

Jack Venrick

From: "Jack Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>
To:
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2007 9:56 PM
Subject: The Disappearance of Facts

FYI

"What saves a man is to take a step.
Then another step.
It is always the same step,
but you have to take it."

Antoine De Saint-Exupery

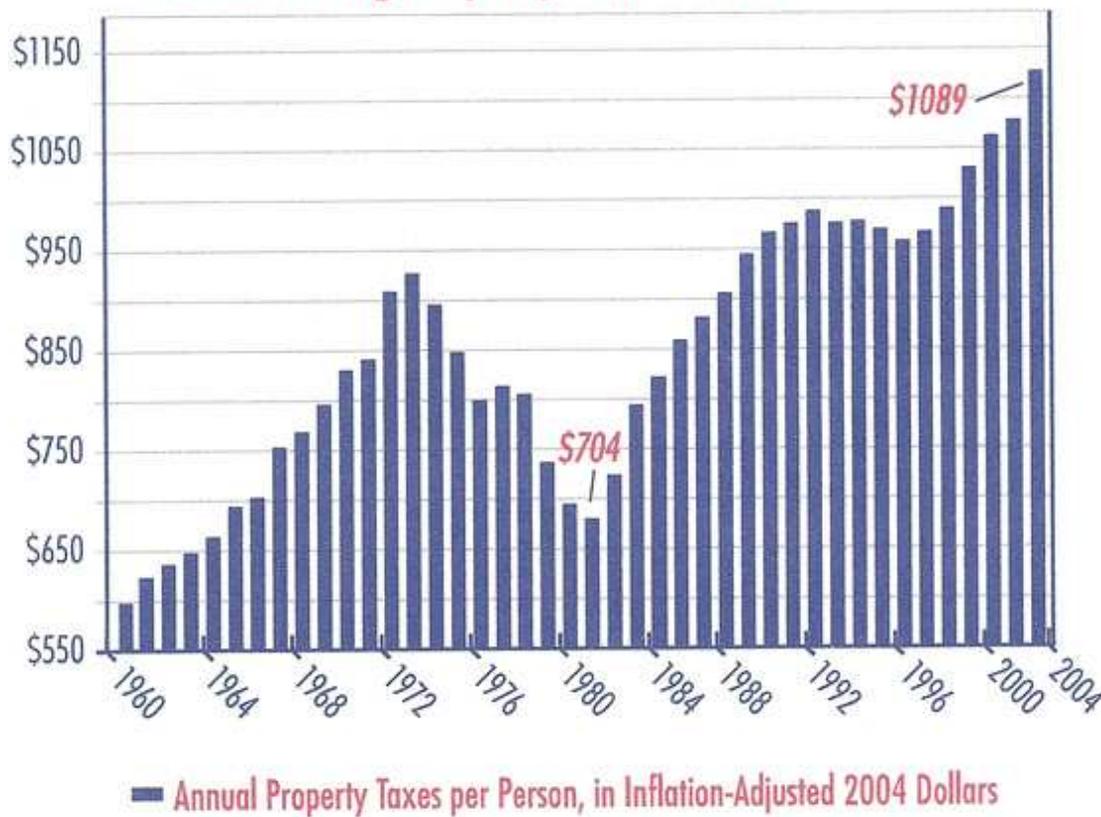
----- Original Message -----

From: [Jack Venrick](#)

Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2007 1:38 PM

Subject: The Disappearance of Facts

America's Rising Property Tax Burden



Tax Foundation <http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/taxwatch-winter2007.pdf>

To: Taxaholics of America & Those Who Support Its Brutal Behavior - WA House, Senate, Senate, AWC, King County, WA State Supreme Court, Media, Embattled Property Owners, Owners, Freedom Movement, Friends and Neighbors

This is how the game works with government. Here is an excellent article (only 4 paragraphs) on New York City & how increasing taxes becomes a never ending spiral of death to freedom and the property owners. All cities are transferring their welfare, etc. to property owners and tax payers in the state.

