Coordination Problem

Snowy Morning Miscellany

Steven Horwitz

It's a bullet point kind of morning:

- Part 2 of my Freeman Online piece on choosing a college for a libertarian student is now up.
- Some fascinating socio-economic-techno history: the conversation at an Apple online discussion group when the iPod was released. Notice how those who focused only on the technology and not the economic model got it wrong. The one commenter who saw that the idea was to get iTunes to run on PCs and get PC users to buy an Apple product for their MP3 player had it exactly right. Seems to me that's the way the iPod took over the world.
- If you were actually watching the SOTU address last night, you were missing the fun at the blogs of both Cato and Reason. Reason's is especially funny and you should also read the comments thread as well.
- On the substance, it was one awful speech. Copies of The Wealth of Nations and Bastiat are apparently in short supply, while The General Theory overfloweth. Someone needs to grab Obama by the shoulder and tell him to "prepare to get schooled in my Austrian perspective."
- Speaking of Reason, I have a letter to the editor in the new print issue pointing out that, contrary to the impression left by a recent piece on Bernanke, not all Austrians think the Fed's actions in the early 30s were irrelevant to the Great Depression nor that increasing the money supply is always a mistake. It's not available online yet, but if you subscribe, it's there waiting for you.

Let's see, I've potentially sparked an Apple-PC war and another Austrian money-macro battle. Yup, my work here is done.

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