

THE DEWEESE REPORT

Volume 21 - Issue 8

August 2015

A New Symbol Has Been Cast People * Property * Freedom

By
Tom DeWeese

Across the nation property rights are under attack in the name of Sustainable Development. Planners in nearly every community in the nation are busy selling us visions of a utopia with what they call healthy, happy communities where neighbors interact, parents play with their children, no stress from long commutes, as all the conveniences of living are just a walk down the street.

The process is called Smart Growth or “visioning,” and is sold as a means to protect and guide the community to “sensible growth planning.” Most communities have a comprehensive development plan that is usually mandated by state government. These are driven by non-elected regional councils and fueled by federal grant money that mandates specific rules for development. It’s all done in the back rooms, out of site of the general public. Unseen hands reach out to decide the community’s future.

The plans, in reality, have little to do with creating healthy, wealthy communities. Hidden in all the feel good rhetoric is a political agenda based on redistribution of wealth and control of resources.

The American Planning Association (APA) is one of the most powerful planning groups operating in the nation. The APA is a member of the Planners Network. The Network’s Statement of Principles says, “We believe planning should be a tool for allocating resources... and eliminating the great inequalities of wealth and power in society... because the free market has proven incapable of doing this.”

That single paragraph, the root of the philosophy of



Planners across the nation, advocates Socialism’s redistribution of wealth schemes which many now call social justice. It adopts the new attack on the middle class now labeled as “white privilege.” It’s nothing but a tool to divide our citizens and create racial strife and envy. And it unites the goals of community planners with the newly announced HUD regulations on neighborhood diversity. The HUD plan dictates quotas for specific minorities to be in every neighborhood – again under the banner of diminishing “white privilege.” This will result in enforcing

the building of low income federal housing in wealthier neighborhoods. The plan fits perfectly with the Planners Network Statement of Principles, as stated above.

In smart growth cities, such as Portland, Oregon, strict controls are placed on community area growth, which planners negatively label “Urban Sprawl.” This means that only a certain amount of land is available for development and growth. As population naturally grows inside that restricted area, the planners are forced to increase density regulations, forcing more and more multifamily apartment buildings instead of single family homes. As the population continues to grow, this eventually leads to the necessity of “stack and pack” high rise apartment buildings.

What is missing in all of this planning is a consideration for private property ownership and the natural rights that historically have gone with it. The fact is, Sustainable Development cannot be implemented without diminishing private property rights. The use of eminent domain to enforce the necessary top-down decision making to complete the “visioning” plans leaves little room for individual wants and needs. “White privilege” indeed.

In rural areas more such controls over private property are growing through the use of conservation easements that restrict what land owners, especially farmers, can do with their land, what crops they can grow and how they may grow them. Conservation Easements are, of course, sold as voluntary. But there are powerful forces working to scare and intimidate farmers into signing. Once they do, the land owners find they have given up major control of their property forever, usually to a private land trust that has little, if any, government oversight over their actions.

More controls on land come from the EPA, as it moves to control every drop of water in the nation. And even more through the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as it has even resorted to arm standoffs in an effort to move ranchers from their land, such as in the Bundy case in Nevada. Nearly every agency in the federal government, including the Department of Transportation and FEMA, are in on the controls over what owners can do on their own property. Add to these federal agencies overlapping controls by state and local governments and regional councils, and you have a matrix that is chocking off any possible existence of private property ownership and control.

Across the nation, there is a growing assault on private property ownership and control. Interestingly, as this assault grows we are witnessing our nation's freedoms and wealth diminish at a near equal rate. That's because private property ownership is the key to a strong healthy economy and the eradication of poverty. The traditional American system of private property ownership and control is the root of America's rapid rise in prosperity. Historically, other, much older nations have never been able to compete with America's rapid rise, precisely because they didn't provide a way for citizens to benefit from owning property, if

they were able to own it at all. Today, most of the world population is teeming in hopeless poverty precisely because the poor have no way to build wealth of their own. Americans did it by owning property and building equity with which to create businesses and investment.

