

JOHN UP ... Dick Johnson

WHEN THE "GOVERNATOR" OR "ARNOLD" STOOD UP AND TALKED ABOUT THE CUTS HE WAS MAKING IN THE BUDGET THAT AFFECTED THE POOR AND DISABLED AND OTHER FOLKS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP, HE SAID - "I FEEL YOUR PAIN". YOU CAN GUESS WHAT MY REACTION WAS. GOVERNOR BROWN STOOD IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA WITH HIS EASEL AND GRAPH AND THREATENED US WITH FURTHER CUTS TO THOSE SAME POOR, ALONG WITH THE SCHOOLS, AID TO CHILDREN IN NEED, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT OTHER FACTIONS. UNLESS WE PAID MORE TAXES NOW, I'M NOT AGAINST PAYING MY FAIR SHARE OF TAXES, AS LONG AS THE MONEY IS WELL-SPENT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOV SAID NOTHING ABOUT CUTTING FROM THE TOP. I HATE TO BEAT A DEAD HORSE, BUT HOW MANY COMMISSIONS AND GOVERNMENT PANELS ARE THERE WHERE THE MEMBERS GET A FAT PAYMENT TO MEET A COUPLE TIMES A YEAR OR SO, AND WHAT DO THEY ACCOMPLISH? HOW ABOUT UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS THAT PULL DOWN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR? JUST WHAT DO THEY DO TO GET PAID THOSE EXORBITANT SALARIES? THEY CERTAINLY DON'T EARN THAT KIND OF MONEY. NO ONE CAN EARN THAT MUCH MONEY. A BASEBALL OR FOOTBALL OR BASKETBALL PLAYER CAN'T EARN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR. ~~THEY~~ MAY LIKE THOSE COMPUTER WHIZZES AND OTHERS WHO COME UP WITH BRILLIANT IDEAS OR PRODUCTS, THEY MAY GENERATE MILLIONS OR EVEN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, BUT THEY DON'T "EARN" THEM. MUCH OF WHAT SPORTS STARS GET IS GENERATED BY TV AND OTHER ENDORSEMENTS. WHEN WE BUY WHAT IS ADVERTISED ON TV OR ENDORSED BY THESE "STARS," ULTIMATELY IT IS US WHO PAYS THOSE SALARIES. GETTING BACK TO COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, THEY TELL US WE HAVE TO PAY THOSE EXORBITANT SALARIES TO ATTRACT QUALIFIED PEOPLE. QUALIFIED FOR WHAT? I IMAGINE THE STRUCTURE IS PRETTY WELL SET, SO JUST WHAT DO THEY DO? MAYBE SOME YOUNGER CANDIDATES FOR THE JOBS MIGHT HAVE SOME FRESH IDEAS AND COULD WORK

FOR LESS MONEY AND BE GLAD TO GET IT. EVEN TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE BIG SALARIES IS STILL A LOT OF MONEY. AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE PERKS - HOUSING, TRAVEL EXPENSES, ETC. WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY HOUSING ALLOWANCES TO SOMEONE MAKING THAT KIND OF DOUGH? I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH HITTING MILLIONAIRES OF ANY SORT WITH UNKLE TAXES. NOT FAIR, YOU SAY? IS IT FAIR THAT A PERSON DRAGS HOME MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT HE OR SHE DIDN'T EARN, WHILE SCHOOLS HAVE TO DROP BUSSEING STUDENTS, AS SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT HAD TO DO, OR KIDS GO HUNGRY OR WITHOUT MEDICAL CARE? I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE SOCIALISM, BUT WE, AS A SOCIETY, DO OWE OUR LESS FORTUNATE SOME CARE AND SUPPORT. // MY WIFE AND I WERE DRIVING UP MYRTLE AVENUE THE OTHER DAY - ACTUALLY, WE WERE COMING FROM TYPING MY LAST COMMENT - WHEN WE PASSED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE WHERE THE WORKER WAS HIT BY A CAR AND SERIOUSLY, IF NOT FATALLY INJURED. WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN, BOTH TO THE WORKER AND THE YOUNG DRIVER. HE SAID HIS WINDSHIELD FOGGED UP AND HE COULDN'T SEE. I'VE HAD THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO ME AND IT'S SCARY. THE YOUNG MAN'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE PROBABLY MADE THINGS WORSE. MY COMPOLMENTS TO ALL INVOLVED. // WE HAVE TAKEN OUR ANIMALS TO MYRTLE AVENUE VET HOSPITAL EVER SINCE IT OPENED. SO IT WAS HARD TO SAY GOODBYE TO JEFF KELLEY - DAY ON HIS RETIREMENT TO COLORADO GOOD LUCK JEFF. I KNOW YOUR ASSOCIATES WILL KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK -

SIGN OFF...

Dick Johnson