



The Activist News

Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government
The Commonwealth Activist Network

Post Office Box 408 □ Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

(508) 384-0100 □ E-Mail: cltg@cltg.org

World Wide Website: <http://cltg.org>



The Massachusetts Taxpayer Activist's CLT&G Newsletter

December 1998

CLT&G Leaps into New Year

By Chip Ford

You've heard the constant complaints from the anti-smoking crowd, how much smokers have cost taxpayers. You've seen the relentless attacks on smokers and "Big Tobacco." Recently you've heard about the \$206 billion settlement the state attorneys general have made with the tobacco industry, supposedly to reimburse taxpayers for all those tax dollars spent on health care for smokers. Already they've found new "unmet needs" they want to spend our reimbursement on.

CLT&G has filed a bill to return the fruits of that settlement – \$7.6 billion over the next 25 years then \$325 million every year thereafter, forever – to state taxpayers, from whom allegedly it was taken by those nasty smokers.

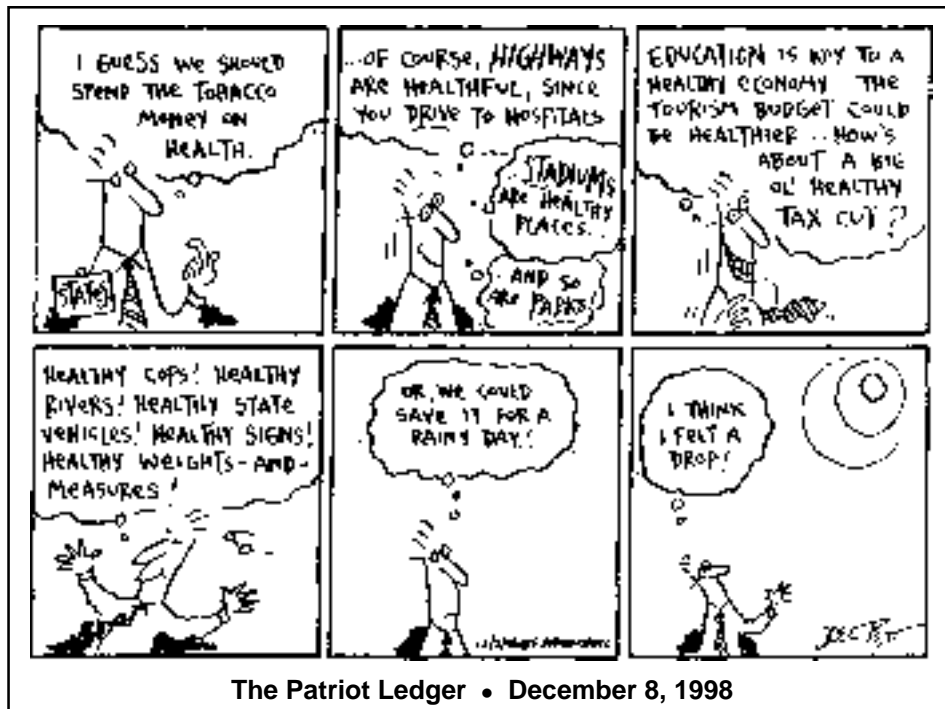
But did you know that just last year alone smokers all by themselves pumped \$300 million into the state treasury with the excise

and sales taxes they paid on tobacco products – \$300 million more than non-smokers were gouged in taxes?

Does anyone really believe that last year it cost the commonwealth more than that \$300 million paid by just smokers to provide *uninsured* smokers with *taxpayer-funded* health care for *tobacco-related* health problems?

Think about it.

CLT&G also filed a bill to "Help Make Smoking History," as the anti-smoking zealots' slogan goes, by reimbursing former smokers for the cost of quitting, from the money smokers paid in excess taxes allegedly



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for that expressed purpose.

