

4. YOUR VOTE DOESN'T COUNT.

The Publishers of this document are not running for office, they're not funding any political campaigns, they do not support any candidate or platform, and you won't find a single reference to them in any history book dealing with the chain of events that has made this publication necessary. Your vote, therefore, belongs entirely to you, and what you do with it is also up to you. We don't care why you vote, when you vote, *if* you vote, or for whom you vote. We might consider trying to sway your opinion if we thought it mattered, but we aren't that stupid. This is an uncomfortable fact for many people, mainly because it is in direct conflict with everything you have been spoonfed your entire life: *your vote just doesn't count, and your opinion doesn't matter.*

230 years ago in an obscure corner of a rather large planet, a few men and women fought bravely against an imperial machine that was rooted in this uncomfortable truth. Today, that noble revolution has devolved into empty rhetorical speech used to cushion the blows of tyranny; it is now very popular to *talk* about Freedom as if it were a commodity bought and sold, but it isn't very popular at all to *be* free -- not when that freedom means disagreeing with what the TV tells you, or what the minister shouts about, or what the Party Line says you're supposed to believe. The fact is, Freedom was never a commodity, and liberty was never a Product peddled by politicians on *either* side of the isle.

This little rant has little to do with you, however. You probably don't even *care* if you're free or not, as long as you can put a sticker or a magnetic ribbon on your car that *says* you are. When was the last time you actually used your freedom? When was the last time you tested its limits to see how far the walls may have crept in over the past two centuries? What was the last thing you said that made you stand out from the crowd you choose to be a part of instead of nodding your head and adding credence to the official Opinion of everybody around you?

In the end, there's only one thing to worry about, anyway. If you *did* have something to disagree about, would anybody listen? Or would they just count their own votes and ignore yours?

5. WHEN YOU DIE, WE GET YOUR MONEY.

That's right. Forget about the college fund, the life insurance, and the C.O.D. Forget about the trust accounts, the investment portfolios, and don't bother to check the balance on your credit cards, either. We've got it covered. Thanks for keeping your credit in good standing, though. Those low interest rates are icing on the cake as far as we're concerned.

Of course, you could send the kids to college. You could start a new trust fund for the grandchildren. That's what you're doing, isn't it? Yours is the only name on that account, so you're safe, right? The answer is: *sort of*. You're safe as long as you keep spending your monopoly money on monopoly prizes.

You're working for us. You're filling our coffers with your tithes of low-interest mortgages and no-annual-fee credit cards. You're gorging our obese guts with the foodstuffs of oil futures and pork bellies. This is a good scheme we've got going on here, and you think you're providing a better future for your progeny.

All you're doing is paying *us* to tell *them* what we want them to hear. We taught you to invest, didn't we? Sure we did. We'll teach them to invest, too. Only by that time it won't be tech stocks and mutual funds, it'll be fallout shelters and smart bombs and laser-equipped Orbital Bombardment platforms. We're financing the wars of tomorrow with the interest rates on the cheap plastic nonsense of today.

Do you know why they're called "interest" rates? It's because it's in our *interest* to give you the up-front, so you can pay us back on the back end. In other words, we're teasing you with the promise of wealth, and you're paying us to make you go broke in the end. And all that has to end up somewhere.

That means you're in kahootz with Armageddon.

6. LAWN SIGNS DO NOT CAMPAIGN WELL.

This fact is provided as a "bonus" to you for having read this far into the pamphlet. Basically, what we're telling you is that, if you have put these signs up, you're part of the problem. The most basic premise for your having done something as short-sighted as using lawn signs to further the electoral goals of your chosen candidate, is rooted in what is fundamentally the most undemocratic notion in all of human society: *Groupthink*.

What do you expect to accomplish by posting nothing but a name and an election year, and hoping people listen to you? Either you truly hate the idea of anyone going by any standard of education other than "well, duhr, my neighbor's gonna vote for X, so I guess I should too" (and therefore hate the idea that voters should be well-informed on the issues before making their choice), or you put it there just to make yourself feel like you're accomplishing something meaningful for your candidate, while in reality you are only contributing to the idea that we don't need to actually *know* who we're voting for, as long as we vote for the "right person."

Ironically, it is invariably the people who post lawn signs who are also the loudest voices in our democratic institutions. These people don't want you to *think* about your vote, they want you to *obey*. Next time you see a lawn sign, try not to notice. And if you can't help but notice, scoff.

