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***"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."***

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

July 24, 2003



## Many Questions

**I**t is ever humbling to those of us who elect to publicly opine, that we, better than others, are constantly faced with things we do not understand.

These days, there is an awful lot that I don't understand.

I don't understand how a federal government, fully under the control of the Republicans, can spend so much money. The rise in federal spending was smaller when President Clinton and the Democrats controlled government! In the first three years of Clinton, spending rose 3.1% per year. Under Bush 1, it was 8.3%. Under Reagan it was 6.8%. Under Carter it was 13.3%. Under the current government it is 15.6%!!!!

I don't understand how those who demanded that the U.S. not invade Iraq because Iraq was not a imminent threat to the United States, nor was the country's future in the vital interest of our nation, turn around and demand that we send troops to Liberia. Exactly what in Liberia is of vital interest to the United States, and when did Liberia pose an imminent threat to our security? If humanitarian concerns are sufficient for intervention in Liberia, why was it not sufficient in Iraq?

I don't understand how anyone can explain the demise of the State of California from an economic powerhouse to a beggar

**Commentary**

State in just a few years. While I am at it, I don't understand why anyone would seek to be the Governor of a State with such a bleak financial future.

I don't understand how the San Diego Padres – which are actually the John Moore Padres, since San Diegans, both individually and collectively, have no say in the matter – got a compliant Mayor and Council to approve the new stadium for a team that will surely lose 100 games this year. The Padres are arguably the worst team in professional baseball, and what they really deserve is a new stadium – in Lake Elsinore.

I don't understand how we got a City Council whose members are under an FBI investigation. In the past, the City Council has been content to have incompetent members – but corrupt? Sure, a few bucks in stock tips under the table, a lie or two about completed college degrees, but an investigation about patent corruption? Where did we go wrong? San Diego, meet Honolulu and Trenton!

I don't understand how politicians can continue to spend tax money designated for freeways to build mass transit and subsidize idiot schemes like The Wave, while drivers sit in massive traffic jams throughout the state. Why don't the people drag the Legislators naked from their chambers and tar and feather them? Whatever happened to outrage?

Speaking of outrage and dragging politicians naked through the streets, I don't understand how the State can triple the car tax – knowing it is illegal, but that it will bring in billions before the courts can stop it. The politicians hope that the budget will be in better shape when the State must return the money, and that the politicians who approve the tripling of the tax will be comfortably retired.

I certainly am glad I do not have to explain any of this to visiting Martians.

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