in a Depression level economy and our elected national leaders do nothing, but argue and position themselves for re-election that is fifteen (15) months away. They do work diligently to retain or obtain political power for their Party, getting re-elected, making large campaign contributors happy, and making it harder every election for non-party “outsiders” to get into their 2-party political system. Thus, the 535 members of the US Congress legislatively serve us last if at all. Therefore, the American Electorate (you and me) dare not send them back to Washington again next year. We will do a far better from now on!
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Just as history has repeatedly demonstrated and current civil wars around the world (Middle East) are confirming, when the Masses have “finally” had enough and also find the means (normally involving weapons not votes) to remove the source of their domestic oppression – they will indeed join together and take the hard, but necessary actions to do so! The AP Party will work to provide the Electorate with a far better political platform and congressional candidate options to consider during the 2012 Presidential and Congressional campaign. And the more You help the AP Party grow over the next critical months and year the more productive and ‘entertaining’ the 2012 campaign will surely become. It will be quite a show!

By the way folks, please take some ‘comfort’ that technically We frustrated citizens have nearly a year to build Our party and identify the group of Independent candidates to run against the 468 congressional incumbents. The AP Party may have a surprise for the other 67 Senators next year, too! Thus, there is quite enough time to make all of this happen. Congressional candidates do not need to be identified and finally registered until early summer of 2012. Again, just another thing the Repubs and the Dems would rather we did not know.

The Congressional System

Now let us review the ugly heart of our problems with the Congress. It is what I write about as The Congressional System.

In summary, the senior members of both parties in the House and Senate that is now comprised of men and women, coordinate with various lobbyists to determine the big issue legislative agenda in Congress. New members of both parties in the House and Senate are tutored in fund-raising and if they obediently get right in line and play the legislative game as instructed, are rewarded with better committee assignments. The more powerful the committee and the higher a given member sits on that committee the more campaign donations and other favors that lobbyists throw at them. Whichever party has the most power in a given committee receives more donations and goodies from the respective industry lobbyists. The less powerful committee members also receive donations of course, just less, then when an election changes the party in power on a committee the lobbyist just swap the parties, get new names on the checks, and keep right on running the Congress.

Regarding legislative fights, incumbent Senators not up for re-election for another 2 or 4 years and Representatives in “safe” US Districts make noise and take the heat on critical issues knowing voters will likely forget about it by the next election. Watch the party voting patterns. While it has always been that way the industry, lobbyist controllers of Congress now have it down to a science.

Of course, if new members don’t want to play ball when confronted with the realities of the self-preserving Congressional System they get the worst committee assignments and their own party may well try to replace them at the next election. We have seen such scenarios in recent years out of DC. Either get on the “off the record” campaign funding conveyor belt or don’t plan on staying in Washington very long.

That is the Congressional System that dominates the US Congress and its legislative actions and inactions. It is a self-serving, devious political game that is currently, selfishly, deliberately driving our society and economy into the ground to profit the Few with too much Political Power.

From Part 5 of CS2 (circa early 2008),

Incumbents increasingly run campaigns that are well-funded by key industry and other Special Interest dollars, aimed at crushing their opponent in the other party — and may well have done the same thing in a primary race against someone of their own party.
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I clearly remember watching the evening news some decades ago, as a Congressmen stood up on the floor of the Congress and very indignantly stated that he and no one else he knew in Congress was swayed in their legislative decisions by lobbyists’ influence! Today, how many would dare (could honestly) stand-up and make that statement?

The blatant and direct impact of big business and other self-interested lobbies is brutally obvious to us all now and it has been far worse during the Bush II years. Again, the ratio that is currently getting kicked around is that there are on average 63 lobbyists for each member of Congress that equates as $63 \times 535 = 33,705$! It would get pretty crowded under that lovely Dome, if the Congress was ever there! They only managed to have **97 days** in session in a recent Congressional year.

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The American Electorate must make an end to this Congressional leadership disaster in November 2012. We will take the legislative battle to them during the 2011/2012 Election cycle.