With the new Sustainable Development rules that are rapidly diminishing private property ownership, America's middle class is beginning to disappear as there is a growing divide between rich and poor. Third world hopelessness is closing in on the United States of America.

Clearly, something must be done to counter this organized attack on American private property. In addition, if freedom is to ever gain a foothold in the world, a new effort must be made to help those in other nations to gain their right to own and control private property as the true path to ending poverty.

To that end, the American Policy Center (APC) has created a plan of action to unite property rights activists around the world into one mighty force of action. First, a Statement of Principles has been drawn up to clearly define what we mean by private property rights. "Private property ownership," says the Statement, "includes land, possessions, fruits of ones labor and ideas." "Without private property ownership," declares the statement, "freedom is not sustainable."

Now, with the Statement of Principles to guide us, APC seeks every supporter and promoter of private property ownership around the world to join in a unified movement. First, property rights activists and supporters should read the Statement of Principles. After reading, if you are ready to stand with these principles, then sign the agreement to uphold and promote them.

Continued to Page 4

DeWeese Report
Vol. 21, No. 8
August 2015

Published by
The American Policy
Center

Editor
Tom DeWeese

Correspondence/
Fulfillment
Lola Jane Craig
Eve Craig

Graphics/Layout
CJ Scrofani
Jeff Craig

DeWeese Report
41 W Lee Highway
Suite 59-196
Warrenton, VA
20186

Web Page:
www.deweese-report.com

Copyright 2015
The American Policy
Center
Issn 1086-7937
All Rights Reserved

Permission to photocopy,
Reprint and quote articles
from the DeWeese Report
is

hereby granted, provided
full acknowledgment is
included. All reprinted
articles must say:

Written
by Tom DeWeese, Editor
of DeWeese Report
(unless
another author is listed).
All reprints must carry the
DeWeese Report address
and phone number.

Samples of the reprint
must be provided to the
DeWeese Report

From the Internet...

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert.

Congress said, "Someone may steal from it at night." So they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?"

So they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?"

So they created a Quality Control department and hired two people. One was to do the studies and one was to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created two positions: a time keeper and a payroll officer then hired two people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an administrative section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$918,000 over budget, we must cut back." So they laid-off the night watchman.

NOW slowly, let it sink in.

Quietly, we go like sheep to slaughter. Does anybody remember the reason given for the

establishment of the DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY during the Carter administration?

Anybody? Anything? No? Didn't think so!

Bottom line is, we've spent several hundred billion (BILLION with a B) dollars in support of an agency, the reason for which very few people who read this can remember!

Ready?? It was very simple... and at the time, everybody thought it very appropriate.

The Department of Energy was instituted on 8/04/1977, TO LESSEN OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL. Hey, pretty efficient, huh?

AND NOW IT'S 2015 -- 38 YEARS LATER -- AND THE BUDGET FOR THIS NECESSARY DEPARTMENT IS AT \$24.2 BILLION A YEAR. IT HAS 16,000 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND APPROXIMATELY 100,000 CONTRACT EMPLOYEES; AND LOOK AT THE JOB IT HAS DONE!

(THIS IS WHERE YOU SLAP YOUR FOREHEAD AND SAY, "WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?") 38 years ago 30% of our oil consumption was foreign imports.

Today 70% of our oil consumption is foreign imports. Ah, yes -- good old Federal bureaucracy.

NOW, WE HAVE TURNED OVER THE BANKING SYSTEM, HEALTH CARE, AND THE AUTO INDUSTRY TO THE SAME GOVERNMENT?

Hello!! Anybody Home?

Signed....The Night Watchman ●

Continued from page 2

Along with the creation of the Statement of Principles, a new symbol has been forged to united the movement. The symbol's message is People * Property * Freedom. This message clearly depicts the reason why private property rights are so vita. People cannot be free without property rights.