This is why our own government in Washington State has to frequently use "emergency" bills, block referendums & initiatives by the people, distort election voters pamphlets, propagate one sided bias against property ownership takings using state run educational resources, allow illegals to vote, refuse to change corrupt election departments, push education of no choice onto the people, disregard basic constitutional cornerstones of law, fill the halls of congress, executive and judicial branches with minds who rule for more government and less individual freedom, violating basic founding laws of our land, taking our constitutional, natural rights, freedoms and liberties.

This is why eastern Washington cannot split away from the western State socialism and eastern rural King County cannot split away from Seattle based King County socialism. This is the real reason, why the South tried to split away from the North, i.e. excessive tax burdens shifted onto the South by the North. Here are just a few sources to start with, if you you don't believe this.

The Creature From Jekyll Island, pages 358, 367, 369, 373-377, 379, 398, 407-408, 411, 418, 429

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig2/miller1.html>

<http://ngeorgia.com/history/why.html>

<http://www.lysanderspooner.org/notreason.htm> Section XIX, para. 5

adinfinitum

The very definition of freedom has become so perverted by all who pray on free people, that that it has anesthetized our own innate senses.

We are a nation held together by the government gun under the guise of protectionism and even patriotism. Addiction finds many disguises and names to steal its drugs of choice. choice. If all the states and counties in this once great nation had a choice, how many would would split away to be completely free? We are not free for many reasons, but the most simple reason is, because we are not given the truth. If Americans do not have the truth, we

we are enslaved. You cannot find the truth on mainstream media or from government types. We must rediscover it. When we do, we will begin the journey back to real freedom.

Not only is our government corrupt, it is illegitimate. The entire body and original idea of a a voluntary free government never happen. It was stealthy transformed into a monster, i.e., i.e., "The Creature From Jekyll Island". There is a long long trail of blood, money and tears tears from 1620.

America must wake up to the fact that we have no free government, we never did. We are ruled by mobsters. This is why our individual and most sacred freedoms and liberties have been devoured by this Creature From Jekyll Island even before the constitution was written. Gun owners woke up long ago, property owners are just waking up, religious folks folks have known forever. The freedom movement will be built on the backs of those of us us who have been taken by big government & their supporters.

**Jack Venrick
Waiting for America
To Awaken To The Truth
That Freedom Means Totally Free
Not Conditionally
Enumclaw, WA**

Excerpt from article below:

"The State allowed the City to help itself, by granting authority to raise local income taxes and sales taxes and go deeper into debt, in addition to raising property taxes and cutting public services. In exchange, the city would suffer a greater share of the fiscal pain resulting from the state's own fiscal problems, which resulted from a reduction in the prosperity of its cash cow, the city itself. That is what I believe happened, although it would take a much more detailed analysis to say for sure. We do know how public employment changed earlier in this decade, as [I wrote here](#). The same way it did in the early 1990s."

http://www.r8ny.com/blog/larry_littlefield/the_disappearance_of_inconvenient_facts.html

The Disappearance of Inconvenient Facts

posted by [Larry Littlefield](#)
[Tue, 01/23/2007 - 7:58am](#)

Bad news has arrived from Rochester, from where the President and Chief Economist of the Center for Governmental Research e-mails that the organization has “no plans” to repeat its 1999 and 2004 analyses of the balance of state revenues and expenditures among regions of New York State. “It is rather a monumental undertaking, unfortunately.” The Center’s reports showed that even in the early 1990s, when New York City was reeling in a deep recession with one million people on welfare and substantial reductions in public services, the State of New York took much more revenue out of the city than it spent here. And later in the decade, when the city’s economy was booming but its poverty rate was still over 20% and its schools still under-funded, the State’s net redistribution of fiscal resources out of the city increased. While the Center’s reports didn’t change the fact that of other areas of the state resent, and feel free to work to the disadvantage of, the city and its people whenever possible, their inconvenient facts did somewhat diminish the 30-year river of black bile flowing our way from virtually every other part of the state. If new ones aren’t coming, those living elsewhere could be free to go back to asserting, absent evidence, that New York City residents are a bunch of undeserving freeloaders who need to be put in their place.