Remember how that \$300 million yearly tax paid by smokers was expressly going to help them "kick the habit"? Well, it's cre-

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Barbara Named to Gov. Cellucci's Transition Team

Barbara Anderson was named to Governor Cellucci's Economic and Fiscal Policy Working Group, so you will never have to worry about economic and fiscal policy again!

Dr. Martin Feldstein, Professor of Economics at Harvard University, was named to chair the Economic and Fiscal Policy Working Group. Feldstein, also President of the National Bureau of Economic Research, served as the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Reagan. Feldstein will use as a blueprint the progress Cellucci has made on cutting taxes, spur-

ring economic growth and ensuring a fiscally responsible state government.

Also named to the committee are: Wayne Budd, Vice President, Bell Atlantic; Cathy Welch, Director of Human Resources, Sun Microsystems; Ed Woolien, Vice President, Raytheon; Dr. Tom Durant, Massachusetts General Hospital; Tom May, President, CEO and Chairman, Boston Edison; Bob Marsh, Massport Board Member; Jim Couli, President, JM Couli; Tom Wheeler,

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Tobacco - Cont'd from Page 1

ated a whole new layer of tyrannical anti-smoker bureaucracies in cities and towns – the oppressively autocratic “Tobacco Control Officers” – and it surely has made a lot of advertising agencies very wealthy – but not one cent of that tax is provided to directly help smokers quit smoking.

I was shocked to discover that smoking cessation aids, like Nicorette gum and Nicoderm patches, on top of their \$30-plus a

the percentage of budgeted revenues allowed in the state stabilization fund. [Presently no public hearing is required before increasing the billion-dollar-plus “rainy day” fund ceiling that triggers the automatic tax refund.]

- An act to tighten up the state “stabilization fund” to ensure that the rainy day revenues aren’t used until it actually rains. [The billion-dollar-plus “rainy day” slush fund can now be used for virtually any purpose and at any time the Legislature wants to raid it.]

AN ACT to Return Tobacco Settlement Dollars to the Taxpayers

Whereas: Health-related and other costs due to tobacco-related illnesses, legal tort actions, and other tobacco-related expenses, were paid with money expropriated from the taxpayers of the Commonwealth; the funds windfall that results from Massachusetts’ share of the nationwide tobacco settlement shall be returned to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth as compensatory reimbursement and restitution.

week over-the-counter pricetag at the local drug store, for the couple of months needed to quit, also carry an additional 5 percent sales tax!

Talk about adding injury to insult; it would seem that smokers – today’s politically correct target-of-choice – are “damned if you do and damned if you don’t.”

Robert J. Samuelson summed up this new Big Brother tactic in a recent *Newsweek* column, “*The Amazing Smoke Screen*”: “Beyond taxing smokers to cut smoking, politicians want to keep the taxes – and not to rebate them. Public-health advocates covet extra money for pet programs; and lawyers crave their fees. All this has involved an adept manipulation of courts and legislatures. A gullible public – aided by a pliant press – embraced the anti-smoking hysteria. Because the campaign succeeded, it will inspire assaults against other industries. We can’t tell the target (whether alcohol, or autos or fatty foods) or the tactics. But it’s just a matter of time.”

Other CLT&G Legislation for 1999

- The income tax rate rollback, from present 5.95 percent to 5 percent: to keep the promise made by the Legislature when it increased the rate from 5 percent in 1989, that the increase would be temporary.
- An Act amending the “new growth” provision in Proposition 2½. Prop 2½ allows a two-and-a-half percent increase in local property taxes each year, plus a factor for new growth, which is loosely defined as almost anything. This bill would define “new growth” as new construction that increases need for services and requires a building permit.
- An Act requiring a public hearing for increase or decrease of

