

Functional Democracy
Volume 1: A Rational Philosophy of
Government

By

D. Randolph Booken

Send email to:

drb@functionaldemocracy.org

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Table of Contents

PREFACE.....	6
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	8
CHAPTER 2: THE MEANING OF GOVERNMENT.....	12
1. Anarchy is the absence of government	12
2. Definition of government	13
CHAPTER 3: EXPERIENCES MAKE LIFE.....	15
1. Personal Experiences	15
2. Enjoying personal experiences.....	15
3. Influencing personal fulfillment	16
CHAPTER 4: IMPROVING GOVERNMENT	18
1. Improving our system of government.....	18
2. Are these actually improvements?.....	19
CHAPTER 5: THE GOVERNMENT’S VALUE SYSTEM	22
1. Creating a government value system.....	22
2. The governments value system	22
3. Government use of knowledge	23
CHAPTER 6: WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTROL	29

1. The government's control of personal actions or interactions	29
2. Controlling destructive behaviors	30
3. Seeking individual fulfillment.....	30
4. What responsibility does the government have to enhance the quality of life for its citizens?	31
5. What Government Should Not Control.	32
CHAPTER 7: CONTROLLING SOCIETY	33
1. How should the government control the interactions among people?	33
2. How should government control interactions with the environment?	34
3. Privileges.....	34
4. Individual Responsibility	36
CHAPTER 8: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL BUREAUCRACY	40
1. The Government Value System.....	40
2. Role of politics in policy formation	44
3. The agents of the government are part of its institution or contracted.....	44
4. The role of bureaucracy.....	47
5. Qualifications of employees.....	49
6. The role of representatives in government.....	51
CHAPTER 9: THE ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT	52

1. Government functions	52
2. What principles should guide government funding?	54
3. Government oversight	56
4. Unitary system of government.....	57
5. Components of government.....	58
6. Agents of change	60
7. Agents of status quo.....	61
8. How should government officials get their positions?	63
CHAPTER 10: PHILOSOPHY SUMMARY	65
CHAPTER 11: CRITICISMS OF OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT	68
1. Introduction.....	68
2. Article one	68
3. Article two	70
4. Article three.....	71
5. Article five	71
6. Article six.....	72
7. Amendment two.....	72
8. Amendment five.....	73
9. Amendment twenty-two	73

Functional Democracy - volume 1 - philosophy by D. Randolph Booken

10. Amendment twenty-six	73
11. Laws.....	73

Preface

Functional Democracy is the written result of efforts to develop a complete system of government, which is derivable from a simple and justifiable philosophy. The actual system becomes the basis for the procedures, which describe the changes to our current system of government that are necessary to achieve this functional democracy. This is a functional democracy as opposed to a popular democracy. It is an attempt to achieve the best government possible and has no illusions of being a utopia. Popular democracies suffer from the possibility of a tyranny of the majority, while utopias are unable to cope with the inevitable deviant person that develops to take advantage of the inadequacies of a government or organizations of governments. The best government may not be attainable, but it is a goal to which one strives, because the status quo in government becomes dysfunctional when it does not adapt as the rest of the world changes. A government remains functional only if it is always capable of reducing the role of the least competent individuals and replacing it with the most competent persons available.

The purpose of this book is to justify and describe a system of government that becomes the model for all future governments. There may be serious criticisms with the system proposed, as there are with any government. Nevertheless, the intention is to demonstrate that a system of government can exist that will respond to the various inputs made by the individuals that populate the nation by listening to people, evaluating their comments, and reacting to suggestions. In addition, citizens should require that the government base its decisions on the weight of the evidence and the rational arguments supporting those decisions, rather than on the whims of the politically powerful or an unreasoning majority. This book will address the issues of individual and governmental rights and responsibilities. It will propose a new constitution, which eliminates local, county, and state governments. The result will be a government that is more efficient,

less expensive, and less intrusive for the law-abiding citizen yet withering for the criminal.

This book contains three volumes. The first volume derives the underlying philosophy, which justifies the need for government and its limited role in the lives of its citizens. It motivates the need for a government to be efficient, self-correcting, systematic, rational, understandable, and fair. People often speak disparagingly about ideologues as if government officials should not base policy on ideologies. Nevertheless, any government requires an ideology to establish a well-formulated system of priorities. Ignorance, myth, indiscriminant attachment to beliefs, or indifference may drive popular opinion that interferes with one's own interests and the interests of the nation. The government needs to examine the ideologies of nonsense and superstition and expose them because of the wasteful and destructive policies that they produce. These policies are inconsistent, ineffective, and demoralizing to our society as they change whimsically with the mood of the nation rather than with evidence for or against those policies. The ideologies one uses to derive a system of government should be eminently defensible on rational or empirical grounds. To defend an ideology for other reasons is to insult the clear thinking people who are willing and capable of making the mental effort to achieve a worthy system of government.

The second volume uses this philosophy to present the details of how the government should exert control over its inhabitants. The third volume is strictly a description detailing one way to make the transition from our current system of government to the proposed system.

Though the philosophical arguments are not exhaustive, the hope is that these arguments are sufficiently compelling to justify the assertions that follow. The expectation is that the readers of this book will criticize its deficiencies, promote its useful ideas, and work toward a better government.

Chapter 1: Introduction

People blame government for many problems in our country. The national debt, the current budget deficit, the crime rate, the failures of the educational system, or the inefficiently bureaucratized health care system are often presumed to be related to, or the result of government inaction or inappropriate action. One ought to ask, "Where do these problems really start?" Some people have their own problems with financing their lifestyles, just as the government. They commit criminal acts when they believe that law enforcement will not catch them, or the judicial process will not convict them. They have a low regard for education and educated people and they are lacking in success when it concerns their own life choices. Therefore, it should be no surprise that there are problems with a system of government that represents the will of those people. These people suffer with many of the same problems manifested in their own government. The details of these problems are not particularly relevant to my arguments, but they are representative of the issues plaguing our government and its citizens. The details of the problems may change, but the government rarely corrects the root causes of these problems. Rather, as time passes, a new problem just displaces an old problem in importance because there is a greater urgency associated with the resolution of this new problem.

There is incompetence in government that continues to exist even after years of study and lip service for change. For example, on 7 December 1941, Japanese aircraft produced radar images revealing an attack on Pearl Harbor. The government took insufficient action in response to this information. On 11 September 2001, the terrorists attack on the World Trade Center was the result of the government's insufficient response to earlier intelligence. On 29 August 2005, the imminence of hurricane Katrina's approach to New Orleans was obvious; yet the government action was inadequate and late. These are all cases

where government officials failed to act on information that they had. After the crisis ends, the government, in the form of the military, intelligence agencies, and emergency management, forgets the lessons it could have learned and any improvements made are, at best, inadequate. People receive the blame for the results and their removal from office is the accepted cure, rather than acknowledging the true problem, our failed system of government.

A system of government should not be the cause of problems; it should provide solutions. Citizens should revere their government, not hold it in contempt, revile it, or view it with suspicion. Its laws should be worth obeying or be changed so that they are. It is possible to create this kind of government; one that has established mechanisms to deal with any vexing issues that plague our government and society.

The United States has an adequate system of government, but is it the ultimate system? Is our government just passing through a stage of development along some continuum that allows improvements in some areas as other areas of government deteriorate? There are enough problems with the current systems of government, and these problems ought to stimulate serious investigations into finding alternative systems of government that may replace it.

One must answer many questions before properly directing the formation of a government. As the development of a new system of government proceeds, the goal is to answer these questions. With each question, people may have views of their own that are essentially different. Nevertheless, after any serious discussion the contention is that the arguments used, are reasonable and all honest people will admit that there is merit to everything proposed. If the proposals are wrong and there is a more meritorious path available then this system must adapt accordingly, because it is most important things are right rather than to pretend that one person or group is right. The goal is to have a process that produces

useful outcomes rather than to have a process of confrontation that produces defective results that are only the result of ego building political forces.

What is government? How would society be different without it? After answering this question one will have a better appreciation for the advantages that control by governmental institutions can provide.

It is important to determine the extent to which people even need government. To respond to that one should ask the following questions:

- What purpose does government serve?
- Which aspects of our life should government control and how should government control them?
- How should government make decisions?
- What is the value system used to establish governmental priorities?
- What is the importance of education for each citizen and the benefit to the society that results?

Once people realize that there is a need for government, it is necessary to pursue questions about which principles to consider when forming a government, as follows:

- How does the government function optimally?
- Is it important that a government be efficient so that it is cost-effective?
- What role does the free market have to play in reducing the cost and improving the efficiency of government and its bureaucracies?
- What services should the government provide?
- Should the government institutionalize these services or should the private sector handle them?

Next, one needs to consider the role of the individual within the governmental organization, as follows:

- What responsibilities should citizens have toward maintaining society and what should be the limits of their liberties?
- How should the government determine the difference between a right and a privilege and how does one appropriately earn a privilege?
- How should the government receive its funding?
- How do criminals pay for their crimes?
- How should it be determined what is a crime and who should enforce it?
- What is the form that the government should take?
- Who should be able to participate in it?

This volume concludes with a critique of the U. S. Constitution. This critique will highlight the types of changes that will transform government from its present form to the form proposed in volume 2.

Chapter 2: The Meaning of Government

1. Anarchy is the absence of government

If each person had a piece of land, suitable to husband in any way they saw fit, and it provided for all of their needs such that they never ventured from this land; and if all they produced resulted in no pollution or emanations that affected the environment or others, there would be no need for government. In the world that exists today, people intermingle and travel. They even trespass, pollute, and destroy land, property, and animals (including humans). However, is the desire to prevent these occurrences sufficient motivation to establish a government? People live and people die. This result is the same with or without government. All that these events affect is the quality of one's life.

Who will accept anarchy?

If people did not care about what happened to themselves between the time of their birth and the time of their death then there would be no need for government. To be more specific, those people willing to accept anarchy often are those who are not interested in life. Their interest lies in their own death or what they believe follows death. However, many things happen in the time that spans these two events that, for many, is the reason for living. Therefore, the reason for government is to allow some people – those who have a plan for their lives – who live within its domain, the privilege of achieving their own measure of fulfillment through their life. Government provides the protection that allows people to pursue fulfillment without constantly needing to protect themselves.