This symbol will now be used by every activist and group around the globe that accepts and signs our statement

of principles. The symbol can be used in newsletters, web sites and other publications produced, to clearly show unity in the movement and our determination to make private property ownership a major issue that must be protected in all public policy.

It is time for governments around the world to learn that private property ownership is the key to freedom and prosperity. Public policy must be controlled to respect property owners as OWNERS! ●

Statement of Principles For the Worldwide Private Property Rights Movement

Private property ownership and control is one of the central fundamental requirements in establishing and maintaining a free society. Private property ownership is a means to build individual wealth and eradicate poverty. Private property ownership includes land, possessions, fruits of ones labor and ideas. Without private property ownership freedom is not sustainable.



- That no local, city, county, state or federal government shall implement a land use plan that requires any part of legally purchased/deeded private property be set aside for public use or for a Natural Resource Protection Area directing that no construction or disturbance may occur;

- That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall implement a law or ordinance restricting the number of dwellings that may be placed on legally purchased/deeded private

Private Property Rights

means:

- The owner's exclusive authority to determine how private property is used;
- The owner's peaceful possession, control, and enjoyment of his/her legally purchased, deeded private property;
- The owner's ability to make contracts to sell, rent, or give away all or part of the legally purchased/deeded private property;
- That local, city, county, state, and federal governments are prohibited from exercising eminent domain for the sole purpose of acquiring legally purchased/deeded private property so as to resell to a private interest or generate revenues;
- That no local, city, county, state, or federal government has the authority to impose directives, ordinances, fees, or fines regarding aesthetic landscaping, color selections, tree and plant preservation, or open spaces on legally purchased/deeded private property;

property;

- That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall alter or impose zoning restrictions or regulations that will devalue or limit the ability to sell legally purchased/deeded private property;
- That no local, city, county, state, or federal government shall limit profitable or productive agriculture activities by mandating and controlling what crops and livestock are grown on legally purchased/deeded private property;
- That no local, city, county, state, or federal government representatives or their assigned agents may enter private property without the consent of the property owner or is in possession of a lawful warrant from a legitimate court of law. This includes invasion of property rights and privacy by government use of unmanned drone flights.

* That the only legitimate restrictions placed on private property by City, County, State, or Federal governments deal with issues of health, harm and nuisance.

Private Property Rights Defined

Throughout history, experts have left a clear understanding of what property means:

“Property in a thing consists not merely in its ownership and possession, but in the unrestricted right of use, enjoyment, and disposal. Anything which destroys any of the elements of property, to that extent, destroys the property itself. The substantial value of property lies in its use. If the right of use be denied, the value of the property is annihilated and ownership is rendered a barren right.”

- From “Fifth Amendment” treatise by State Supreme Court Justice Richard B. Sanders (12/10/97)

“The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the law of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence.” - President, John Adams

“Ultimately, property rights and personal rights are the same thing.”

President Calvin Coolidge

“If you don’t have the right to own and control property then you are property.”

Wayne Hage, rancher

Private Property Ownership and the Eradication of Poverty

International economist Hernando deSoto estimates that nearly 5 billion people around the world are legally and economically disenfranchised by their own governments because they are denied a comprehensive, legal property system. That means their property cannot serve as an asset.

While it is a common practice in the United States to buy property, hold it for a few years and sell it at a substantial profit or move up to a better home, thereby creating individual wealth, such a system is basically unheard of in most nations of the world.

This incredible ability to build wealth is possible because private property rights are recognized and every bit of land ownership is recognized through complete recognition by government records of the undisputed property ownership.

Because of that system, average Americans can use

their property as a tool to obtain loans. At least 60% of American companies have been started through equity loans on private property. And those privately held companies now employ about 60% of the American workforce.

That is how private property ownership made the United States the richest nation in the world, almost overnight.

