

Opinion Page

JUNE 12, 1998

THE RECORDER

A Republican response

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"No car tax. What next?" by Scott Bates, in the May 29 Recorder is classic "big government knows best — tax and spend." A Democrat verse to the tune of "Monster Mash." Liberals, it seems, insist that only more government and higher taxes are necessary to solve our problems, not true, but the elite left is almost beyond redemption.

Moral relativism has set in so deeply they cannot distinguish right from wrong, a lie from the truth, or justice from injustice. They strive to shaft the ordinary folks who play by the rules and keep the faith.

For some reason these new age Democrats just don't get it — it's not the government's money and it's definitely not candy. The money belongs to those who earn it the old-fashioned way and government is only entitled to a portion — in such amounts as defined by a sovereign people; a doctrine first thrust upon the world in the "politics" of Aristotle (384-322 B.C.).

Our founding fathers did not dump the king's tea into Boston Harbor or draft the Declaration of

Independence, fight the Revolutionary War and write a Constitution just to trade a tyrant named King George III for another autocratic and despotic government. Lower taxes means less government and less coercive bureaucratic interference in daily life. Lower taxes equates to more freedom — a pretty good governing philosophy, if you ask me.

Bates' description, "Whether you like it or not, Clinton has a governing philosophy," is laughable if not an outright joke. Given the chance to define presidential deviancy downward, Clinton will seize it. In between his grubby molestation of the volunteer and the intern, Clinton managed the largest tax increase in history after promising to cut taxes.

Clinton has repeatedly involved himself and his administration in lie after lie and scandal after scandal. His corrupt "ends justify the means" re-election campaign involved everything from soliciting illegal foreign contributions and hosting members of the criminal class at the White House, to using executive orders to issue "waivers" for his contributing cronies — so they could transfer American technological missile secrets to the Chinese

Communists.

For some reason the Clinton apologists fail to distinguish facts from "mere allegations" and assert that no basis exists to render reasonable judgments — wrong! His governing philosophy, whether intentional or through incompetence, has placed every man, woman, and child in America under an increased threat of nuclear annihilation and has set in motion events that may place the whole world in jeopardy.

President Ronald Reagan constructed policies and a tax system that made government less obtrusive and encouraged growth. Without a doubt his policies worked and his recipes continue to buttress today's economic growth. In 1980, Jimmy Carter's last year as president, the treasury raised \$517 billion. In 1989, at the end of Reagan's term, it raised \$991 billion (a 92 percent increase). Reagan's tax cuts encouraged Americans to work and invest more and the higher earnings became the source of much of the revenue growth. Now, there is a means to an end.

Meanwhile in Virginia, acting on his philosophy, former Gov. Doug Wilder and his side-kick,

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Don Beyer, negotiated the Smithfield environmental set-up. That resulted in the worst pollution case in Virginia history. In taking care of the environment common sense and cooperation is more important than money but, poor judgement regarding pollution results in a requirement for lots of money.

So candidate Jim Gilmore made a promise and as governor he delivered. That in itself is refreshing. With Gilmore, Virginians will have honest government and his "no car tax" ends one of the most unfair taxes in Virginia.

What's next? His plans are expansive. For example, in education, Gilmore's goals include adding 4,000 new elementary school teachers; increasing individual guidance by reducing class size; continuing raising Virginia's academic standards; protection for students and teachers in the classroom; providing \$2,000 New Century college scholarships; and continuing to freeze college tuition costs. These goals are commendable but, even in education, there's a saturation point when additional dollars do not improve quality.

Nationally, the GOP is seeking tax relief for senior citizens; ways to strengthen national security and defense; enact tort reform; restructure the IRS; campaign finance reform; save Medicare; and save Social Security — all while lowering taxes, reducing government and increasing freedom. All this may not be as impressive as the movie, "As Good As It Gets," but it sure beats a confiscatory government that empties your pockets and steals your liberty!

And, speaking of movies, Bates might want to see "Bulworth" — it's about a Democrat senator who suddenly decides to tell the truth — pure fantasy.

Sources: William Bennett, James K. Glassman, Scott Hogenson, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard and Aristotle.