Other people live their lives to the fullest by preying on weaker people. These people prefer not to have any controls or to have them limited as much as possible.

Then there are the people who feel entitled to get more of what they want than anyone else. These people want the government to lavish them with privileges while excluding everyone else from the same privileges.

Who suffers under anarchy?

The people most likely to suffer under anarchy would be passive, poor, powerless, or weak intellectually, physically, financially, or socially. Even the rest of society suffers in anarchy because individuals and groups obtaining power do not necessarily have the appropriate knowledge or intellect to direct a society, and they make decisions that may be detrimental to themselves and others. Government provides the organizational framework for society to gain access to the knowledge needed to make better decisions.

2. Definition of government

Government is an organization of people that exerts control over the activities of the population within a designated geographical region.

A nation is the sum of the individuals, institutions, and resources under its dominion. Government, with the input of individuals, decides how best to serve the nation. Government must make decisions that are difficult and complicated. These decisions are difficult because they affect the lives of people who might suffer so that other people might benefit. These decisions are complicated because the interests of the nation must take precedence over any single group of individuals. People must also recognize that not making a decision is itself a choice and the avoidance of making that decision may have consequences as tragic as any other bad decision. Government may balance the national and individual interests by using a rational, evidence-based priority system that adapts to novel situations and corrects its errors.

Government needs to have a well-defined purpose if it is to avoid the costly and distracting efforts of special interests. For this reason, government should assume the role of acting only to provide those services that are in the *national interest*. These services include the protection of the country and its citizens from the following threats and malfunctions. The threat of actions by a foreign country to personal or national interests requires a response through the military or diplomatic agents. The threat of harmful actions by an individual or group requires a response from the national police and investigative intelligence agencies. The improper functioning or misapplications of the markets to addressing economic requires improvements in information technology, less complicated formal structures in the rules of commerce, or the novel solutions that adhere to no strict capitalistic ideology. The threat of ignorance to people making their life decisions requires an educational system that provides all of the education to an individual at all levels if they demonstrate the necessary mastery to continue. The threat of disease, epidemics, pollution, radiation, and biological or chemical sabotage, requires a healthcare system that includes all people in the country and a system of environmental monitoring. Threats due to ineffectual governance or governmental system can often respond to the democratic process through elections, but are more likely to require a system of government that responds to the legitimate claims of individuals that problems exist and need correction.

Finally, if the government is to evaluate any course of action that affects humans, it must have as a measure an accepted standard for the monetary value of a human life. The market is the ultimate tool in making this determination. This information must exist if there is any reasonable chance to determine the course of action in such areas as public safety, application of medical procedures, or pollution reduction.

Chapter 3: Experiences Make Life

1. Personal Experiences

Who knows best what satisfies a person's needs? That person should know. So what interest should the government have in controlling those values that determines how people live their lives? The government must be aware of how a person's behaviors affect other people and the country. The government needs to be able to establish a set of priorities that will allow it to balance competing interests; it must invoke an ideology from which to derive the set of priorities that will create this balance.

People pursue intellectual, physical, commercial, emotional, and sensual activities or some combination of these to find fulfillment in their lives. If one pursues any of these activities, is there a possibility that others might benefit from it? It is likely that those who follow intellectual pursuits will produce outcomes that may be beneficial to society. Other pursuits, which the intellect does not guide, result from subjective influences and have the effect of random acts made without deliberation. The results of actions, not guided by the intellect are not likely to produce societal benefits since the results are not predictable. This means that the results may likely be detrimental as beneficial because they are random. Intellectual activity, because of its dual benefit, for the individual and society, gives it a place of prominence in this system of government.

2. Enjoying personal experiences

How do people survive and flourish so that they may enjoy their choice of personal experiences?

People need to have some degree of physical health to achieve their goals in life. This physical health is dependent upon the individual's level of fitness, which

results from their caretaker's or their own knowledge of nutrition and exercise, as well as the conditions of the environment in which they live, among other things beyond a person's control.

People need to have resources, such as learning tools, institutions, scholars, teachers, etc. available to stimulate their intellectual growth through educational opportunities.

People need to have access to commercial opportunities that will allow them to finance their own way through life.

People need to fulfill and renew themselves emotionally and sensually through recreational activities that may involve contact with other people, art, and entertainment.

These are necessary elements for a fulfilling life. They must be accessible to all people who are not specifically restricted from engaging in these activities.

3. Influencing personal fulfillment

What influences should government control so that personal fulfillment is achievable? This question is only answerable when one understands the following. Government is not capable of fulfilling some needs. Chapter 6 addresses this issue.

Manufacturing, farming, entertainment, and service industries affect every person by:

- Providing employment
- Providing recreational resources
- Providing food for nutrition

- Providing information for life decisions
- Providing pollution to damage the environment
- Using land and resources to deprive individuals of access to them

In each instance, these activities affect an individual's way of life. In order to insure the proper balance of these interests, rational and defensible government policies are one reasonable mechanism for controlling them.

Chapter 4: Improving Government

People must assume that they can improve government or else no one would ever attempt to make any improvements.

The following suggested refinements are generalizations. They should lead to further improvements. One should not regard them as the ultimate modification. Improvements will always be required. The ability to make those improvements is an important feature of government. There may be disagreements about whether these suggestions are actually improvements. However, those issues will receive the appropriate attention later after a philosophical basis for determining what the best elements of a government are and what improvements are in the national interest.

People often make vague claims using the term, *national interest* without defining its meaning. A useful definition of the national interest is:

The protection of the nation, its government, and its citizens from domestic and foreign threats to their existence and the optimal functioning of fair “free” markets, individual freedoms, government provided protections, government research, and the governmental facilitation of commerce that individuals or commercial entities could not practically accomplish by themselves.

1. Improving our system of government

That which follows is a preview of changes that ought to improve our system of government.

Make government simple so that one may easily understand how the components interact! This will reduce the complications that currently arise when

trying to identify the jurisdictions that have responsibility for a particular problem, especially when overlapping responsibilities exist.

Limit government to those responsibilities that one can justify on fundamental philosophical grounds! The single purpose of government is to protect its citizens.

Make government more efficient so it is less costly! An efficient government will also be limited to handling only its rationally established responsibilities. It should be accountable for waste and incompetence, and demonstrate this by identifying, punishing, and producing remediation in those people responsible.

Make government more responsive to the legitimate needs and concerns of the people! This does not mean that the government should cease to make the national interest uppermost as its concern; it just means that there needs to be a mechanism in place to resolve citizen complaints when there is a rationale to do so. By giving people easy access to their government, these people will be less likely to become frustrated and disaffected.

Make government and its citizens accountable for their mistakes and crimes! When someone in the government makes a mistake, remediation procedures should follow in order to reduce the likelihood of future mistakes; and the person responsible for the mistakes should receive retraining and testing for competence. The government should require that criminals: pay restitution for their crimes, learn about their civic responsibilities, and acquire skills to assure their employability. The government should also verify that criminals are free from mental health problems that will prevent them from becoming productive citizens.

2. Are these actually improvements?

Yes. Simplicity, efficiency, responsiveness and accountability are key aspects of an improved system of governance.

Additionally, some people fear that their government will abuse them. Because of this fear, they prefer that government remain complex, inefficient, disconnected, and unaccountable for its actions. These factors would tend to prevent government from coordinating its efforts to abuse its citizens. People accept these conditions precisely because they limit the efforts within government to make changes. By allowing processes of governance that are virtually immutable, these citizens feel protected from the possible imposition of ill-conceived legislation that will further reduce their liberty or increase their responsibilities.

With our current system of government, these concerns are reasonable. However, there are ways to minimize the possibilities of such undesirable outcomes. We ought to consider only those proposals that we can defend based on rational argument or which have evidence to support them. One aspect of achieving success through rational argument is that it requires integrity from all parties involved. – In this context, integrity means arguing with the purpose of defending an alternative proposal and understanding an opposing view, not merely savaging another person's proposal for its flaws. It is easy to highlight flaws when no suitable options to replace it are available, but rather harder to create solutions. – In our current political climate, this attribute of integrity is sorely lacking. People argue their positions based on their personal beliefs that they have not critically examined using either reason or evidence. These people believe what they believe simply because they believe it. Government agents, in their official capacities, must replace this type of thinking with a system where people are able to defend their beliefs rationally or are able to produce unbiased evidence that will support their beliefs. A rational, evidence based reasoning process is often difficult to assume because it prohibits arguments of many

sincerely held beliefs for the reason that one cannot defend them. When conflicts are resolved by means of reason and evidence, the superior proposal will likely be produced and lead to a solution that is at least defensible if not better than intuitively divined proposals.

The above procedure of argumentation may not always lead to an improved situation, but the reasoning associated with the formulation of new policies should allow for corrections later should the policy fail. After completing the appropriate analysis using honestly obtained data, one evaluates those aspects of the policy that were successful and those that were inadequate. This is the major advantage of using reason to arrive at policy positions. When unanticipated results occur, an assessment may test particular assumptions and one can make corrections. When one makes decisions simply by majority rule or mere compromise, there are no valid reasons for justifying the outcome produced. [One might argue that majority rule is rational, because the individuals voting use reason and collectively the common reasoning will prevail. In reality, this is just a mystical belief that the larger the mass of people involved in a decision the better the result. Actually, this represents a result that is due to the brute force of politics rather than the politics of a rational process. No person currently has a requirement or even a responsibility to use reason when deciding how to vote.]

Chapter 5: The Government's Value System

A government value system should allow the government to prioritize its actions, develop a rationale for justifying its decisions, and appeal universally to its citizens.