The lobbyists of the wealthy Few and key industries such as Oil, Wall Street, Coal, Pharmaceutical, Medical, Banking, the Judicial System, and of course the Military Industrial Complex that President Dwight D. Eisenhower rightly warned us about in 1960 – must be brought under economically practical control. They are deliberately driving us to economic ruin to make false spreadsheet profits and worsening the Depression that We the Masses are now living in. Big Oil (Public Economic Enemy Number One) of course is leading the pack now in conjunction with Futures trading in Commodities (and derivative games) thanks to our old “friends” on Wall Street. They are currently staging the final Act III of the “Financial System Artificial Crisis and Bailout Trilogy”. However, the third Act could take us out and therefore must avoided.

The gross reality my fellow Citizens/Peasants is that too many American corporations are still trying to run the businesses under our once grand, but now permanently broken economic model. It was a “great economic model” that factually did not even exist in Depression-based 1940 (pre-World War II) and that has literally been in steady, but jerky decline since the mid-1970s. In too many ways this is looking more like the 1940s again (not that I was there) and that is why We call it a Depression!

This destructive corporate profit fantasy needs to be confronted and a difficult, but realistic national discussion on the restructuring of our entire economy must conducted during the 2012 campaign – not after the election. It must be the policy centerpiece of the entire 2012 Presidential and Congressional campaign.

In a few words, our hard economic challenge (unimaginable for many) is how to transition into a viable and publicly acceptable economic model that will support the realistic Eternal Maintenance Economy we now require, rather than chasing the nearly deceased Eternal Growth Economy dream.

That my fellow Americans is the problem to be faced and conquered for the Common Good of our citizens.

We must aggressively head-off and prevent Act III of Wall Street’s raping of our economy for their fun, profit, and executive compensation. Although there will be more on this in the weeks and months ahead I believe the resolution will include key points such as:

- A path to Home Ownership and/or a permanent address for all citizens. That will include getting homeless Americans on a path to a place to call their home. People that I ask about that proposal think it has merit.

- Creative long-term financing of all types of existing debt. Home mortgages will be refinanced and the banks will cooperate or they will be merged or nationalized!
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- The public realization that “the immigrant nation” must be declared as ‘full’ and We will begin the methodical deportation of millions Illegal Occupants (IOs is my name for them) back to countries all over the world, not just to Mexico, and Central and South America.

- We will have a National Id System (like every other developed and most under developed nations have) and will conduct a national population inventory to determine who is here and why. We will do that system right and will never need to do another Census!

- And, We will finally end the 70-year old ridiculous War on Drugs because it is hurting our people and full cannabis legalization will help our economy. Consider that America cannot close the Southern border with Mexico until that war is over and the constant drug flow North across that border is dealt with. I have a 130-page National Drug Reform (NDR) proposal from 2003 on how we to do just that.

You think those sort of solutions will make for a more illuminated 2012 Presidential and Congressional Campaign? I sure do!

That is what a “citizen serving” Congress could do if those making money off those problems would stop lobbying legislators to just maintain the Status Quo. This is some of the political Truth of our world in 2011 and beyond. We must act to resolve our Congressional problems because no else can…

My fellow Americans, this is where and when the ancient economic evils must be confronted and conquered. It is our nation’s current and growing imbalance between the Haves and Have-Nots. It is the bottom line and underlying reason for our nation’s economic crisis. Pre-meditated greed by the Few against the Masses strictly for profit regardless who burns, dies, loses their home, loses their job or serves in a war that has lasted way too long or another one that should not have been started in the first place.

To be clear folks right up front, if someone cannot deal with the public Truth of those last sentences whether due to some notion in their head that they need not be bothered with the fate of those people (the dam peasants again) or they never had to scrape the inside of a jar of peanut butter – than they are part the nation’s problems.

I always try to keep my sense of humor in my writing and conversations, but this is our country and our families at stake folks. Therefore, know that this subject matter is considered to be as real and serious as a heart attack! Any questions?

Remember next year to,

“VOTE as if our nation’s Destiny depends on it. Because it really does!”

And not for a single congressional incumbent!

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