



LETTERS: Horner strikes out again; Pres. Temp Job; Wayne was wrong; and more

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Cabbages, sociology and Horner

Once more John Horner strikes out and misses both the pitch and the point. Complex societies need simpler rules, with swifter action. Horner claims wisdom in sociology, but really knows little of cars or complications. Horner takes 700 words to propagandize a single opinion, whereas regulations on large topics must be written short and clear, and in plain English, not in regulatory-ese.

The current D.C. administration has the lowest percentage of businesspeople, but the highest percentage of liberal, humanist, Horner-type academics in the last 50 years; more than John Kennedy, more than Jimmy Carter or Bill Clinton. Have these academics lowered our debt, our taxes, the price of gas, the price of homes or food? No, but, they have written more regulations, and propose to pass even higher taxes.

The Madoff stock scandal was reported in detail to "the regulators," years before it broke, which speaks symphonies about both the intelligence of the "regulators" as well as the viability of the tens of thousands of pages of "regulations."

Considering that the Lord's Prayer has 66 words, The Ten Commandments 179 words, the Gettysburg Address 286 words, the U.S. Constitution 7,818 words — what would Horner say about the U.S. government regulation on the sale of cabbage having 26,911 words?

The Gazette is our source for local news, but we are continually amazed that they keep giving a forum to Horner. The conundrum is that, "fair and balanced," might actually be "misleading and inaccurate."

Jack Flobeck

Colorado Springs

Growth would create jobs

We do not have a jobs problem in the USA. We have a growth problem. The president's jobs speech was about temporary programs and inefficient solutions. This country needs permanent reductions in taxes. Permanent cuts in entitlements. Permanent reductions in regulations (i.e., Surbanes Oxley, Dodd Frank, etc.) , new free trade agreements and elimination of the new health care bill.

Such action would create confidence and clarity in the minds of American businessmen and create growth which would create jobs. The president's proposals will create very few permanent jobs. The results will speak for themselves. The trend in Washington is clear. From 1950 to 1980 about 20 percent of our citizens paid no taxes. Today, 47 percent pay no taxes. Soon over half of America will pay no taxes. This country is moving toward socialism. Washington needs to get out of the way of American business.

Zenas Gurley

Colorado Springs

Economic perspectives

I think Wayne Laugesen needs to go more to the original sources and less to the Cato Institute. In one editorial he mentions four scientists who state that humans are not even partially responsible for global warming, and in another editorial he comes to a one-sided interpretation of a parable by 19th century French economist Frederic Bastiat. For the first: Three of those four scientists Laugesen cites have ties with and/or have received considerable funds from the oil and gas producers (which makes them not just a little biased), and one of those, Sallie Baliunas (who has been regularly financed by petroleum and gas interests), incorrectly states the data about atmospheric and surface temperature warming. It is always best to go to the primary source.

For the second: Bastiat's argument is two-sided, not one-sided as Laugesen postulates. Bastiat's argument is about an old economic concept called opportunity cost. Opportunity cost has to do with how you, as an individual, choose to spend your money: if you choose to spend it buying new shoes, then the opportunity to buy something else is lost. So, the shopkeeper who must spend his money to buy a new window cannot use that money to buy a new pair of shoes. That opportunity is lost. That is individual economics.

However, from a larger economic perspective, the shopkeeper is transferring money to the glazier who may choose to use the money he earned from the shopkeeper to buy a new pair of shoes. From this more global point of view, keeping the money circulating in the community helps everyone. After all, the glazier (or shoe seller) now has the money to buy something from the original shopkeeper, and the money keeps on circulating and benefitting all. Bastiat wanted his readers to be aware of both economic perspectives in making economic decisions.

Betty Fannin

Colorado Springs

A refreshing addition

The illustrated story about Charles Rockey was wonderful! He's a living treasure in Manitou, and, although I don't live there, I've come to appreciate his art. Rockey's whimsical paintings are the perfect adornment at Adam's Mountain Cafe.

I congratulate The Gazette for running the story. It was a refreshing addition to the Sunday fare.

Please pass my comments on to Dave Philipps (writer), the artist (unnamed), and to the Life page editor.

Sue Sproul

Colorado Springs

Major example of inefficiency

Returning to Colorado Springs for a visit, I was shocked to see the finished intersection of Woodmen and Academy, I am convinced the construction engineer must have turned the printed plans 90 degrees when he started construction, resulting in Academy, a business-lined avenue, getting the drive-through clearance, and Woodmen, which needed improved traffic flow, a bunch of stop lights.

Surely this major example of inefficiency was not intended.

Bonita Warren

Stillwater, Okla.

Better weekend for events

The Susan G. Komen Foundation does great work. My mother and sister had breast cancer and I support their efforts. However, the scheduling of their Race For life events in the Springs on the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 just does not sit right with me.

Too bad the planners at the Breast Cancer Foundation could not come up with a better weekend for their events. Sorry, breast cancer people, but terrible timing.

In future years, please do not schedule your events on Sept. 11.

Lee Williams

Monument

Capital is not rotting

In reply to William A. Escovitz (Letters, Sept. 7): Sorry, but I agree with Wayne Laugesen. Capital is not rotting. It is waiting for less regulations.

Welfare is actually funding people for no work. Goods purchased are from taxes the farmer pays and adds no real value to the economy.

Unemployment — the original unemployment — is paid from the worker and companies they work for. At some point that contribution runs out and it's the tax payer who makes up the difference. It is really welfare at that point.

Businesses invest based on a business plan using known and best guess forecasts. However, several hundred pending regulations put the forecast at risk (of loss) if the regulations increase costs. I have never heard of any that was free.

The Green Enterprises are funded by taxpayers. See solyndra.com to find out what that we created 150 jobs at \$2 million per job, and the company went bankrupt due to competition. They laid off 1,100 workers. Great job plan.

Sorry, but you pay for eggs to give the farmer a return on investment, not give them away.

Randy Kroeger

Colorado Springs