1. Creating a government value system

By establishing a value system, government will be able to prioritize its actions. Likewise, it will be able to defend itself against claims of bias because a well-defined value system may establish priorities in any arguments used to determine which government actions ought to supersede others. For example, a short-term homeland defense issue may have priority over a long-term environmental concern. Prioritization allows the proper allocation of limited resources. Absent a value system, no government may logically justify a preference for any particular action it takes. Absent these priorities, the government then gives the impression that its decisions are arbitrary and even whimsical rather than rationally conceived and this would be an accurate interpretation for such actions. Instead, the government should base its ability to prioritize on the existence of a value system.

2. The governments value system

Without a value system, every aspect of government decision-making would be lacking a way to prioritize its actions resulting in an arbitrary ranking of tasks that need addressing, because no one has acknowledged that some values supersede others. For example, in a dispute over the right of a woman to have an abortion, what priorities dictate the result? This decision requires a value system. Any viewpoint on an issue would be indistinguishable from whimsical nonsense without having evidence or a rational basis to support it. Should the

government base its policies on superstitious beliefs? One needs to develop a value system that allows the government to justify its actions.

The value system used should have universal appeal. It would then be more likely to gain the support of the governed as well as give instant legitimacy to any governmental decisions. By having this universal appeal, the value system would act to minimize the disruptions that often arise from those who make constant challenges to a government with the hope of generating a successful opposition to it, because they would need a reasonable argument to support their position rather than merely a political base. Some of the leading values in our society are human life, religion, liberty, and knowledge. Each individual ought to qualify the definition of these values for themselves. In many cases, individuals value their own life but not the lives of others. Some individuals value their own religion but not the religions of others. Likewise, some people value their own liberty but not another's liberty when it encroaches on their own. Knowledge, however, may not be the most prominent of the values for an individual, but all people share this value whether or not they acknowledge it. Knowledge has universal appeal. It is a necessary component for making rational and evidence based assessments. It leads to valid, reproducible, and correctable decisions.

The pre-eminent role of knowledge in the governmental value system does not exclude other values that are necessary to allow for individuals and the country to grow and develop in a meaningful and well understood direction. Other values that society needs to adopt, the government needs to apply, and the educational system needs to teach are honesty, integrity, individual liberty, the use of reason, and conflict resolution through discussion when all parties abide by the above principles.

3. Government use of knowledge

Why should government use knowledge as its preeminent value in the development of laws, policies, and decisions, or the establishment of priorities?

Thinking people use knowledge to make decisions affecting all aspects of their daily lives. Yet the processes of individual decision making, which vary so significantly from one person to another, are not important to control unless they have adverse societal effects. Rather than have the government limit the decisions of the individual – on such choices as fashion, food preferences, health concerns, and charitable interests (as examples) –let the free market drive these decisions. The free market is the tool of preference for allocating resources by individual decisions. By allowing participants in the free market to determine an outcome, through their support of a product or cause rather than by having government generate a knowledge-based-policy, individuals will decide for themselves which path to follow. However, on issues where the government determines policy, the results ought to be defensible using reason and evidence, thus regarding knowledge as the preeminent tool in such processes. For example, rather than having the government prohibit drug use, which should be an individual's decision, the government should require that users become educated about the risks associated with drug use and require that users demonstrate the absence of mental illness and a level of maturity that is worthy of a life altering decision.

However, knowledge alone does not suffice in allowing the government to develop the priorities needed in establishing its policies. One needs reason to argue rationally about those issues that contain any complexity. By basing government actions on both knowledge and reason, the arguments used to generate the policy, will inform the public and reduce possible confusion and resentment about the decisions made. This decision-making process should prohibit appeals to emotion, superstition, and spiritual needs of the people. As

these needs are of a personal nature and require that people act as their own personal agents to affect their own needs.

Knowledge and reason should play the dominant roles in determining government policy rather than the use of raw political power. Raw political power appeals to the group that has the majority even if it lacks the evidence and reasoning. The majority, lacking justification for its actions, bullies its way through the processes of governance. The goal of government is to do what is right, not what is popular. If a position is indefensible, then a proper government will look long and hard – unless in a crisis – before imposing a position merely because a majority is too lazy to think about a proper solution.

One can distinguish knowledge from nonsense by some of the following features:

- A) Knowledge is testable, even if it is incomplete and uncertain –as in science.
- B) Some knowledge is of a historical nature. If there are no controversies, concerning the facts, then no contradictions should exist.
- C) Beliefs that one holds because of faith are not germane to governmental processes. Because people hold a belief for indefensible reasons or the reasons themselves are indistinguishable from a fantasy, then the government should prohibit the use of these beliefs as a position defense in the policy making process. The belief that a deity has established rules of behavior, which are guiding one's decisions, may cause problems. How does one holding these faith-based beliefs distinguish these from beliefs that they hold for only selfish reasons? They cannot! The fact that no one has ever established the existence of such a deity makes this kind of belief a strong candidate for use only as a mechanism for self-serving purposes.

Knowledge is the basis for rational, factual discourse. However, this should not pose a limit on the legislative or decision-making process. One must consider probabilistically hypothetical situations in order to anticipate cases that may arise in the future that have never previously occurred.

Although some people value knowledge less than others do, all people value it and it is capable of leading to consistently productive decisions. Errors in knowledge, when discovered, can allow for the correction of errors in the decisions made.

Knowledge enters the decision making process for all issues. Since individual values are arguable and lead to different priorities, priorities will ultimately dictate which options a government will adopt. A consensus based on the merits of all arguments as they affect the nation as a whole should be the focus of any discussions.

At a personal level, knowledge, used by individuals, allows them to become more productive and lead lives that are more enjoyable. This individualized knowledge, possessed by citizens, may be a resource used by the government to gain some insight into how its policies and legislation affect its citizens. Input from these citizens should be cultivated so that government does not get a limited perception of the problems and solutions that will motivate its actions.

For the above reasons, knowledge ought to prevail in the face of uninformed opinion. In addition, majority rule should not substitute for reason. Only as a last resort, when various proposals have nearly equal weight to their arguments should majority rule determine the result.

Society ought to tolerate a diversity of views. Even whimsical, mystical, and nonsensical ideas are capable of stimulating useful ideas. However, such novel thinking ought not to be the basis for the decision-making processes of

government. Novel insights and perspectives may be useful in stimulating new knowledge and it may provoke those rationally devised policies to have better reasoning behind them.

The making of false or unverifiable assertions presented as fact rather than as a stimulus for argument is unacceptable. Government should prohibit (deliberate) public lying in other than an entertainment venue because it confounds and corrupts the processes of honest governance, commerce, and all interactions, both public and private.

When lying and other deceptive practices become a normal and accepted activity in our society, it drains the resources of its people. Because citizens must spend their time making the effort to police the information that they receive, they become less productive. It is as if each person must become a scientist, lawyer, engineer, historian, and artist of extraordinary ability to discern the level of deceptions encountered every day in our society. It would require a great commitment on the part of each person to expose all of the deceptions seen on a daily basis. If people do not trust society because of such deceptions, the citizens may withdraw from participation in commerce and government to their own and society's detriment.

The knowledge developed in science, technology, and the arts should apply to the needs of government to make it more efficient and responsive to the needs of the people. A government that is committed to refining its procedures in order to become more efficient will be able to address many of the currently ignored problems. Because the current bureaucracy is so inefficient and inept, citizens often feel helpless in attempts to resolve their problems with a governmental agency.

Citizens who are aware of a competent bureaucracy, that is able to respond to the demands of the people, will feel empowered to act because they will believe

their efforts to complain are not wasted. Citizen input will be a further source of knowledge useful to make improvements in government. These additional sources of information, compounded with the determination to improve efficiency, may lead the bureaucracy to recognize and correct its errors.

Chapter 6: What Government Should Control

Government needs to provide people with the protection that they are not capable of providing for themselves as individuals because they may lack the knowledge and resources. It not reasonable to expect an individual to have sufficient knowledge in such areas as medicine, engineering, and other sciences to insure self-protection from diseases, complicated mechanical system failures, or even their own ignorant acts and the consequences of others' behaviors, (whether they be foreign or domestic). However, government, having the requisite knowledge and resources, is in a position to protect its citizens and provide the necessary controls over individuals and institutions to implement those protections. Because people are a necessary resource for a country and they may not have adequate information or experience, the government and its institutions must protect its citizens from their own ignorance to preserve them as a resource, while still allowing them to suffer the consequences of their informed decisions in order to allow them to have individual liberty.

1. The government's control of personal actions or interactions

The government should control no activities except where the effects of these activities may have consequences that injure the participant, others, the environment, or the nation. The government should also work to prevent any actions that may result from ignorance or misinformation. For example, risky behaviors may occur, but only with the individual's awareness of the risks.

The government ought to permit people, who have the requisite knowledge and skills regarding to the activities in which they partake, to act in any way they see fit. The government will certify people through testing to insure awareness of the consequences of their actions and their competence to assume those responsibilities.

2. Controlling destructive behaviors

How should government control the behaviors that are potentially destructive to the nation and government?

Government should establish agencies that will police, punish, and correct those behaviors that are destructive or potentially destructive. These damages include, but are not limited to, the dissemination of misinformation, societal disruptions, injuries to persons and their possessions, and impediments to the markets.

3. Seeking individual fulfillment

How should government permit and encourage individuals to seek their own fulfillment?

A country populated by individuals who have a fulfilling life, is a country whose government will have a contented and patriotic legion of supporters. If reasonable individuals are to have a reasonable amount of liberty then a government should not dictate how its citizens must lead their lives. Nevertheless, the government should make an effort to use its vast knowledge and institutions to facilitate those aspects of the individual's life that will ultimately influence the nation. The example of people driving cars without the necessary competence would lead not only to the detriment of the incompetent drivers but also to the public who encounters them. The solution, some might suggest, would be to outlaw driving. That is a limit to liberty. I suggest that an alternative is to authorize a bureaucracy paid for by drivers to validate the competence of those wanting to drive thereby ensuring the privilege of this liberty. In general: Government should give privileges to all citizens who have earned them. This allows them to act with knowledge and competence about the activity.