Transition Team - Cont'd from Page 1

CEO, MassMutual; Cathy Minehan, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; David Weinstein, Senior Vice President, Fidelity Investments; Kevin Cohee, President, Boston Bank of Commerce; Jim Mahoney, Vice President, Fleet Bank; Tony Dolphin, President, Springboard Technologies; John Gould, President, Associated Industries of Massachusetts; Cynthia Gordon, Vice President and General Counsel, Quaker Fabric Corporation; Janice Loux, President, Hotel Workers Union; George Cashman, President, Teamsters Union, Local 25; Michael Widmer, Executive Director, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; John Coglianò, President, Sullivan & Coglianò; Howard Foley, President, Mass High Tech Council, and; Mike Astrue, General Counsel, Biogen; Carolyn Boviard, National Federation of Independent Businesses; David Perini, Perini Corporation; David Tuerck of Beacon Hill Institute, and; Jay Cashman, Jay Cashman Inc.

WESX “Citizens Update” Commentary Nov. 19th

I am sometimes asked how Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government feels about the New England Patriots leaving Massachusetts.

I reply that we are actually thinking of changing our name to Citizens for Taxpayer-Funded Football Teams.

No, seriously . . . how can anyone justify forcibly taking hard-earned tax dollars from citizens to subsidize a game? And yes, it’s also a business, but you don’t see state government buying buildings or even parking lots for grocery stores and auto repair shops, just because they pay taxes and bring money into the commonwealth. There would be no end to it, once we started down that road.

Having said this, I hope that Speaker Tom Finneran doesn’t get too much credit for saving the taxpayers from Bob Kraft. I have seen no plans to give taxpayers back the money that isn’t going to buy a stadium.

The choice was never: let us keep our money, or give it to Bob Kraft; the choice was, take our money and give it to the Patriots or, give it to Beacon Hill to spend on something else. If that had been the debate all along, the outcome might have been different.

Maybe we would rather have a professional football team for our money than another \$70 million or so in the state rainy day fund.

This is Barbara Anderson.



CLT'S 2½ PAC Helps Win Some Close Ones!

By Chip Faulkner
Executive Director, CLT's 2½ PAC

Our PAC endorsement and maximum contribution certainly made the difference to Vinny deMacedo on November 3rd. He beat an incumbent State Representative by just 189 votes out of 13,000 cast down in Plymouth. Nancy Caffyn of Mashpee received our endorsement and pulled out a squeaker, winning by less than 3 percent of the total vote. Our staunch supporter in the legislature, Rep. Jo Ann Sprague (R-Walpole), won an open Senate seat by a margin of 439 votes out of almost 59,000! CLT's 2½ PAC gave the maximum donation in that contest. We're happy that Jo Ann Sprague can now carry the limited taxes message to the State Senate.

CLT's 2½ PAC was very active this Fall. Forty-two candidates for the House and State Senate were endorsed. Donations to these candidates came to \$13,000 of which 77 percent went to candidates for open seats or challengers to incumbents. In addition, we were able to help nine House incumbents who had high

1997-98 Taxpayers' ratings. They all won on November 3rd, with the exception of Rep. Donna Cuomo (R-North Andover). She will be missed.

We also endorsed Gov. Paul Cellucci for re-election. We based our endorsement on his support for the State Income Tax roll-back to 5 percent and his excellent Taxpayers' Rating while in the Legislature during the 1980's. Since the Governor won an extremely close election (by less than 4 percent of the total vote) the PAC endorsement was crucial to his victory. And the taxpayers were spared the nightmare of watching Luther go after their wallets and pocketbooks for the next four years.

Now the PAC is looking forward to some "rumored" special elections that will be coming up in the Spring of 1999.

I know many of the people reading this newsletter also responded to our PAC appeals for donations this past Fall. Thanks so much for your help and I hope you enjoy the holidays.

Report on Membership Questionnaire

Compiled by Barbara Anderson and Loretta Hayden

Earlier this year, many CLT&G members filled out a questionnaire with which we tried to determine what makes us activists different from other citizens who are apathetic, uninvolved, with no apparent context for their opinion when they have one.

