

Power and Greed in Virginia

Power promotes greed. Greed seeks its own power. Power and greed in Virginia serve many masters these days. Democrats, who place government above the People, demand the money that gives them power by calling the persons who want to earn and spend their own money 'greedy'. Republicans, who place their power above the People, demand more money for the same reasons. It's an odd turn of events.

In 2003 voters in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads soundly rejected a tax scam that was targeted to fix a public need - transportation problems. The People rejected the tax increase for many reasons, but the primary one was the medicine wouldn't cure the illness. The tax increase and its 'oldthink', big government, business-as-usual bovine scatology wasn't going to heal transportation headaches. Yet, this simple communication was lost on elected officials of both parties who are absolutely blinded by their own greed and power.

Today, the Democrat, who was elected Governor as a 'fiscal' conservative with constant promises that he wouldn't raise taxes, asks for a \$1 billion increase in taxes. The Republican, who defeated a primary challenge for his Senate seat with promises of 'holding the line on taxes', offers a \$2.5 billion increase in taxes. Both the tax-and-spend Democrats and Republicans offer a shell game of tax reductions to con the People. But, the bottom line for both servants of bigger government is punishing increases in regressive taxes against those who can afford them the least and persecuting increases in progressive taxes against those who create jobs.

Government greed is astonishing. The Sovereign of the Universe, a jealous God, demands a flat tithe, ten per cent, from Christians and Jews. True, the Lord says to whom much is given, much is expected. But, greater gifting comes from the exercise of individual free will, not from a coercive demand to give to government. The Supreme Ruler doesn't ask for nothing from some, 10 per cent from a few, and 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 per cent from others. God demands a fair flat tax. Yet, government, and government worshippers who covet every penny a person has more than they do, call a punishing tax - a progressive tax. Progressive taxes were about class warfare, envy, coveting (one of the Ten Commandments Liberals hate to see in public places), and socialism when Karl Marx wrote them into the Communist Manifesto. Progressive taxes don't sound better when Republicans spout their greed.

A High School vice-principal married to an emergency medical technician makes over \$100,000 a year. For their sin of hard work, the Democrats and RINOs demand they give over another \$1000.00 to the Commonwealth. For what? Will their money go to an incompetent VDOT or the bogus demands (more computers and technicians) of the Education Standards of Quality? Moreover, why? The revenue stream of Virginia will be up 7% this year - that means 7% growth in available money to the government. Yet, family income will go up only 4%. And the unmitigated gall of elected officials is the

greedy demand for another thousand bucks from that family. If the family spends it as they please, instead of handing it over to 'Massa' Government, they could have a short vacation, buy clothes for school, invest for the future, fix up their house, care for a relative - anything they choose as free people - and all of which creates jobs for other Virginians. That's not good enough for Mark Warner and John Chichester.

A GS-14 married to GS-12 in NoVa makes over \$150,000 a year. Under the proposed new taxes they fork over an extra \$1500 - \$2000 to government. So, when one of their children gets accepted to a Virginia college and they don't have the money to buy a laptop, the parents have to beg government for a bigger school loan. Providing for their child is 'greed' to politicians.

Many politicians, our elected officials, desperately need greater power to giveth and taketh away. These elected officials hit the glass ceiling of their talents for their day jobs. Political office is a way to enrich them and their families - Republicans these days more than Democrats.

It's up to the People to end the cycle of power and greed, if only for a season, until another generation gets into office with false promises seeking proud power and unquenchable greed. Our children will handle them. We, the People, hold the real power in our Party nominations and in General Elections. Let's use it or lose it.

James Atticus Bowden

James Atticus Bowden has specialized in inter-disciplinary long range 'futures' studies for over a decade. He is employed by a Defense Department contractor. He is a retired United States Army Infantry Officer. He is a 1972 graduate of the United States Military Academy and earned graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University. He holds three elected Republican Party offices in Virginia. Contact at jatticus@aol.com