I had been looking forward to a report showing how the balance of state revenues and expenditures had changed in the years immediately following 9/11. One might have expected, under the circumstances, the rest of the state would sacrifice to save the city from calamity. Based on the data available to me here http://www.r8ny.com/blog/larry_littlefield/how_9_11_changed_the_nyc_local_government_budget.html, however, it appears that in fact the rest of the state took advantage of our vulnerability to drive a hard bargain. The State allowed the City to help itself, by granting authority to raise local income taxes and sales taxes and go deeper into debt, in addition to raising property taxes and cutting public services. In exchange, the city would suffer a greater share of the fiscal pain resulting from the state’s own fiscal problems, which resulted from a reduction in the prosperity of its cash cow, the city itself. That is what I believe happened, although it would take a much more detailed analysis to say for sure. We do know how public employment changed earlier in this decade, as [I wrote here](#). The same way it did in the early 1990s.

This is only the most recent set of inconvenient facts to disappear. For example, the share of Medicaid expenditures paid for by federal funds, state funds and local funds in each county of the state and New York City, which has previously been reported in the New York State Statistical Yearbook, vanished. The state has made a practice of only requiring local governments to pay 10% of the cost of Medicaid services concentrated outside New York City (nursing homes, family health plus) but 25% or even 50% of the cost of services concentrated in the city. As a result, New York City is forced to pay for a higher share of the Medicaid expenditures within its borders than other parts of the state. The resulting fiscal damage of that difference is greater than the revenue lost due to the commuter tax repeal, and in some years greater than the state’s “reverse Robin Hood” school aid formula. Or was, because the state won’t let us see it anymore.

Of course we are all “one state,” or so the new Governor says, now that New York City, adjusting for the lower expectations of the taxes we must pay and services we expect to receive, is prospering. Still, I hope the CGR or someone else finds the resources to redo the analysis of fiscal flows by region. Perhaps the future State Comptroller will do so on an ongoing basis, along with some of the other analyses I have called for previously on this site. Because otherwise, the next time the city that the rest of the state loves to hate is in need, we probably won’t be “one state” once again.

[Disappearing Data](#)

Submitted by Adam Smith (not verified) on Tue, 01/23/2007 - 10:57am.

Thanks for pointing out the issue of disappearing data (and disappearing resources to process and reasonably aggregate the data) which has been been worsening for the last decade.

On the state level here in NY, the non-availability of data -- and even basic information -- from state agency publications and websites was taken to a new level by the Pataki administration. Despite claims of insufficient resources to put together publications and cost saving measures blah blah blah, the real reason was to make oversight difficult. Guess what? It worked! It's hard for anyone inside or outside of government to do much policy analysis when data is unavailable or you have to jump through endless hoops to get it or data is provided in an intractable format like hard copy only.

As Larry points out, social services data was particularly hard hit by the "where's waldo" approach to data provision. Bt the time Pataki got done rearranging and renaming the social services units in NY, it was hard to tell where to even look for the data (or try to request data). Sure, there is SOME Medicaid data available now on the DOH website, but it is but a shadow of its former self.

The disappearing data problem is not confined to the state government though. If we had a nickel for every time a federal agency said that they had ceased publishing some report as a cost-saving measure, we'd all be be rich. ;)

As Larry mentions, for many years the now defunct ACIR (I forget the full name) provided an invaluable compilation of tax and expenditure data for all 50 states based on the feds' Government Finances dataset. It was funded (I think) by contributions from the state and local governmental units of the 50 states. Then the ACIR went down the tubes (funding cuts again). Senator Moynihan's staff also put out a fine report annually for many years based on the Government Finances data (using additional data too, I believe). Moynihan's "FISC" detailed the balance of payments between the federal and NYS government -- the conclusion always being the NY was being short-changed. Then Moynihan died and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard took over the Moynihan type of report for a while then they got tired of doing it too. The NYS Business Council here in NY (a Republican related group) tossed some basic figures together for a couple of years. The CGR has done some related stuff over time, but now I guess they too are tired of doing any hard core data analysis. We live in a world of government by press releases and photo-ops...or so it seems.

Maybe I'm foolish but I'm hoping that some of these disappearing data wrongs will be righted by the Spitzer administration. Sunshine is a good thing, yes?

Nice post, Larry.

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