I knew how much I had been influenced by the things I had read (or been read) at an early age: *The Little Red Hen* at age three, Emerson, Thoreau and Ayn Rand while in college.

Chip Ford was influenced by George Orwell's *1984*.

But Chip Faulkner tells me his political philosophy wasn't influenced by anything he read but by his experiences living in New York during the John Lindsay Administration. However, Theodore White's *The Making of a President* got him interested in politics.

And Loretta doesn't remember reading anything about political philosophy; she says she hated politics until Ross Perot. However, after reading Martin Gross' *The Government Racket*, her distrust of politics was confirmed.

We found quite a few CLT&Gers like her and Chip Faulkner when we compiled the members response to the question about reading material that had influenced them. As one of you said,

"Being born and brought up in Massachusetts was influence enough"; others agreed it was "life experience." Many read magazines and newspapers. But those who were influenced by books listed almost two hundred of them, from *Advise and Consent* to *You Can Trust the Communists*, and works by authors from Aristotle to Truman. The most influential book with CLT&G activists was *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand with 22 votes, followed closely by *The Holy Bible* with 21. Rating high were *Conscience of a Conservative* by Barry Goldwater, *Free to Choose* by Milton Friedman, and *1984* by George Orwell. Interesting how some found inspiration, and others a good reason to fear!

And speaking of rats, Jim Timberlake recommended *The Sucking Lice of North America*; I know he's kidding though because he sent me a copy and it's not about politicians at all. Honorable mention: *The United States Constitution* and *The Bill of Rights*, Hayek's *The Road to Serfdom*, Rand's *The Fountainhead*, John Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*, and *Unlimited Access* by Gary Aldrich. Most-mentioned author, without specific book title, was Rush Limbaugh, followed by Ayn Rand and Winston Churchill.

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed, and hence clamorous to be led to safety, by menacing with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." — H.L. Mencken

Submitted by CLT&G member Richard Freedman of Newton



Humor is Best Defense Against "Killer Kitchen"

By Barbara Anderson

During the holidays, you may spend more time cooking and baking. So today's timely topic is "Killer Kitchens."

I read the guest column in my local weekly four times, trying to determine if author Amy Todisco was serious or doing a parody of environmental hysteria.

"Living and learning in the Non-Toxic Kitchen" began by stating that the kitchen, once the "heart center of the home," has become, "like the rest of the house, more like hearts with arteriosclerosis clogged with all sorts of toxic synthetic chemicals.

"Have you heard about the human and environmental health effect of: food irradiation, genetically engineered organisms, food additives (artificial colors, flavors, preservatives), hormones, antibiotics, municipal sludge used as fertilizer, mold, bacteria, or industrial chemicals in our food supply?"

Sufferin' succotash! let's never eat again. No, wait, read on for the solution.

"Certified organic (editor's note: organic is now apparently a noun), ideally home-grown or locally grown, is the only choice for my family. We also choose to filter our drinking and bathing water to protect ourselves from the many contaminants present in our water supplies."

She filters her bath water? I began to suspect she was joking. So I skipped past the section on cookware, with its long-debunked theory of Alzheimer-causing aluminum pans, to the section on Microwave ovens, in which she references a book called "The Zapping of America." Ms. Todisco informs us that she is "a proud member of the 10 percent of the population that does not have or use a microwave oven."

O.K., I'll admit I've always been a tad uneasy about a product whose operating guide contains two pages of safety instructions. I have, however, dealt with this uneasiness by actually reading and following the instructions, just as I deal with my fear of my gas oven by not putting my head in it and blowing out the pilot light.

I also buy the cancer warnings in her next section, about barbecuing and grilling, which is why we only do it on occasional summer weekends, not every day. And I don't use disinfectant sprays either; I don't want my household germs to build up immunities and become killer plague bacteria.

