

The Fix That No One Dares Mention

Craig J. Cantoni

The United States of America isn't bereft of ideas to supposedly fix what ails it: raise taxes or cut spending; raise the debt limit or live within its means; reform Medicare or expand free medical care; invest in public education or offer choice in education; invest in green energy or drill for oil; invade other countries or defend the nation's shores; pray to God in school or pray to the state in school; salute the flag or burn the flag; vote Democrat or vote Republican; watch CNBC or watch Fox News; and be fixated on Lady Gaga or on lewd text messages sent by prominent politicians.

None of these distractions will fix the country. They won't fix it because they don't address the root problem.

The root problem is theft. Theft has become the main activity of the U.S. government (and state governments). Instead of taking some money from all people to pay for the few public goods and services that cannot be provided by free markets and charities, the government now takes a lot of money from a minority of people for the unlimited benefit of a majority of people.

This can't end in anything but bankruptcy.

The list of larcenies would run for more than 50 pages. Examples include crop subsidies given to farmers, subsidies of every description given to rent-seeking corporations (such as General Electric), school lunches given to obese children, handouts beyond imagination given to able-bodied and able-minded slackers, rich pensions given to avaricious public employees, and free medical care given to liars who say they can't afford medical care as they drive expensive cars, gorge on unhealthy food, and mortgage their futures to buy every new gizmo and gadget.

All of this theft has created a feeding frenzy, in which the objective is to steal from your neighbor before he steals from you. It's as if we're all swimming in shark-infested waters with bloody hams tied to our backs.

The absurd justifications and rationalizations for eating our neighbors insult whatever intelligence and morals are left in the nation. The feeders speak of social justice, fairness, compassion, and, especially, the children, while they devour their neighbors' hams. And then media, which never had much intelligence or morals, run story after story sympathetic to the feeders instead of their victims.

University professors teach a similar slant to college students, as they enjoy their tenured positions that depend on government grants, student indebtedness, and serf-like graduate assistants who do the work of the pampered professoriate for little pay. Like their fellow academic in the

White House, these feeders despise the bourgeoisie, are steeped in leftist cant, and want to destroy what is left of the market economy that funds their privileged positions.

It's no surprise, then, to hear students sniveling and demonstrating about the unfairness of tuition increases at state colleges. Because no one has told them where money comes from, and because they have grown up in a kleptomaniac nation, it doesn't dawn on them that much of their education is paid in taxes by workers who don't attend college and who earn less than the students they subsidize will earn after graduation. Nor does it dawn on reporters, who also didn't learn much in college, to ask the whining students about the fairness of taking from the earnings of blue-collar workers.

One has to watch voyeuristic shows like "Judge Judy" or "Judge Joe Brown" instead of the mainstream news to know what many of the feeders are like. Ironically, such shows are a big hit with the feeders themselves, probably because they know the truth.

The Double Theft of Social Security and Medicare

After making phony actuarial assumptions about the programs, the government committed the first theft by confiscating people's lifetime FICA payments—which were inadequate to pay the promised benefits in retirement—and spending the payments on other things. It is now committing the second theft by sending the bills for its lies and larceny to future generations.

The theft is based on lies. Annual Social Security taxes per person are eight times higher in constant dollars than the maximum limit that the government promised would never be exceeded when President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935. The lies have never ceased. For example, in 2001 the government projected that in 2009, it would collect 13.2% more in payroll taxes than needed to cover the costs of the program. The actual figure turned out to be 0.5%.

It's a little-known fact that a major cause of the rapid rise in Social Security spending is Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for supposed disabilities. SSI was added to Social Security in 1956.

Between 1965 and 2009, the U.S. population grew by 54%. During the same period, the number of people receiving disability benefits increased by 458%.

I must've been comatose during the 44 years this was happening, because I can't remember any headline news stories on the subject, or any investigative reports on the thousands of

Americans who defraud the SSI program (and other parts of the welfare/entitlement system), or any warnings that the U.S. was headed for bankruptcy because of the escalating costs.

One of the fraud artists was a psychology aide who worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He received \$33,000 in fraudulent SSI payments for a feigned disability. Instead of prosecuting and imprisoning him, the Social Security Administration (SSA) developed an interest-free repayment plan in which he had to reimburse the agency \$20 per month.¹ At that rate, it will take more than 130 years to repay the stolen loot.