Government should protect its citizens so that they may achieve their own fulfillment without the distraction of their constant vigilance to protect themselves

from criminal activity. Because the government potentially has the necessary surveillance systems, information, and resources, relating to criminal activity, which individuals may not have, the government should have this as its responsibility. This emphasis is a major reason that dictates the role that government is to play in the lives of its citizens. In order to fulfill this role, government must protect its citizens from the destructive activities of: 1) other nations and foreign nationals, 2) other citizens and the businesses created by them, 3) their own ignorance, and 4) disease by creating institutions that are capable of acting in these capacities.

4. What responsibility does the government have to enhance the quality of life for its citizens?

The nation benefits by having a population that is content with its life situation and productive in its activities. Because there is such variability in the requirements among individuals to meet their respective needs, establishing a satisfactory quality of life is a personal matter. Therefore, government should allow each person to achieve their own lifestyle goals with the only restriction being that the goals be non-criminal. Moreover, the government role should be limited to providing an environment from which all people can derive their own benefits that they cannot reasonably obtain from the free market. Only if a national or societal interest interferes with such free market activities should the government intervene to provide the necessary oversight, benefiting both individuals and society. Areas of life that satisfy these guidelines are:

- Pollution control
- Civil rights
- Providing an education which is earned
- Providing only the opportunities to obtain what one desires

- Protecting citizens – for example, from threats, including those posed by criminals, warring or contentious nations, disease, fraud in the marketplace, or ignorance.

Individuals should determine for themselves the requirements and the opportunities they need to pursue in order to create their desired quality of life.

5. What Government Should Not Control.

Because the purpose of government is limited to the protection of its citizens and providing that which be in the national interest yet is unachievable by an application of the market, there is a role to play for charities in our society. Charities allow the market to decide which needs of others people will support on an individual basis. If people are not willing to support themselves through government work programs, then the charities may decide to help them. The government provides a bureaucracy and communication apparatus within the welfare system to direct individuals to the appropriate charitable organizations.

Government should also avoid being involved in the celebration, awarding, and creating holidays or other events that distract it from the serious labors that they should pursue. Even the process of campaigning is too wasteful and needs revisions to make it more efficient and informative rather than being a form of entertainment.

Chapter 7: Controlling Society

When the government controls society, it does so by controlling the individual. Any organization is limited and defined by the attributes of the individuals that comprise it. Therefore, society governs by the control of individual behaviors.

1. How should the government control the interactions among people?

Many personal interactions have consequences that are limited to the individuals engaged in those activities. The government should allow activities even if they are potentially harmful, as with the use of alcohol or drugs, if these individuals are aware of the consequences and partake of their own volition. Unless people are aware of the consequences of their actions, there is a tendency among many to believe that they are not responsible for any unacceptable results. Imposing a requirement, that people should be knowledgeable about the risks of their activities, will reduce the likelihood of their not acknowledging their own culpability in any outcome. In addition, the requirement that individuals assume responsibility for their own actions will lead to a reduction in the need for the government taking corrective actions needed for the risk-taking individuals, thus saving governmental resources.

The government should control any individual or group actions that may affect others. This will permit people to find fulfillment in their lives without needing to contend with or be vigilant concerning disturbances from those who are disruptive. Allowing its citizens to focus on the activities of their choosing without disruption will allow both individuals and society to benefit because of increased contentment and productivity.

In some cases, society should allow free market actions to select the mechanisms that control people. People should bid for the services and products

of others. Likewise, people should determine which charitable endeavors are worth supporting, rather than having the government support endeavors in what should be a charitable concern. Because resources are finite, the individual is best suited to decide how they will allocate their own resources for the benefit of other individuals who are unwilling or unprepared to provide for themselves. It is a personal decision to be unproductive and therefore there ought to be a personal decision made to support such behavior.

2. How should government control interactions with the environment?

Those professionals and academics who are knowledgeable about the environmental consequences of particular actions should be responsible for initiating control mechanisms that will allow for the preservation of the health and safety of society within the guidelines that political forces have established.

In many cases, the free market can select the mechanism of control. An example would be to establish pollution standards that affect the cost of goods and services at some politically agreed upon rate, which is determined based on the estimated cost of the damages caused to the environment and humans. With some agreed upon value, such as \$1,000,000/person's life used as a measure, performance targets would exist for any new technologies that would compete with the rehabilitation of older more polluting technologies. Only with the use of objective standards to value life and health can the government make reasoned decisions using a knowledge-based process.

3. Privileges

The government should make available to everyone the opportunity to earn all of the privileges available to citizens in order to allow for their lifetime fulfillment. Existing governments often limit arbitrarily the number of people who have access to a particular privilege, usually through age related restrictions. By doing

this there will often be an undercurrent of frustrated lawbreakers who will pursue these activities illegally. Therefore, the government ought to establish objective and testable criteria for maturity, knowledge, and judgment to determine who should acquire a privilege, rather than merely establishing one's age as the qualification.

By giving each person the same rights, as well as the opportunities to earn privileges, fewer capable people will endure the frustration of not having a particular privilege. Additionally, incapable people will be less able to abuse a privilege because they are unlikely to earn it. The government and citizens, unburdened by the constant stress of stifling the disaffected, will be able to function more efficiently.

Finding individual fulfillment requires knowledge about oneself as well as knowledge about those aspects of life that can provide that fulfillment. Education becomes the cornerstone of an individual's life just as it is for government. Education leads to knowledge about fulfillment. Education leads to the necessary knowledge and skills to sustain oneself in a market economy.

Government allows individual fulfillment by providing a structured environment in which citizens may function without the burden imposed by the turmoil that would exist without it. Freedom will facilitate individual fulfillment. By defining individual rights to include the right to freedom, the government then ought to allow each citizen the privilege to acquire knowledge, property, wealth, influence, and any other material goods to achieve their goals if they do not result in an infringement of other's rights.

The government ought to create an environment that allows individuals to achieve and preserve any privileges they have earned. Inevitably, there may be conflicts between rights and privileges. Thus, the government ought to arbitrate

disputes that arise when there are conflicts between individual rights and privileges. One should recall that government gives a right to all people by virtue of their humanity while government allows people to earn privileges based on their competence.

4. Individual Responsibility

Government should require responsible behavior by people as individuals and as members of organizations or groups. A nation that allows individual liberty and protects free expression of ideas can fracture the society into groups possessing a single-minded self-interest, whose acts may be at the expense of the national interest. Although these divisive acts may be responsible in nature when viewed in a limited perspective, the fracturing of our society that is a result of it is not in the best interest of our country. If a country is to remain intact through the stresses of national and international affairs there must be some process or common bond that unifies its citizens. This bonding device should be the least restrictive and yet quite efficient in facilitating processes of government. Specifically, this is a reference to a requirement that all citizens be able to communicate using a common language established by the government. Mastering this common language becomes the responsibility of every person who wishes to reside in the United States.

An additional responsibility of all individuals is that they should be financially self-sustaining. However, some individuals may not be able to work in order to obtain the resources to sustain themselves. Those individuals must then rely on other resources for income:

- Charity from institutionalized nongovernmental organizations, family, or friends
- Proceeds from insurance, legal settlements, or personal investments

Individual responsibility is not limited merely to being self-sustaining and law-abiding. Because individual rights end when a particular action affects the rights of another person, the courts need to determine whether a person must make an unreasonable effort to avoid such an offense or if one's rights supersede another's. Consider a business that produces a dangerous product. A criminal act is committed if information about a defect or danger is suppressed by anyone in a company and those people are liable for punishment. If a company publicizes the dangers or defects of a product, and the consumers know the risks, the consumer assumes the responsibility for any injuries sustained. Any consumer unwilling to assume such responsibility should not use the product. There must be a government-sponsored database for all product information to insure that consumers have access to this information. This should appropriately shift many product liability issues away from business and onto the consumer in a manageable and cost effective way.

In an effort to preserve the rights of individuals and to protect the law-abiding residents of a community, the government should remove criminals from society until that time that the criminals have demonstrated that they are able to function productively within the rules of the society. The purpose of prison, or any other punishment, is not to determine what punishments a person is willing to suffer in order to commit a crime but rather to discover what causes that person to violate the law. While a criminal is in prison, the authorities shall use the opportunity to discover what problems are plaguing the criminal. This should lead to a program of corrective actions that the prisoner may follow, with appropriate institutional guidance that will lead to the prisoner's release from prison. After prisoners have established their competence in those areas where they originally functioned inadequately or with ineptitude, their release from prison will occur.

The government ought to treat all citizens equally as to their rights, but recognize that there are special privileges that may be earned and allow those who have

earned them to act without prejudice. These privileges, which include government-funded education and voting, act as an incentive to cultivate one's intellectual potential. This potential is the engine of knowledge creation and is the primary value that is the basis for this government. Society should judge other abilities, such as physical (sports), emotional (acting), aesthetic (arts), financial (business), and others by their patronage of these activities in the free market. The free market will provide opportunities for employment. However, the lack of skills, appropriate education or bias, may preclude employment in the free market. In these cases, the government will give all citizens the opportunities to gain appropriate skills and education, as often as their persistence dictates, for purposes of employment or advancement. This will allow an individual to achieve gainful employment in the area of one's interest, and will allow a mechanism for advancement that will benefit both individuals and society. Additionally, the government will provide gainful employment, through its agencies, to individuals unable to acquire positions through the free market. However, in no case shall the government act as a charity of last resort. Even people with the most severe disabilities are capable of contributing gainfully to society; though this may be merely in the capacity of healthcare recipient to train healthcare workers.

For citizens who are unproductive due to a lack of motivation, charities will judge the needs of those people desiring aid. This will allow the free market to meet the needs of unproductive citizens to the extent that individuals in the society, not the government, can afford.

In addition to the privilege of government-sponsored education and voting, which has a sacred status in a democracy, should be a privilege. Voting determines the quality of our government officials and therefore the quality of our government. Therefore, the government should establish one's access to voting as a competence-based privilege that one earns, rather than an age based right. As a test for earning this privilege, one should be required to demonstrate ones

knowledge of the role of government in our society, as well as the philosophy behind its processes and procedures. Knowledge of the principles and processes of governance should be part of the primary educational process. Improving the quality of the voter will improve the quality of elected officials. Having higher quality officials will motivate competent people to engage in an expression of their diverse views on those issues affecting governance. When people engage in discussions using evidence and reason to establish their positions there is a greater likelihood of a useful result. This ought to encourage more people to express themselves because they know that reason instead of raw political power drives the process of governance.