Lack of such a system is the reason most of the rest of the world is falling into extreme poverty. The people have no way out of poverty and are forced to rely on government handouts. Yet, the laws and practices of most countries in the world make it nearly impossible for average citizens to own property or to prove ownership of property. That is the root of devastating and growing poverty in most parts of the world.

The Worldwide Private Property Rights Movement calls for all governments to protect the private property owner’s unrestricted right of use, enjoyment and disposal of their legally purchased/deeded private property. In doing so, this allows individuals, all over the world, the opportunity to stand on their own, to achieve their own hopes and dreams without interference.

Private property ownership and its unrestricted use are the foundation for a worldwide revolution of Freedom. Let that revolution begin with a worldwide demand for the universal recognition and protection of the private property rights for each individual on Earth.

To join the Worldwide Private Property Rights Movement and to earn the right to use the international property rights symbol sign here to accept and support this statement of principles:

Your Name

Organization You’re Representing

Location

Contact Information

Planners Fiddle with Numbers to Make Urban Living Look Cheaper

By
John Anthony

In promoting Regional Sustainable Development, planners have a problem. According to Douglas Porter, an expert on Smart Growth and the author of *Making Smart Growth Work*, "there is a gap between the daily mode of living most Americans desire, and the mode most planners believe is appropriate." In other words, Americans do not want much of what planners are selling.

To circumvent opposition, many planners argue that Americans, particularly the Millennials, are already moving out of the suburbs and into the cities. At best, the argument is dubious. The latest US Census Bureau figures show that among Millennials in their 20's, 721,000 moved out of cities, while only 554,000 moved in.

People are leaving the cities for lower cost single-family homes in the suburbs, that are still near enough to urban areas to enjoy the job markets and exciting entertainment.

In response to this reality, planners are employing another tactic to create the illusion that city living is cheaper. They lump together housing and transportation and call the bundle the true cost of housing. However, this approach does not reveal the true cost of housing. It does reveal, exactly what it says...the true cost of housing AND the true cost of transportation.

By merging the two figures, planners would like you to subtract your transportation costs from the higher urban home prices to make the exorbitant price tag more palatable. The only problem with this approach is that it forces new urban bound dwellers to either limit or stop using their automobiles if they hope to lower their 'housing' costs. Rather than provide more choices, this model of planner-promoted behavior actually reduces automobile use, the choice that most homeowners desire.

The Atlanta Regional Council (ARC) has taken this formula to bizarre extremes.

Atlanta is in the envious position of being one of the most affordable metropolitan areas in the US. The low cost of housing is attracting both people and companies like Mercedes Benz. In an example of denial generally relegated to a therapist's couch, ARC in a publication called, *WalkUp WakeUp Call Atlanta*, avers that reasonably-priced housing is not the reason people are moving into the area. Instead it is because of a proliferation of existing walkable communities. While 'walkability' might add to an areas' desirability, people still tend to move into homes they can afford.

Beyond the budgetary and lifestyle limitations of bundling housing and transportation costs is the fact that many 'urban sprawl' dwellers work from home. According to Wendell Cox, principal of Demographia, an international public policy and demographics firm, telecommuting has replaced transit as the chief alternative to the automobile:

Atlanta ranks sixth in working at home, with a 5.96% market share. Atlanta has built more miles of high quality Metro (grade separated subway and elevated rail) than anywhere outside Washington and San Francisco in the last half century. Even so, Atlanta has experienced a more than 50% decline in its transit market share and now that share is barely half that of working alone (3.08%). In 2000, working at home had a commute share of 3.47%, while transit's share was 3.46%.

Fiddling with numbers might be an important exercise for families to use to manage their budgets. But, when planners do the fiddling and the managing for them, it is often because they are attempting to obscure the undesirability of their plans. ●

10 Reasons to Avoid Regional Plans

By
John Anthony

Planning is not a one-size-fits-all exercise. Yet, that is exactly what regional plans attempt, while gradually silencing local officials and the public.