SSI and SSA sound like abbreviations from the Third Reich. Actually, they have more in common with the Marxism of the former Soviet Union: From each according to his industriousness, and to each according to his bloodsucking.

Through the proboscis of SSI, some voters engage in parasitism on the body politic. There are now more voters who engage in some sort of parasitism than there are voters who do not. In other words, the bloodsuckers outnumber their hosts.

The judicial system appears to be on the side of the SSI leeches. Some judges who hear appeals from people whose disability claims have been denied overrule more than 90% of the denials. These cases can be a bonanza for lawyers, such as the one who advertises his services on the website mrsocialsecurity.com, who can earn as much as \$6,000 representing one supposedly disabled person in court.²

In a halfhearted investigation of SSI fraud by the Social Security Administration that compared motor vehicle records in 12 states to the roster of SSI recipients in those states, it was discovered that 62,000 individuals deemed eligible for SSI had obtained, or applied for, a commercial driver's license.¹ Obviously, they weren't too disabled to work if they could drive a commercial vehicle.

The SSA didn't follow up on these leads, but the Government Accountability Office selected a sample of 20 of the 62,000 people for further investigation.¹ It was found that one of the 20 received improper Social Security disability benefits while simultaneously working for the Social Security Administration as a legal secretary. Another received \$108,000 in improper disability benefits while working as a security screener for the Transportation Safety Administration. As of 2010, this person was living in a house listed for sale at \$1.8 million. (Eligibility for SSI is based on income, not assets.) Because disability payment levels are tied to lifetime earnings, 10 of the 20 received disability benefit increases as a result of receiving raises in the very jobs that made them ineligible for disability benefits. In one case, a U.S. Postal Service worker received three separate benefit increases over four years due to raises he received on his USPS job.

As these findings suggest, government employees are experts at gaming the system and knowing their "rights" under labor and equal opportunity laws. And as seen recently in Wisconsin and Greece, they are the first to take to the streets when their hosts tire of being bled. Their hosts, however, are too exhausted to take to the streets against the bloodsuckers.

Average citizens can also become skilled at exploiting the system. One of the many I have known, on SSI for a supposed

bad knee, ran a cash-only child care business out of her home, while an unused motorized wheelchair costing thousands of taxpayer dollars was collecting dust in her carport. Her daughter drove a big, new, expensive pickup truck with chrome wheels. She had extorted a huge settlement from her employer on a bogus sexual harassment claim.

Seeds of Destruction

The nation was doomed to bankruptcy the first time that Americans—and thus government—justified the taking of money from some people for the benefit of other people, instead of for the true general welfare. The original sin, which took place before the Founders had died, set a precedent and led to convoluted court decisions and purposeful misreading of the Constitution to justify an endless succession of theft.

People who defraud the system are easy to find. They're also easy to stop. All the government would have to do is offer bounties to investigators to find evidence of fraud, and then imprison those found guilty, or at least make them pay restitution for what they owe taxpayers.

Of course politicians on the Left want to expand the welfare state, not police it. They claim that the welfare state doesn't have enough funding because taxes are not progressive enough, that the "rich" don't pay their full or "fair" share. In fact, taxes are highly progressive, and so is the Social Security system. For example, lower-paid workers can receive annual Social Security payouts totaling about 12% of what they've paid into the system, versus about 5% for higher-paid workers.

Politicians on the Right aren't very eager to police the welfare state either. They would be demonized by the media, and most of them would lose more votes than they would gain, because, as mentioned earlier, there are now more bloodsuckers than hosts in the Land of the Free Lunch and Home of the Bloodsucker. In most congressional districts, it's safer not to antagonize these huge parasitic interest groups.

The Fix

The only way to repair the nation is to stop all theft. Otherwise, the government will have no choice but to resort to the biggest theft of all times. Unable to cut the federal debt by honest means, politicians will cut it dishonestly. They will debase the dollar even more than they have already, relying on the burglary rings of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Treasury, and the rest of the banking cartel to do the stealing in the middle of the night, unseen by citizens and the media, who will be too distracted by Lady Gagas and Anthony Weiners to notice.

Craig J. Cantoni is a management consultant and a former corporate executive responsible for employee benefit plans. Contact: ccan2@aol.com.

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