Chapter 8: The Development of the Governmental Bureaucracy

The government must first recognize that its purpose is to protect its citizens and to maintain its competence. In order to do this, the government needs to decide what to control, within its own bureaucracies, protecting agents, and among its citizens. Second, the government must decide what means to use for control, whether through its bureaucracy, persuasion, or private enterprise. In any case, the decision must rely on a system of priorities that originates from the pre-eminent value of knowledge. What follows are the guiding principles that one finds enunciated in the Constitution that appears in volume 2.

Assuming a government's existence is justified, the government is certainly justified in sustaining itself. Therefore, government also ought to control those factors that make it vulnerable to disruption.

1. The Government Value System

Because government values knowledge as the most important factor in both determining its policies and prioritizing its actions, one should support the following results: The rights of individuals supersede the rights of society and the nation when the individual acts in a capacity that is likely to enhance our knowledge in any defensibly useful way. When behaviors are limited to matters of personal choice, and they pertain to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, both the individual and society are the beneficiaries. For example, society may regard a religious belief as beneficial. However, an individual ought to be able to expose that belief as a fraud or mere superstition without the threat of criminal prosecution, because it is a reasonable act to question any belief or its supporting evidence. Government should even protect the dissemination of false information if one may reasonably assert a defense of it, such as statements

about a proof for the existence of god, because there is no certainty to the interpretation of information. However, the government and its officials should restrict influences in making its decisions and persuading the public to the use of reason and evidence.

Liberty allows people to act and think in ways that often forces authorities to re-examine policies and rules of governance. It is for this reason that the liberty of individuals is so important. Nevertheless, this individual liberty is subordinate to the rights of other individuals because liberties taken when they restrict the rights of others produce a loss of liberty. Therefore, when the actions of an individual interfere with the rights of another, those actions ought to be limited because they impose an unacceptable burden to others. Examples would be the acts of driving, voting, drinking alcohol, or the taking of recreational drugs. In each case, a person has the liberty to pursue each activity but must demonstrate the competence of their decision, because the application of their liberties may directly affect the lives of others and consequences for the government because the government is often the final agent responsible for paying for the cost of the resulting individual calamities.

In order for individuals to make the best use of their liberties they need to have certain rights that protect them from criminals and well-intentioned incompetents. The rights of people also extend to protection from their own incompetence. Therefore, it is disturbing to see that many of the rights given merely based on an age related criterion when they ought to be regarded as privileges for which one earns the permission of the government to partake based on demonstrated knowledge and competence.

Prevention of criminal behavior supersedes the right to privacy. The inability of the government to have this value adopted has disrupted the government's ability to protect its citizens. However, the government should not permit any person or

agency to divulge any personal information about any individual. The only exception would occur when there is information relating to a conviction for a crime. The public dissemination of any such noncriminal personal information is itself a crime. The difficulty arises in determining what constitutes personal information. One option is defining it as any information that does not bear directly on a person's public role in life. However, there is no restriction as to what information individuals or government may seek and obtain or use in a criminal prosecution. The only restriction is that the information may not appear in public unless a criminal conviction results and the information may only involve the criminal and not name any persons otherwise involved unless their actions result in convictions also.

To repeat the above sentiments, in all cases of publicly or even privately observed behavior, there should be a prohibition of any act that reveals to the public the identity of the individuals associated with any acts done in private. The reporting of such criminal acts to the authorities however is to be encouraged. When that which one observes becomes public, a violation of the right to privacy occurs. However, when people observe the prohibition against revealing the personal information of others, the more important right to anonymity is preserved. A more conservative approach would be to record the activities and keep the recordings on file until after a crime has been committed. Only then would officials view the recordings in order to identify the perpetrators. However, this will not allow for the prevention of a crime. As a result, victims will suffer unnecessarily. Yet in either case, the process protects one's privacy from unwanted publicity because the dissemination of personal information never occurs. Privacy rights should be limited to non-criminal acts that are committed in non-public places. The preemptive act with regard to criminal activity is necessary to preserve the safety of the individuals' environment. People are then

able to devote their energies to productive labors without the constant distraction of being hyper-alert to the behavior of others who are not their responsibility.

Some people are willing to accept the illegal behavior of others, because of the burdens associated with the judicial process and the policing of society, as manifested by long, inefficient trials; criminals avoiding conviction; witnesses fearful to testify, and people unwilling to become involved. As a result, the law-abiding citizens suffer as victims of criminals, and furthermore, do not receive restitution from the criminal. The law-abiding citizens also suffer by foregoing a larger income because they do not steal, and they pay higher taxes in order to compensate for the tax delinquents.

The government should value self-sufficient individuals because they are responsible for driving the economy and pose no financial burden on others. Their employability should be dependent upon and insured by both their integrity and competence, which the educational system needs to encourage through its teaching and the healthcare system needs to address through its mental health programs. Whether in government or the private sector, quality assurance and improvement need an emphasis in the structure of these institutions. There needs to be adequate accountability and oversight to insure that the organization corrects errors early, amends procedures to prevent future problems, and retrain those workers with inadequate training and incompetence whenever one discovers their deficiencies. This will allow organizations to keep their employees and to improve its functioning.

A government that recognizes the values of its citizens and responds to their legitimate needs is less likely to experience disruptive public demonstrations that oppose the government. If people who have complaints also have effective governmental mechanisms to register their complaints and receive a timely response, they will contribute to the improvement in the quality of government.

A government that values productivity will reduce disruptions that may interfere with it. Therefore, public demonstrations that disrupt the normal functions in society should not occur. Whether these demonstrations should be political, social, religious, ceremonial, memorial, celebratory, or entertainment, they should not receive the support of the government nor should these activities disrupt any of the normal functions of the society.

2. Role of politics in policy formation

The government ought to accept for consideration any arguments offered by its citizens that differ with its positions. Whenever alternative positions are equally defensible, only then, should the government resort to the use of political power in selecting from among those acceptable alternatives. Thus, the political process is involved in providing a final decision only when reasonable arguments fail to be decisive. All governmental decisions should use this process to determine what societal activities the government will allow or restrict, and which controls will suffice. To require that citizens create a political movement to correct every flaw in the government is a heavy burden on any individual and a tactic used by organizations to stifle and frustrate change and dissent.

3. The agents of the government are part of its institution or contracted

The government ought to provide only those essential services that individuals may not be able to provide for themselves or business cannot provide in a fair, effective, or profitable manner. It is necessary to consider the responsibilities of government and the effectiveness, cost, and efficiency of outsourcing a service for the government and having the government perform the service directly. Would it be more appropriate to maintain a government agency or contract for the service on a temporary basis? One must address these considerations:

- Cost—with proper oversight, the government is more able to contain costs than is a contracted agent, because private companies exist to make a profit. Without proper oversight as currently exists, cost overruns are a regular occurrence. However, agencies need to justify their existence periodically to reduce unnecessary expenses.
- The ability to adapt to change—is more easily achievable through a contractor because the government may choose a contractor with the requisite skill set rather than training a new workforce and creating a new system within the bureaucracy.
- Efficiency—favors neither, as it is achievable by both.
- Ability to prevent corruption—favors the government with proper oversight, because the governmental agencies are part of an institution that receives constant attention by the media, the public, and officials.
- Inappropriate responses to political pressure—favor the government with proper oversight (as with the ability to prevent corruption above).

In conclusion, the government should only use private contractors to provide government services when the need to adapt services to ever-changing circumstances outweighs the other considerations noted above.

The part of the bureaucracy that ought to be permanent includes those aspects of government that are critical to its functions. As stated earlier, those functions, in the broadest sense, are limited to protective services not performable by private enterprise. Permanent government services are:

- National defense –This is the most prominent government agency, which protects the nation and its citizens from forces outside the country.
- Insurance (health, life, disability, property, and liability) – This protects citizens from catastrophic events for which there is no likely preparation.

Business private insurers cannot effectively deal with excessive claims, as accompany natural disasters; they must overcharge the insured individual to maintain the necessary assets and to acquire profits. When the government assumes these roles, people will need to pay a lower premium but assume more responsibility for insuring their own lives and property. Those people who chose not to insure themselves will not get more services from the government than what they have insured for themselves to get. This relieves the government of responsibility for such entities as disaster loans or aid because the government has informed the people about the risks and it then becomes the peoples' responsibility to prepare for the consequences themselves by contracting insurance services individually.

- Police and law enforcement – This protects the citizens from those people who try to take advantage of others for their own personal gain or sadistic pleasure. The government, in conjunction with cooperative, observant citizens should work to prevent such occurrences or apprehend such perpetrators.
- Education – This protects citizens from ignorance and gives them the intellectual resources to make appropriate choices and achieve fulfillment in their lives. The basic curriculum must focus on preparing people to achieve these goals and not with extraneous requirements impeding the achievement of these primary goals. An advanced curriculum should be available to those who have demonstrated competence and interest in its pursuit. The basic curriculum includes:
 - Health – hygiene, nutrition, exercise, attitude of cooperation, parenting and coping skills.

- Vocation – be productive, self-sustaining, take pride and pleasure in the work done; develop computation and communication skills for work and managing one's assets.
- Housing – clean and maintain one's abode.
- Citizenship – learn what responsibilities citizenship implies, what resources are available from the government, how the government functions, and finally, civility. Civility includes respect and concern for other people as well as the environment as developed through historical, cultural, and scientific examples.
- Healthcare – Using computerized expert systems for diagnosis, treatment, and management of all records the single payer – the government – system of insurance provides quality assurance to include procedures to correct the deficiencies of the system.
- Resource allocation – when issues arise that are not being appropriately addressed by the free market, through whatever mechanisms deemed necessary, the government will work to attain better use of land and other resources that are in the national interest (as defined previously on page 16)
- Pollution control – this is actually a subset of resource allocation because pollution of the air, land, and water affect those resources.