Here are 10 reasons to avoid implementing regional plans and councils. Cleaner Greener NY [1], also called the Capital Region Sustainability Plan [2], is a model of why community members and local public officials must work together and say "NO" to regionalization and regional planning.

See how many apply to your region's proposal.

1. Planners gain miniscule community participation when forming the regions, the plans or the councils

There over 1 million residents in the proposed Capital Region Sustainability Plan (CRSP). Despite claims of "stakeholder engagement" (CRSP p26), less than 300 participated in planners' workshops. In CRSP surveys, only 96 people, or less than .0001 percent of residents participated. (CRSP Appendix 16, p11)

2. Plans are prepackaged and do not represent unique community needs.

In spite of claims to the contrary, most plans encompass the same government sponsored top-down "livability" control features. CRSP includes the same "livable communities" (p99), fewer vehicle miles traveled (p128), and increased compact living (p105) as most regional plans. Cleaner Greener NY (CGNY) further promises the government and non-governmental organization pushed (NGO) standbys of virtually every plan: confiscation of open spaces (p75), forced environmental justice (p58), hi-speed rails (p63), and dilution of privately controlled farmland interests through conservation easements (p90).

3. Plans do not protect individual property rights.

Few regional plans mention the potential individual property rights infringements, tax increases or loss of potential wealth accumulation inherent in most proposals. None offers any method for protection against such losses. The CRSP contains no enforceable landowner protections.

4. Plans fail to protect communities against onerous regulations passed by regional councils.

Once installed, regional councils or consortiums, have immense power to pass regulations with minimal or no local input. The CRSP offers a seat for council representatives. However, having a community representative sitting on a larger multi-county consortium is not the same as making planning decisions with local citizens and local public officials working together in your hometown. (CRSP p8)

6. Plans release questionable or incomplete statistics, which create false impressions.

In the case of Cleaner, Greener NY, the plan optimistically depends on green jobs, stating the US had a 9.1% increase in these between 1998 and 2007. The authors omitted that NY actually lost 1.9% of their green jobs during that same period. They also failed to notify community members that Congressional hearings cast serious doubt on the permanency, quality or even existence of the green jobs claimed. (CGNY p37)

7. Promotes community solutions without explaining the potential negative effects.

The CRSP promotes conservation easements to protect farmland from development without addressing the loss of dominant estate status, potential for plan changes, the downsides of 'best practices' and a host of ways in which landowners can lose their property and its value while still technically being the owner. (CGNY p90, p100)

8. Councils open the door for government grants, which often contain restrictive policies to reduce vehicle use while forcing low-income housing and social justice.

The CRSP states that future grant monies will be necessary, but not their source nor stipulations that will be attached. (CRSP p8)

9. Regional councils confiscate much of local officials' power, leaving the community with less representation.

In the CRSP, 25 local leaders have already diminished their oversight by agreeing to allow Albany to take the lead in all grant processing. To protect constituents, public officials must carefully study all grants and report the implications to their constituents before approval. Grants are the doorway to regulatory control of community members' lifestyles, activities and residential opportunities. (CRSP p8) In NY, communities are already beginning to pay the price for regionalization before the plan is even approved.

10. Once formed, regional councils are virtually irreversible.

Once officials agree to form a region and council, if community members discover they dislike its regulations, how can they disband the entity and roll back the dictates? There is no provision in the CRSP for its break up or regulatory rollback.

5. Plans rely on questionable "experts" for critical advice.

The CRSP relies on the Apollo Alliance for assurances there will be green jobs, which are fundamental to the plan's success. Yet, Apollo advised on the 'stimulus program' assuring there would be shovel ready and green jobs if passed. A year later, we learned Apollo exaggerated the job potential. (CGNY p40, p44)

John Anthony is the President of Sustainable Freedom Lab. Sustainablefreedomlab.org ●