

Our Letter

Our Letter No. 5

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writers

Written to the Creative and Productive Citizen

Leaders must be aware of the issues. They must read, read, read; dig, dig, dig to get to and sort out the facts. There are tough issues these days to deal with; tough issues for our elected leaders to deal with. We need representation that can take the expressions of the diverse interests of its citizenry on these tough issues: listen, respond respectfully, without inviting individuals to step out in back to settle things. The tone, attitudes that are set in the public eye are those that filter out into the world.

What are the issues ?

- * Freedom of speech.
- * Freedom of Information
- * The Right of Initiative
- * The Right of Referendum
- * The Right to Own Private Property
- * Housing
- * Farming
- * Land Use
- * Garbage
- * Crime
- * Taxes
- * Education
- * Teaching
- * Representation (crisis in leadership)
- * Employment
- * Free trade
- * Family
- * Transportation
- * Judicial System - confusion and labyrinth of laws
- * Mental Health
- * and others

Our leaders must set aside their grandiose plans for monuments to themselves in our cities. Instead, they should concentrate their efforts on holding onto our freedoms. They must not trade off our freedoms for personal ambitions. They must use their personality dynamics and dynamic personalities to protect freedoms for the individual living with his fellow freeman. Solve, not compound jurisdictional greedy power grabs and assist the free through the mazes constructed by the power lusting, aiming free people into the tar pits of mutual contention.

How can these issues be fully discussed when people can't get the data, can't read the documentation, don't read it, but proceed on the basis of hearsay? How can these issues be discussed openly when people are discouraged from speaking, discouraged from getting involved ?

THE RIGHT OF A FREE PRESS

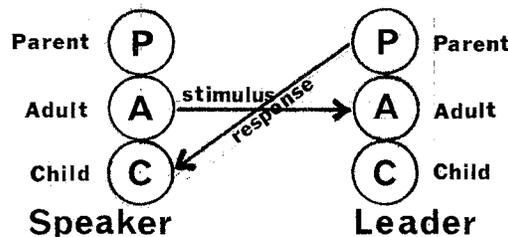
At a recent public hearing these authors were publicly berated, brow-beaten for what they wrote in previous editions of Our Letter. We had our reputations maligned, told how we were not behaving like (our professions) is "supposed to". We were each subjected to harsh criticism, verbal attack in front of the other councilmembers, staff, audience and T.V. viewing public. We are not sure it cost us that much. Throughout each of our public hearing presentations we held to the issues, did question council priorities and staff time on restricting businesses in contrast to taking care of repeated physical inundations (flooding).

PARENT RESPONSE:

"Your views and letters are garbage"

ADULT STIMULUS:

"Our view is that the sign ordinance is anti-business for these reasons."



(crossed transaction diagram)

"The crossed transaction is regularly the first step in an argument, in an open conflict."

The manner of presentations by the speakers were level, matter of fact, speaking about the issues.

The response by the two leaders was that of scolding a Child for misbehaving, for stepping out of line.

In other jurisdictions I've seen people told to give up: **not to speak**, in Sacramento, prohibited from speaking in San Francisco unless you've previously gotten **permission** of a supervisor, **three minute rule** in Vallejo and Solano, card rule in Contra Costa, discretion rule in others. **What is this about?** A prominent administrator has referred to it as **"the rule of throwing tennis shoes."**

Democracy is not a one man show. It is by the people and for the people, not by the committees and for the committee buffs.

The RIGHT TO OWN PRIVATE PROPERTY
Solano County Land Use Initiative:

Among the readers of this letter there is not a one who would claim that private property should not be respected, that private property rights are one of the cornerstones of a society of the free. Or are there?

At a recent meeting of the Northern Solano Board of Realtors the speaker from People for Open Space said there was no relationship between his organization and the Solano Land Use Initiative, but he contradicted this by saying Solano County is one of the counties within its "area of interest." He skillfully presented plausible sounding arguments for requiring infill development and some of the obstacles encountered. During the question and answer period his position on freedom of choice for the individual and respect for private property rights showed. He said:

"... land is only valuable as far as society decides as a whole..."
"People (private owners) don't have a right to use land as they want to use it."

This was in the context to farming land is for farming and housing land is for housing. He didn't say how the uses are determined other than suggesting that society as a whole determines the value of land (the greater good for the greater number). **What about the value of the individual, respect for the individual and his property?**

One person suggested afterwards, "let the market forces dictate density and uses." I now respond: Great! And stop the dictators that restrict free enterprise in a free society. Stop their obscuring the true objectives of the Solano Land Use Initiative.

Many people will probably vote yes on this issue in the mistaken belief it is a "quality of life issue;" Believing their life will be better. "Vote yes to make sure things don't change."
"Keep Solano Beautiful."

So far in this country trespassing onto another's property is against the law. Up until now for two centuries or more we the people of these United States have held that property of the individual was to be respected.

Can another person's property be taken from him without legal action, without legal consequences, without just compensation? Do individuals in California have legal protection against others arbitrarily taking over their land, restricting an owner's ability to use his land to his own best interests?

How do the people in a free society lose their freedoms: of speech, of worship, of assembly?

How are private property rights and freedoms denied to owners? Freedom of the press? The right to bear arms? To be presumed innocent until proven guilty?

Our Letter No. 6 will propose ways in which this is done and ways in which to counteract the divisive forces at work on us.

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