4. The role of bureaucracy

The bureaucracy must control itself, as it is responsible for maintaining the status quo and must deal with the constantly recurring issues of governance in an efficient and ever improving manner. In order for the government to fulfill the varying obligations to its citizens, it must be responsive and adaptable within the

constraints established by its permanent agencies. However, government should also be able to quickly to create temporary agencies when the need arises.

Agencies should have policies and an organization that are as simple as possible so that the managers within each agency can easily understand and explain the rationale behind all policies and procedures. Yet, the agencies must be comprehensive enough to fulfill their mandates effectively. Furthermore, agency employees should thoroughly understand the bureaucratic interrelations that exist and be able to lead citizens through the bureaucracy efficiently. Most importantly, agencies should have mechanisms to reformulate policies, procedures, and bureaucratic interrelationships in order to respond to the varying needs of the government and its citizens, as well as, adapt the agencies to become more efficient and cost effective.

Agencies ought to have workers and officials who have the requisite expertise or facility in their particular disciplines to provide technical assistance in resolving unfamiliar problems. These people must be able to explain to dissatisfied, rational citizens why the government's policies are in the nation's best interest or be competent enough to issue suggestions for bureaucratic and policy changes that will improve governance in response to such citizen's complaints.

In summary, optimally functioning government agencies must:

- Constantly work toward Improving their efficiency
- Respond to citizen complaints and needs: This will reduce citizen frustration and encourage lawful behavior that is a manifestation of that frustration.
- Correct bureaucratic errors and faulty procedures in response to legitimate citizen criticisms. When there is a need to solve novel problems or the

bureaucracy is unresponsive to citizen needs, the bureaucracy is responsible for working to correct these problems.

In poorly designed bureaucratic systems, when a governmental agency encounters a novel problem, the bureaucracy, typically is unable to determine exactly which agency is responsible for resolving the problem. If multiple agencies have jurisdiction they may not coordinate their actions. The result is that officials refer the affected citizen or problem from one agency to another without ever solving the problem. A well-designed bureaucracy will plan for these inevitable problems with super agents who will have the authority to resolve these issues on their own and establish a temporary course of action until a relevant policy is developed and institutionalized.

To function optimally, the government must respond to the ever-changing needs of the country by using policies and procedures that bureaucrats can perform in a competent and caring manner to serve the needs of all its citizens. A positive interaction of a citizenry with its government will allow the average citizen to feel a sense of power and responsibility toward the country. This is in contrast to the current system where the bureaucracy suffers with inertia, gross mismanagement, and even corruption.

5. Qualifications of employees

Employees must thoroughly understand the bureaucratic system. This includes activities within their agency and interactions between agencies. Their goal is to be able to lead citizens through the bureaucracy seamlessly. Qualifications of the agents depend on their experience and education in order to insure their comprehension of the system goals. Where it is practical, examinations and licensing procedures should include the meeting of measurable criteria for the expected skills and knowledge needed for the work and an evaluation of the requisite quality of these agents.

Government employees fall into three broad categories: maintainers, maintenance innovators, and scholars. A brief description of each follows. Maintainers are the bureaucrats that respond to the needs of the citizens or direct the citizens to the appropriate agency. Their work allows the government to function efficiently and expeditiously.

- They require a high school education or equivalent.
- They require specific training from the government.
- Training includes remediation and updating when necessary as determined through periodic testing and performance review, correcting any identified incompetence.
- These individuals must have integrity, a cooperative attitude, and a true sense of personal accountability.

Maintenance innovators will supervise and evaluate the competence of the maintainers, legislators, and all other elected and appointed officials. They will enforce the rules and insure the quality of government in general.

- They require a college education.
- They would also require specific training from government, experience, and academic work that reflects knowledge useful to their areas of supervision.
- Training includes remediation and updating when necessary as determined through periodic testing and performance review, correcting any identified incompetence.

- In addition to possessing integrity, a cooperative attitude, and a sense of personal accountability, they must be competent managers. Such managers need intelligence and organizational skills that allow them to function efficiently and fairly.

Scholars are responsible for creating the standards of knowledge and competence used to test and monitor the actions of maintainers and maintenance innovators.

- It is from this group that the government will select candidates to fill high-level positions.
- They will have advanced training or experience in their disciplines and should typically have the status of experts in those areas.
- It would be typical that these individuals should be researchers in their specific disciplines or have made notable contributions in related fields.

6. The role of representatives in government

Government should allow citizens to follow the important pursuits of their own lives without encumbering them with an obligation to be expert in all areas of politics and legislation. When voters designate an individual to represent them through the electoral process, they are not selecting an individual to act simply as their proxy. Rather, they are selecting representatives who, because of their abilities of reason and rational discourse will be likely to achieve a government based on knowledge, evidence, and reason, which reflects the nation's interests. Thus, citizens will be relieved of the need to inform themselves continually about the details of governing the country, as this is the job of the representative.

Chapter 9: The Organization of Government

Government should have an organization that bases its operation on such factors as efficiency in its actions regarding cost and service, appropriateness of its purpose that it be consistent with government obligations, and it includes a bureaucracy that has oversight for abuses, incompetence, and waste in the transaction of its business. There needs to be mechanisms for change in order to respond to new political, environmental, and technological circumstances that may dictate an unanticipated governmental response. Finally, the government ought to remain as simple as possible so that people within government can easily understand its operation and purposes so that they may recognize the need for changes and that these needs are obvious and readily achievable.

1. Government functions

What in principle should be the functions of government?

The government ought to devise systems to protect the country and its citizens from external and internal forces of injury. The government needs three mechanisms to achieve this protection. The first mechanism is a system of surveillance to detect a possible threat. The second mechanism is an organization that interprets the surveillance data to distinguish between real threats and mere distractions. The third mechanism consists of appropriately allocating resources as a response to the threat.

The protection needed to counteract threats from other countries would include human and automated surveillance. The intelligence agencies would interpret the information obtained from the surveillance sources. The Executive branch of government would apply an action plan, which might be diplomatic, military, or include other countries.

The protection needed to counteract threats from diseases would include a public health system that provides preventive measures, diagnoses disease, monitors disease, and provides treatment. This level of response requires coordination of multiple agencies and a potent emergency response system.

The protections needed to counteract threats from other citizens whose lawless behavior may be a manifestation of mental illness would consist of elements that are already in the public health system. Initially, these activities require identification and treatment of all existing cases of mental illness. However, over time, only newly detected cases would require an intense use of resources.

The protection needed to counteract threats from one's own ignorance presents more of a quandary because elements of personal choice are involved. Because the primary purpose of government is to protect the individual, the government ought to permit the individual maximum access to self-expression. However, with this right comes the responsibility of suffering any untoward consequences that result from one's own ignorance. To reduce the likelihood of excessive episodes of ignorant behavior, a vast system of free public education should provide the vehicle for individuals to learn constructive mechanisms to satisfy their needs. Access to this education is a right, but one must earn the privilege to continue with its use, beyond a basic curriculum, through academic performance and cooperative behavior.

The protection needed to counteract the threats from natural disasters would include the scientific study of nature that would allow the anticipation of predictable events. Government insurance, purchased for coverage desired, would provide the only monetary protection for the damage of individual assets. This is another example of individuals assuming responsibility for the consequences of their decisions, should they decide not to insure or protect themselves.

The government has a responsibility to protect, monitor, and improve the functioning of free and fair markets for the allocation of goods and resources so that the power of individual choice drives the market. Individual businesses as well as consumers benefit in such markets because the government removes the unscrupulous participants from these markets.

The public must clearly understand their rights, privileges, and responsibilities in the context of what the government provides. To this end, the government is responsible for educating the populace on continuing bases through the educational system, the media, and periodic visits in the health care system. Through this educational process, the knowledge needed for optimal functioning of each citizen is possible through personal interactions with the government throughout one's life.

2. What principles should guide government funding?

Those people, who make the most use of government services or who, through their behaviors, make certain government programs necessary, or who benefit by the existence of government, should be most responsible for paying the cost to the government. To meet the stated purposes of government, it is necessary to provide a certain amount of financial resources to the government. The assignment of each citizen's share of this funding should include factors relating to the government requirements, the citizen's needs, the value to the citizen of government assets, and the benefits derived by the citizen for the role played by the government.

Those people who abuse others through their choice of behaviors should be responsible for paying for the cost of their actions. Specifically, criminals and those filing frivolous lawsuits should pay all costs associated with those lawsuits. They should pay for the costs incurred by other people for their loss of time,

hiring of help, restitution, and all other costs suffered by the victim. They should pay fines for their illegal activity and lose all assets acquired because of the illegal activity. Criminals will save themselves money by pleading guilty to their crimes; but they will still pay for the cost of their imprisonment and restitution.

Those people who are indifferent to saving their money to prepare for retirement or emergencies or who value it so little that they are willing to lose it by gambling or through non-essential spending, should have these activities taxed. This taxation will have them pay more in taxes than mere consumers of food or enduring products will. Those who partake in risky behaviors like skiing, smoking, drug taking, or rock-climbing, that require competence in their decision making should pay fees that will compensate the government for the oversight needed to monitor these activities and have healthcare premiums increased based on noncompliant or risky behaviors.

Finally, people making large incomes are able to do this because of the privilege of their particular environment, which the government sustains through its regulatory agencies. Therefore, this government ought to tax those incomes in the top 50% - all above average – to pay for the maintenance of this earning environment at some rate of 10% on all income above the 50% level.

One proposed priority list, which allows the government to assess the appropriateness of individual expenditures for themselves and their family, would follow

- Education, both formal and informal – benefit to society as a useful resource and readily employable
- Health care and maintenance through healthful behaviors – reduces the healthcare burden on society

- Saving and investing for retirement – reduces reliance on society to provide support
- Efforts to acquire wealth – this act may employ other workers and allows one to become financially self-sufficient
- Activities for entertainment or amusement that do not readily lead to satisfying any of the above requirements – the individual is the sole beneficiary

Because of these priorities, the government should impose use taxes first on all luxury services, non-essential activities, and products at varying rates determined by factors such as effects on one's health, impact to the environment, and the cost to the government for policing the production and use of the product.