By the time I get to the part about avoiding cleaning chemicals, I'm almost hooked: I don't like the way some of those things make my eyes water, so I clean as little as possible. Maybe I too can be a home-environmentalist! Then I read about "the formaldehyde outgasses from pressed wood kitchen cabinets (solid wood is a much better alternative)," and the toxic chemicals in "paints, stains, wallpapers, adhesives, vinyl flooring." What if we don't eat them; are they still dangerous?

Well, fair warning for the upper classes, which can afford cherry cabinets, organic foods, oak floors, and who-knows-what for walls. Are the rest of us doomed to die?

Actually, yes; we are all, including those who bathe in filtered water, going to die. But on average we are dying a whole lot later than we used to, back when we lived in pre-industrial revolution harmony with our natural environment. A very high number of us now live long enough to reside in a nursing home, one shared room with bath, no kitchen at all.

When I wrote a letter-to-the-editor expressing my enjoyment of the amusing column, I soon learned that it was not in fact meant to be funny; the next week's paper contained Amy's response to my "odd and twisted sense of humor," an inference that I never heard of Rachel Carson, and a recommendation that I read a book called "Our Stolen Future."

I've read Rachel Carson, I don't use pesticides, I recycle hazardous waste, I'd be an environmentalist if I didn't have to hang out with humor-impaired technophobes who are afraid of wallpaper! I guess I could stick my head in a microwave oven and get it all over with fast, but instead I'll just plead guilty to a twisted sense of humor and get on with my dangerous life.

"Our Stolen Future" does sound riveting, but I think I'll read the new Anne Rice vampire book instead. Better to fantasize about living forever than drive myself and others crazy actually trying to do it.

As for you, you've been warned. If you can't afford the premium cost of organic food, try to develop a twisted sense of humor too, and use laughter as your best medicine when the genetically-engineered chickens come home to roost.

Barbara Anderson is executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government.

"Government big enough to supply everything you need is big enough to take everything you have ... The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases" — Thomas Jefferson



The Outsiders' Track

by Barbara Anderson

Enjoyed the response of **Harold Jarvis** to my Killer Kitchen column: "I'm quite sure that almost everything I eat is organic. Inorganic stuff is just not that nutritious. Sure, you've got your exceptions; Pringles, Stone Soup, Spam; but for the most part food is organic. Not that organic is always a good thing. Bubonic plague is organic." Thanks for the *feedback*.

High school teenagers from Northeastern states met recently in Wakefield to discuss "A Brave New World," and what they were going to do with it when they are eventually in charge. They debated concepts like the meaning of government, the Constitution, freedom, individual rights, and morality, and specific issues like taxation, education, medical care, drug legalization, cloning, and internet censorship. CLT&G, along with the **Libertarian Party** and the **Concord Coalition**, was there at the Sunday lunch break to answer questions, and to reassure ourselves that when we are old, there will be a new generation to carry on the fight for well, a Brave New World, better we hope than that predicted by Aldous Huxley.

Chip Ford and I drove out to Springfield to speak about political activism to a meeting of **Reform Party** members, and to personally congratulate **Karen and Bob Powell** for their leadership in killing the needle exchange program in their city. They got the city council to place the issue on the ballot, and then to support the will of the people when the vote was against giving needles to drug addicts. It was good to have at least one ballot victory to celebrate this fall!

There will be no celebration for the **Committee for Parental Choice in Education**, whose petition was tossed out when 3,507 signatures were invalidated. The number of signatures required in '98 was about 8,000 less than needed in '97, thanks to low voter turnout this past election; the number of people voting for a governor sets the petition requirement, which is now 57,100 signatures. Parental choice petitioners who were doing their first drive filed 58,932. Signatures were disqualified for reasons set forth in recent court challenges: eg., a petitioner highlighting part of the summary. But Secretary of State **Bill Galvin** seemed to go even further by throwing out an entire petition because someone doodled in the margin to activate a recalcitrant pen. CPC may go to court, but the **Massachusetts Teachers Association** will counter-challenge. If there's anything that union hates more than tax cuts, it's opening the door to education vouchers!

