

INSIGHTS

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"Those who make private property of the gifts of God pretend in vain to be innocent, for in thus retaining the subsistence of the poor, they are the murderers of those who die everyday for the want of it." Pope Gregory the Great (540-604)

THE TRUE CLINTON VERDICT

Oyez! Oyez! The supreme court of economic justice will come to order. The clerk will read the verdict rendered by the jury.

1. The jury in the case of People of America vs. William Jefferson Clinton find the defendant guilty of monstrous prevarication and downright lying relative to his economic record.

2. The jury finds that William Jefferson Clinton, acting in conjunction with the overwhelming majority of congress, both Republicans and Democrats, did enter into a conspiracy to enact and did enact a dishonest and larcenous highway, roads and infrastructure construction bill, costing taxpayers the sum of \$216 billion, and making multimillionaires of favored land speculators and public works contractors.

3. The jury finds that William Jefferson Clinton, in consort with both parties in Congress is guilty of promoting federal control of schools and universities, although the same are local matters, under the false pretense of saving homeowners from taxes.

4. The jury finds that he has revived the farm subsidy program in order to make payments to well off farmers, even having vetoed a congressional bill providing for subsidies on the grounds that it did not provide a high enough level of expenditures.

5. The jury finds that, in consort with the legislature, the defendant has failed to take any vigorous efforts to end graft and corruption in medicare.

6. The jury finds that the defendant has, authorized \$18 billion to be paid to the International Monetary Fund, despite its admission of waste and negligence.

7. The jury finds that defendant, in conspiracy with Congress, has enacted legislation continuing the corrupt expenditures for HUD, and for urban redevelopment and empowerment zones, which have conducted their activities in a grossly inept and corrupt fashion

8. The jury finds that defendant has misrepresented to the American people that he has produced what he has called "my balanced budget," when, in truth, the budget is only balanced if the Federal government continues to divert social security trust payments now in the amount of \$60 billion dollars to the general treasury fund.

9. The jury finds that defendant has falsely represented that he will "save" social security by the investment of social security funds in the private stock market, despite the warning of Federal Reserve Director Alan Greenspan.

10. The jury finds that William Jefferson Clinton showed great lack of mental acuity and astute judgement in concealing his sexual affairs and in failing to create a logical defense to the impeachment charges filed against him.

11. The jury finds that the defendant has failed to provide proper protection for the environment whenever large campaign contributors were involved, nor did he obtain reasonable rentals or royalties for the use or exploitation of federal land

12. The jury finds that by reason of the above high crimes and misdemeanors, defendant only be sentenced to six weeks in the stocks, where he would be subjected to rotten vegetables thrown at him by the general populace, since the opposition party is just as guilty as the defendant. • • • • •

CLINTON'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS HIGH ON RHETORIC, LOW ON ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE

The President's State of the Union address provided a huge grab bag with something for everyone. If you live in a city, you'll have money for empowerment zones, urban redevelopment, and miscellaneous other subsidies. If you live in a rural area, you can raise hogs with government money. If you are young, you are entitled to educational subsidies and after school child care assistance. On the other hand, if you are old, you are entitled to grants for persons taking care of you and to other miscellaneous handouts. Every voter is somehow reached by the great hand of Washington.

This brings to mind the famous race of the animals in Louis Carol's *Alice in Wonderland*, where everyone was found to be a winner, so everyone had to receive prizes.

The President suggests that these nationwide handouts will be financed by surplus tax receipts, when, in fact, the current budget is balanced by moneys diverted from the Social Security fund, amounting to \$60 billion this year.

The weakness in this proposal is that demographic studies show an increasing number of older persons receiving benefits and a decreasing number of young workers supporting the old folks. Thus, we will be forced to draw from the general fund to pay toward social security rather than the other way around. We are headed for difficult problems when the President's "my balanced budget" is discovered to be an illusion. And it is a worse illusion when we remember that social security was to be protected as a "trust" fund deposited for insurance purposes. • •