Government should use licensing fees for funding the bureaucracy needed to administer the licensing procedures and to police its enforcement. Registration fees should fund agencies required to register products that have no critical use in society but may have harmful consequences when in use. For example, cars and guns have uses that expose the public to grave risks when people use them in a reckless, careless, or ignorant manner.

Those agencies of government, which are responsible for the quality of life and financial opportunity that accompany it should receive funding in proportionate amounts from those people benefitting from it as reflected by their incomes.

These agencies are Defense, Police, Fire, Education, Research, Welfare – not used to give money it only directs people toward useful labor opportunities, and the maintenance of Free Fair Markets.

3. Government oversight

In general, government should adapt to the many changes that occur in society, correct its errors, and admit wrongdoing. These improving and self-correcting behaviors are necessary for the optimal functioning of a bureaucracy.

Government should be able to make changes in the way it responds to problems so that it may eliminate gross inefficiencies that anyone may observe. Flagrant inefficiencies include improper allocation of resources and both over- and under-utilization of services. Government ought to be able to correct errors in procedures and information as proposed by any source, especially in response to citizen complaints. This prevents citizens from feeling defeated, deceived, or deprived of meaningful information when they or the government has a problem that needs a governmental solution.

Government ought to be big enough to service all of its constituents with a defined set of functional priorities, yet small enough to be efficient and able to respond to change. Government ought to be able to admit wrongdoing to the public and identify the source of the observed misconduct so that corrective action occurs by both identifying and rehabilitating the responsible party.

All of the above is achievable if government agencies use an integrated information system that records all of its actions and has reviewers observing the performance of all employees. When errors become apparent, the records will expose the culpable people and procedural revisions or personnel reeducation may occur.

4. Unitary system of government

A centralized model may not have succeeded in the past because of the inadequate use or availability of technology. Prior to the assimilation of 1990's technology, communication that required information and analysis would slow the response initiated by the highest levels of government from being deployed to

citizens in need, thus motivating the need for many levels of bureaucracy. Modern communications technology has solved this problem, eliminating the barrier to centralization.

A unitary system of government offers several advantages over other distributions of power. A unitary system of government, which is national in design, would allow for a vast reduction in the size of government by eliminating the overlapping responsibilities of the federal, state, county, and local jurisdictions. All of government would then operate based on one common set of rules. These changes would allow the government to become smaller and more efficient. A unitary system of government provides a singular authority, thus promoting a single allegiance for citizens rather than one with diluting and confusing allegiances to states or local entities. An obligation to a single government will minimize citizen confusion about jurisdictions, laws, and their enforcement. A single source will issue the obligations, responsibilities, and information, allowing all information and procedures to be uniform. Citizens who seek aid will need to apply to a single source only. All of the above factors allow for the elimination of duplicate bureaucracies, which reduces confusion. The result is a cohesive system that is smaller, simpler, and more efficient than multiple levels of government in states, counties, regions, and cities.

5. Components of government

By limiting government to the following seven components, it will be complete while remaining simple.

Component one– The rules

The rules are the written guides for behavior, which people and government follow. It describes the form of government and the principles under which it operates. Included are the responsibilities and obligations required of the

government and all individuals as well as the interactions permitted with the government that will allow citizens to achieve their own personal goals. Also delineated, are the individual behaviors prohibited and the standards by which acceptable behaviors are determined. Finally, the rules list the restrictions and obligations of the government as well as its procedures and jurisdictions.

Component two – The rule makers

Designated government agents make and change the rules in response to the needs of society. Legislators, responding to the input of citizen-critics and public officials, make use of the input of scholars to produce rules that correct problems without being contradictory or effect needed changes for reasons of efficiency. Executors of the laws may also make rules that are of a temporary nature only under emergency conditions when the legislature is unable to act quickly enough and are limited to specific applications. The legislature ought to be able to cancel these rules easily and these rules should be of short duration.

Component three –The enforcers

The people, who enforce the rules, prevent and identify foreign and domestic malefactors from disrupting the lives of law-abiding citizens in the society. The role of laws and law enforcement is not to find people who are willing to suffer a punishment for the crimes that they commit, but to prevent criminals from committing crimes in the first place or in the future. The laws that are in place must be both enforceable and enforced.

Component four – The arbitrators

The people, who arbitrate the rules, determine for society what rules shall have priority over other rules when not currently specified. Problems not addressed by the existing rules would be one reason to initiate changes through the legislature.

Component five –The ambassadors to outside entities

These people represent the government and act in the interest of the country primarily in foreign affairs. Their role in domestic affairs is limited to all issues not anticipated or recognized through existing law, agencies, or other governmental entities. These ambassadors are members of the executive branch of government and their appointees may act in this capacity on their behalf.

Component six –The internal ambassadors to its citizens

These ambassadors explain the rules, and ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to learn their rights, privileges, and responsibilities in addition to the unacceptable behaviors to avoid. Other government agents, as part of their public interactions, engage in discussions that will extend to these issues. Additionally, teachers expose their students to this material as part of the school curriculum. Individual citizens, as part of good citizenship, will encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate behaviors of other people. Rights, privileges, and responsibilities change over time, so that this component allows for life-long interaction of the government with its citizens. This contact will encourage citizens to provide input to the process of government.

Component seven –The scholars

These are the people, who study in a scholarly fashion, create new knowledge, expertise, and motivate rule changes through government channels. Because knowledge is the most prominent value of the government, the growth and dissemination of this knowledge is the responsibility of the government.

Based on knowledge and reasoning, these seven components completely identify a bureaucracy that is necessary for a *functional democracy*.

6. Agents of change

The agents of change within the government must act to insure that it is self-correcting and constantly improving. These agents act outside and within each bureaucracy even though the goal of each bureaucracy is to perform its prescribed functions. These agents continually make efforts to revise procedures in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their organization and integrate its performance within the entire governmental organization.

The most effective agents of change are the elected officials in the legislative branch. They have an obligation to respond to their constituent's views, problems, and proposed solutions by producing legislation that will reflect an influence, solve a problem, or incorporate the useful ideas contributed by their constituents. These officials also are obliged to defend their inaction when they fail to act on behalf of a constituent proposal. Although problems originate at a local level, their solution should consider the impact on the nation as a whole. Gone should be the days of self-serving "pork barrel projects." Furthermore, these agents are responsible for correcting the rules of government that have led to faulty interpretations by the executive and judicial branches of government.

7. Agents of status quo

Agents of the status quo are to be responsive to the needs of individuals using existing procedures. For example, citizens who might believe that they have a legitimate cause to disrupt the system when indeed they do not are candidates for counseling. These agents will help to maintain the system of government and improve the access of individuals to it. By controlling those people who would violate the rights and liberties of others, the government allows liberty for all while maintaining individual rights.

The government ought to control individual behaviors through the judicious application of rules, taxes, and fees. When these fail, violators should be isolated and rehabilitated no matter how minor the infraction. Once in prison, or other

suitably confining venue, the convict will be educated in the areas of citizenship, cooperation, coping skills, computation, and communication; or re-educated and tested for privileges that they might have abused if that were the crime. The convict will also be able to acquire the knowledge and skills required for employment if these were lacking and receive the necessary education to function independently in society. Through a process of testing, the convict must demonstrate competence in all of the above areas before the prison releases them into free society. Mental health professionals ought to treat all prisoners for mental illness and antisocial behaviors. Prisoners ought to pay for their confinement and restitution for the economic losses of the victims.

The rules of governance contained in the constitution, laws, and regulations ought to contain some of the rationale motivating their existence. Periodic reviewers of these rules may then have a context in which to evaluate them in the future in order to recommend appropriate revisions or amendments.

The government ought to monitor all activities in public places. This will facilitate the enforcement of the nation's rules by the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators of crimes. Continuous surveillance in public places will allow the law-abiding individuals the peace of mind needed to focus their energies on the activities that they wish to pursue, without needing to devote their energies unnecessarily with a constant vigilance to protect themselves and their property. Because of this oversight, people will be more productive and will be better able to enjoy their lives. People will not lose any rights by public surveillance because any activity observed is to remain private unless there is a crime committed. The government will bestow the most severe consequences upon anyone publicizing any personal information that the government does not specifically designate as needed for a criminal investigation.

The government ought to contribute to the process of enforcing the rules among nations through participation in international organizations using commerce, diplomacy, aid, and military action. It would be even more desirable to anticipate destructive natural or political events rather than wait until there is a catastrophe before responding.

The government ought to have a judiciary that interprets the rules as they affect two or more interested parties so that there are predictable results based on a consistent application of the priority of the rules. Political process must have a limited role in selecting judges because competence not ideology must motivate the selection process. The government procedures should restrict the choices of judges to the ranks of scholars.

The government ought to possess an executive branch, which is responsible for the daily activities of prioritizing both national and international actions through the allocation of its resources, including the police and military. The political process affects a small proportion of the executive branch because there are elections only for the chief executive and assistant while appointments fill only the highest level of bureaucracy with the remaining positions filled by permanent, merit based employees.

The government ought to have a limited number of permanent agencies, which officials may link temporarily through a super agency when there is a need to respond to a nonrecurring problem. When there are natural disasters such as hurricanes or public health emergencies such as pandemics a super agency would likely form from existing personnel.

8. How should government officials get their positions?

Elections give the populace a feeling of involvement with the government.

Therefore, those particular positions in government responsible primarily for creating the rules and executing those rules need to respond to the desires of the people electing them.

The process of electing officials ought to involve an exchange of knowledge and values among the voters and the candidates. The election process should proceed quickly and efficiently with a minimum of disruption to the functions of government and everyday commerce.

In general, high-level government officials are appointed and others who function to maintain the status quo must pass a merit based selection process. Citizens will elect those officials who are agents of change and who create policy. Legislators should represent their constituents by working to remediate problems through improved laws and constitutional emendations that will serve society. Members of the Executive branch should flexibly respond to the immediate needs of the country, and be able to reprioritize the allocation of resources in order to anticipate crises.