CLT&G spent quality time in Plymouth County recently. I was guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the **East Bridgewater Business Association**, and the entire CLT&G staff attended **David Wilson's Plymouth County Republican Club** holiday party at **Gary Eliason's** restaurant, *Gary's*, in West Bridgewater, where lots of CLT&G activists were making merry and eating hearty.

Chip Ford and I joined hundreds of law-abiding gun-owners in October at a rally to protest the new state "Gun-Owners Control" law. We then marched in the rain from Bunker Hill along the Freedom Trail to the State House in support of the Second Amendment. **Gun Owners Action League** is in court challenging the new law as "constitutionally vague." One television reporter changed that to "vaguely constitutional." *It's not the same thing, media person.*

Along with my Thursday morning meeting with **Paul Sullivan** on WLLH in Lowell, and my monthly hour with **Al Needham** on WESX, I have been doing an almost daily "Citizens Update" on WESX, 1230 AM. **Chip Faulkner** visited Cape Cod cable television this month to update Cape taxpayers, and I did **Jon Keller's** TV-56 forum on the welfare reform law. WCVB's "Five on Five" celebrated twenty years of political talk this month. Can't imagine those twenty years without **Avi Nelson** in our living rooms each Sunday morning at 11, reassuring us that rational thought exists. And it was so nice to hear his and former New Hampshire **Governor Steve Merrill's** kind words about us last spring after we lost the petition challenge.

If you want to catch Massachusetts news quickly from someone you can trust, you can get to **Ed Pawlick's** "Massachusetts News" on the internet each day through the CLT&G web page, <http://cltg.org>.

My biweekly column will no longer be carried in *The Patriot Ledger*, but can still be read in *The Salem Evening News*, *The Attleboro Sun Chronicle*, and occasionally in *The Worcester Telegram Gazette*. Readers in the Ledger area will now find the column in **Tanna Kasperowicz's** funny, refreshing local newspaper, *The Tintown Gazette*, available in eight South Shore communities.

Wasn't it nice to see our former governor, **Bill Weld**, testifying for **Bill Clinton** against impeachment? Perjury about sex, he said, is not an impeachable offense. Well, I'm not a lawyer, but isn't perjury by a president about anything a threat to our nation's judicial system and rule of law?

Chip Ford neglected to mention that our "*Help Make Smoking History*" bill to help smokers quit with money they've already paid in tobacco taxes for that purpose, will not apply to him. Chip has been smoke-free since August.

On December 10th **MaryAnn Horvatin** was inducted into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame, having voted in every general election for more than 50 consecutive years. My mother wore her **Rush Limbaugh** scarf to the special ceremony to receive her special citation signed by **Gov. Tom Ridge**.

Here's an idea. Faithful member **Mary Condon** buys each of her two sons a CLT&G \$25.00 newsletter membership for their fall birthdays each year. CLT&G members, do it for the children!



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Friday, November 6, 1998
ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CANDIDACY

Let us be the first to take advantage of the passage of Questions One and Two on Tuesday's ballot.

Barbara Anderson and Chip Ford do hereby declare our candidacies for state representative, and Chip Faulkner for state senator, in the year 2002, when the new campaign finance law and the guaranteed legislative pay-raises are in effect.

We agree to abide by the spending limits of the new campaign finance law. We each have 200 friends who will give \$5.00; Faulkner's got 450 friends. We'll then suck up, that is, take advantage of, our share of the available tax dollars for public financing of campaigns.

Fifteen thousand bucks each for Anderson and Ford, and forty-three thousand for Faulkner, just handed over from state taxpayers, with which to participate in the primary. Another \$9,000 for Anderson and Ford, \$29,000 for Faulkner, for the general election!

And if we win, we'll get constitutionally guaranteed pay and regular constitutionally guaranteed pay hikes!

Ain't democracy grand!

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