8. FACT #7 HAS BEEN CONFISCATED.

Even in subversive literature like this, that seems to go nowhere at all, you'll find all the hallmarks of a sinister consciousness trying to dissuade you from being yourself. Maybe you *enjoy* being left in the dark and having all your beliefs pumped in through a straw from the cable company. It sure sounds like we're trying to change that, but really, we're not. Sometimes, the lackeys in the propaganda department just get a little bored, and they come up with things like this as a joke. See, we're spilling our guts to you right now. We're telling it *How It Is*. We're revealing things to you, the average dupe, that the Higher-Ups might get angry about. Of course, they don't. They have a sense of humor like the rest of us. They know they've got you programmed so well that you won't believe a single word of it.

9. ONE-TRACK MINDS ARE ONE-TRICK PONIES

Every time you shut out the thought that maybe you are *wrong* about something, you're cheating yourself. Contrary to popular (un)belief, you *should* be aware of what you're thinking, the reasons you're thinking it, the assumptions you automatically make, and what all of that ultimately means you're going to *do* about something.

Take, for example, election day. You're fired up. You're ready to get out there and *show them all*. You're about to pencil in your choice for governor, and there's nothing anybody can do about it. You're using your *voice* and you're proud of it. You're so proud of it you've plastered campaign stickers all over your car for the past 7 months, hoping to God some undesirable wretch would try to strike up a conversation about it at a red light so you could really give it to 'em. The fact that nobody seemed to care, well that just makes you more determined than ever, doesn't it? That makes you want to vote five or six times just to prove your point. Except, it isn't even *your* point you're proving. You don't even know what your point is, you're so wrapped up in proving it. Do you even *have* a point? Or did you just sign on to the campaign slogan and ride off into the electoral sunset?

Oh, you've got the *issues*. Your man is going to right all the wrongs that have been committed against you in the past two or four years. The taxes, the schools, the health insurance, the malpractice insurance, the zoning regulations, the vagrants, the building codes. Hey! Haven't you noticed yet? Everybody you've talked to about any of that for the past 35 years has either agreed wholeheartedly with you about it, or you've cut off the conversation. You don't know *why on Earth* anyone would actually vote the *other* way, do you? It escapes you. All you can imagine is that they're out to ruin you, or they're out to chain you to a dungeon wall.

Here's the News Flash: That's exactly what they think about YOU, too. But they're wrong, of course. So isn't it possible that *you* are wrong? Oh, heavens no! You listen to that guy on the radio, you *must* be right, right? After all, *he's* right, isn't he? Actually, you're all right, and that's what's wrong.

THIS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO YOU
COURTESY OF :

*YOU'RE EXPECTING TO SEE A TAGLINE HERE ABOUT
WHO WE ARE AND HOW TO CONTACT US.*

THERE ARE NO CONTACTS.
THERE IS NO US

THE ONLY PERSON RESPONSIBLE NOW IS **YOU.**

HERE ARE THE FACTS YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

1. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU READ THIS.

The publishers of this literature do not care if you believe them. They do not care about your soul, your economic status, your pet lizard, or your shoe size. They do not care if you buy what they're peddling, and they're not going to follow up with a survey to find out. In fact, the only reason this pamphlet exists at all is because somebody close to you thought you might find it insightful. It could be anyone, and I do mean *anyone*. So don't worry about who it was. Just read. Or, don't. Either way, it doesn't matter.

2. DEMOCRATS ARE NOT OUT TO GET YOU.

And neither are the Republicans. And nobody really *wants* to strip you of civil liberties or your freedom to pray in schools or your right to chat to Uncle Bob without the FBI right there listening in and stealing your dead grandmother's secret chili recipe. But for some reason, all of that is happening. Sure, it's easy to blame THEM. Those long-haired no-good pierced-up freaks! Those withered up-tight boxed-in greedy old codgers! THEY are *everywhere*. You know why? Because THEY are YOU.

Right now, your brain is probably screaming at this ridiculous publication: *Of course THEY are to blame! If THEY can't be blamed, then WHO? I HAVE TO BLAME SOMEBODY!* And that is what We call **the Lie**. It is an unnatural *conditioned response*. And it doesn't have to be true.

Everything you blame THEM for is the direct result of the fact that everyone is always blaming THEM for something. And you've been taught for your entire life through television, radio, and old wives' tales to buy into the Lie. If you give in, you're feeding the vicious cycle of finger-pointing that makes the front page of the newspaper every day, masquerading as something new and exciting to *fear*.

3. YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF PANEL 1.

Obvious, isn't it?