Elected officials ought to make appointments for the specific purpose of having well qualified people serve the country. Their duty is to produce a well functioning government that represents the directives of their superiors within the rules of governance.

Judges shall have no political responsibility. Judges ought to be competent at interpreting the rules and have the ability to express themselves clearly.

Chapter 10: Philosophy Summary

Key points of this government philosophy are:

- Government makes its policy decisions based on reason and evidence and must defend those decisions using the same; the political process is the last resort when equally qualified positions compete.
- The government's primary role is to protect its citizens through the formation of agencies with such specific responsibilities and through the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. This role will determine the government's priorities in its policy formation.
- Government is also responsible for protecting its citizens by providing those services that citizens cannot reasonably provide for themselves, such as policing the market place to make it fair and as free as possible without allow deceptive actions to occur.
- People are the resource for knowledge and therein lay their value to the government and the society. This is not the same for individual assessments of value, as individuals ought to decide for themselves what is valuable.
- People have rights, responsibilities, and privileges that allow for the cultivation and creation of new ideas and knowledge. Other activities are neither encouraged nor discouraged and government leaves it to the free fair markets to establish them.
- People shall learn that with any action there are consequences. If people choose to be ignorant after receiving the minimum education to allow them to function in society the government will not be responsible for the

consequences they suffer other than to provide further education, requested employment, and insurance resources that the individual may use to meet their own needs. Under only the most limited circumstances ought the government to be more concerned about individuals than the individuals care for themselves.

In summary, this government has one responsibility, the protection of its citizens. This is consistent with the preamble to our current Constitution, which the congress created to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty...” These goals are achievable through the actions of the court system, the police departments, the military, and other agents that affect commerce, land use, pollution control, and still others that focus on the common good including personal freedom. In reality, these are all forms of protection. Protection from injustice, protection from domestic disturbances, protection from foreign invasion, protection to pursue employment and commercial interests, and the freedom to enjoy life as one desires it.

Government accomplishes this protection is by funding, maintaining, and developing those institutions that facilitate these purposes and by reconstructing or dismantling those institutions which do not or do it poorly. The government needs to provide at least eight institutions in order to meet its obligations to protect its citizens.

1. Democratic elections – protect against continuing administrative failures in establishing priorities for the country.
2. Military forces – protect against foreign threats and help the country recover from natural disasters.

3. Educational institutions – protect each citizen from the threats posed by their own ignorance and provide a source of scholars and experts to develop solutions to problems that affect the national interest.
4. National police – protect residents from domestic criminal activities.
5. Insurance – protects individuals who wish it, protection from financial burdens that may accompany catastrophic events that affect life, health, property, and liability. This replaces the need for government disaster relief and loans in most cases.
6. Healthcare – protects individuals and society from the damage caused by mental and physical illness and allows for the quick identification of epidemics and terroristic attacks.
7. Environmental monitoring – protects individuals from the deleterious exposure to sound, electromagnetic radiation, particles, chemicals and other noxious agents in the environment.
8. Market surveillance – keeps the markets free and fair by protecting consumers and businesses from fraud in the market, preventing punitive pricing tactics by businesses to keep competitors out of the market, and work to adjust inflation in accord with good economic principles.

These actions are the responsibility of government when not achievable through application of the marketplace.

Chapter 11: Criticisms of Our Current System of Government

What follows are some comments and criticisms about the current Constitution and our current laws.

1. Introduction

Historically the only changes made to the Constitution have come through the addition of amendments, not the revision or elimination of amendments. Any problems with the Constitution still exist. The problems remain while the correction process produces amendments that supersede the Constitutional problems. This leads to a document that is longer than necessary and adds to the confusion of interpreting it. This confusion compounds the problems that already existed in the original document as far back as the Bill of Rights. One example to which I refer is the gross misinterpretation of Amendment 2 and its reference to the right of an individual to bear arms. I will address this issue as well as analyze some aspects of our laws and government.

2. Article one

The principles of representative government apply to qualified individuals. However, the qualifications are age based rather than competence based.

The Senate has election provisions that elect 1/3 of the body every 2 years. This is a useful strategy to ensure that 2/3 of the body has experienced legislators after each election.

Section 8 of Article 1 refers to two issues that I will discuss.

Regarding copyrights and patents, the Constitution makes this reference. "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries," Rather than having such designations as copyrights, patent, and intellectual property rights, permit all products to be part of the public domain. (The misuse of trademarks would be fraud and thus not relevant to the current discussion). This will motivate creators interested in financial gain to be attracted to companies that are first rate in production, sales, marketing, and efficiency. By initiating a new product with this company, they are capable of maintaining a competitive edge by developing a market before others can develop the same product. This will force markets to be competitive and price these products low enough to keep competitors out of the market, thus keeping it efficient. The patent process is long and complicated. It may discourage inventors from entering the markets with their product because of the patenting process itself. There are also many products, which have patents and yet no one produced them. What purpose did the patent serve there? Patenting may be restricting the flow of products to the market rather than leading to useful new products.

Another source of innovation, besides that of individual inventors, would occur in the laboratories and educational institutions funded by the government. Those scholars involved in this research will be the source for such products as pharmaceuticals, weapons, communications, and other high-cost national interest products that are unlikely to result from the efforts of individuals or organizations motivated by profit. The products resulting from this research would be available to businesses to produce for their own profit.

Although some may think that the design of a product entitles the inventor to superior rights, one must recognize the substantial impact of material procurement, design of the mass production process, product distribution, inventory control, marketing, and the sale of the product. All of these factors

determine the profitability of a product. To assign patent rights only for the design ignores the importance of these other factors, as well as, restricts free trade. Let the market decide the profitability outcome of a product, not government restrictions. The government will still protect inventors who have entered into contractual agreements with a company to produce their product. In this case the agreed upon compensation becomes a matter of contractual obligation rather than a case of patent infringement. Once the product is available to the public, other companies may produce it without compensation to the inventor, because the product becomes part of the public domain once it becomes commercially available.

Regarding the Militia, the Constitution makes this reference.

“The Congress shall have Power ... To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions:

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers. And the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;”

One should note that with respect to the reference in Amendment 2 of the Constitution, the militia has become what one now calls the National Guard.

3. Article two

The election procedure for the President and Vice-president of the United States involves the Electoral College, a vestige of the existence of states as the primary source of political authority. The objective may have been to dilute the impact of incompetent voters. If procedures were in place to insure voter competence then

the process could be simpler. In addition, the adoption of Approval voting or some such system of improved electoral process would improve election results. Additionally, because of constraints on travel, communication, and voting procedures at the time of the Constitution's framing, the Electoral College process was the most expedient. Today, advances in technology make these concerns moot.

Article 2 allows the President to grant reprieves and pardons, acts that negate the role of the Justice system. The appropriate response to justice that is so inept as to produce results worthy of such disregard is to correct the justice system. The appointment of judges should reside within the judicial system itself, where judicial competence resides, not the political system.

Removal from office through the impeachment process should include all crimes, not just the crimes of treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors. The impeachment proceedings should occur without the presence of those accused in order to allow them to function in their elected capacities. Because the punishment for conviction is merely removal from office, any criminal prosecution should occur after the removal from office.

4. Article three

Judicial powers of the Supreme Court should include the responsibility to select judges for the lower courts. Experienced judges are better able to assess the requisite competence of candidates than is the Executive.

Juries should only consist of judges, which will reduce the number of tainted verdicts that juries currently produce because of their bias or ignorance. Guilty pleas should be encouraged to reduce the need for trials.

5. Article five

This article describes procedures for amending the Constitution. What should be included is a procedure for revising the Constitution. When people misunderstand an Amendment, it should cause a revision, or Congress ought to eliminate it to accommodate changes that need to reflect the changes in the language and conditions of our society. This process should occur regularly to reduce the enlargement of an endlessly convoluted document.

6. Article six

This article states that no religious test is required to serve in any office or public trust. The oath of office continually violates this directive with its reference “to god” by imposing a religious test for one’s belief in god. The government should not allow the application of any religious tests of this sort and should not sponsor any prayers to impose an act of hypocrisy on the nonreligious.

7. Amendment two

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” This means that people have the right to keep and bear arms for maintaining a well-regulated militia. A militia is defined through Section 8 of Article 1 – “To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers. And the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;” – as that well disciplined body controlled by each state. Therefore, only those citizens in the militia are entitled to the right to arm themselves. These people are in the modern day militia called the National Guard. Although there is no right to bear arms outside of service in the National Guard, citizens may earn the privilege to bear arms.

8. Amendment five

No person “shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself” This is a barrier to the truth. The primary role of the courts should be to ascertain the truth behind any criminal act. From this information, the panel of experts may determine the culpability of the parties involved.

9. Amendment twenty-two

Restricts the terms a president may serve in office to two. Only incompetence should disqualify elected officials from serving again. Their experience is too valuable to lose by imposing term restrictions. Concern over corruption or other problems associated with an enduring office holder ignores the options available to address these issues through processes of oversight.

10. Amendment twenty-six

This amendment extends the right to vote to 18 year olds. The privilege to vote should relate to some testable measure of competence, not age. All privileges should relate to competence, not age.

11. Laws

Laws currently have unnecessary redundancy in order to allow punishments to fit the crime. There are laws against rape, murder, assault, etc. If a crime is serious enough to have a law prohibiting it then the punishment should reflect that. Thus, all crimes should result in imprisonment. Limit the description of crimes to a single statement, such as violation of civil rights. Making a punishment fit the crime only exposes those individuals who are willing to suffer the amount of the punishment for the crime they commit. The real purpose of government is to identify people who are criminals and remove them from society until they are able to function in a socially acceptable way.

Some laws should specify the ranges of acceptable behavior. For example, currently speed limits give a single value, when in any real application there can be a range used by law enforcement. Post an upper and lower speed limit so people can operate legally in a more flexible and realistic manner.