

Food Stamp Friday – Let's Party

✘ Well, if you're on food stamps and only want to pay a \$5 cover charge, The Rose Club in Montgomery, Alabama will help you out. Yep, for those people with a food stamp card, you can get into the club on Friday nights for just \$5.

The only good thing from this story was that attendees will not be able to buy booze with their food stamps. But that's the only positive thing about this story. (But I also can't forget that California welfare recipients used state-issued debit cards and withdrew more than \$1.8 million in taxpayer cash on casino floors between October 2009 and May 2010. Then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an executive order requiring welfare recipients to promise they would use the cash only to "meet the basic subsistence needs" of their families.) I can guarantee someone will figure out how to scam the system in Alabama and take advantage of this theme night at The Rose Club on the taxpayers' dime.

I don't ever like telling people what to do with their money because if they've earned it, they should be able to do whatever they please with it. But, seriously, if you're on food stamps (thanks to the generosity of taxpayers), do you really need to be going out drinking on a Friday night? And, of course, we have to know that those people, with supposedly limited funds, will be spending a helluva lot more than the \$5 cover during the night.

One comment I read said the following and I quote, "even po' people need to get there drinkin' on."

As far as I'm concerned, that's the last thing "po' people" need. I've got a few suggestions to all those with so much time on their hands on a Friday night:

How about looking for a job? Picking up cans or litter to make your neighborhood a little nicer?

How about volunteering your time at a local shelter, food bank or church?

How about going to the local library and checking out a book for your own enjoyment or to read to your child? Or a DVD?

How about taking that \$5 cover charge and going to your nearest Dollar Store and buying a deck of cards and a couple of bottles of soda and inviting some friends over for some friendly card games? Or some card games like Go Fish or UNO and play them with your children?

How about going to your nearest Costco and spending that \$5 on the biggest jar of peanut butter and a loaf of bread you can buy so your child(ren) can have lunches for the next couple of weeks?

How about going to your local Goodwill store and buy a couple of board game and having a family game night? Or a jigsaw puzzle that everyone can work on for a couple of nights?

With daylight savings time in effect now, how about taking your children out for a long walk? Or to a nearby park?

I could go on and on and on but what's the point....

I just don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.

The Nanny States of America

- ❌ Minnesota, like so many states, is facing a harsh reality. On July 1st, the government shut down and each side began

blaming the other for failing to pass a budget that would solve the \$5 billion deficit.

What caught my attention was the story of Sonya Mills, a 39-year-old mother of eight children – six of whom are ages 3 through 14 who apparently live with her – who now has to face the loss of about \$3,600 a month in state funding for their daycare. Yep, that's \$43,200 tax free money the generous people of Minnesota cough up to watch this irresponsible woman's children while she works at a temp agency.

There's so many things wrong with this picture, I don't know where to begin but I'll try.

Mills should be the poster child for the nanny state. Instead of families, communities and churches helping those who really need help, the nanny state that has evolved in this country encourages people to have lots of kids they can't support and who expect the state to pay for their stupidity.

She's collecting more a month than most seniors collect in Social Security and they've been paying into the system their entire lives!

I can understand one mistake by someone in her early 20s. But how do have seven more and the last one when you're 36 years old? As Judge Judy would say, "she has to find something else to occupy her time besides making babies."

We can all be very pleased with how effective sex education in schools has been. Perhaps Mills skipped school on the days when pregnancy prevention was being taught.

Even if she missed those classes in school, why wasn't she going to tax-funded organization, Planned Parenthood, for some contraceptive advice? Isn't that what they're there for? To hand out free birth control pills and condoms? (Or is it really an abortion mill?)

And how about the fathers? As I've written before in "Political Correctness Abounds," I want to know whether Mills is an unwed mother, divorced or widowed. I'm going to go out on a limb here and say there's more than one father and she's an unwed mother. (Prove me wrong.) So who and where are the fathers? Why aren't they paying child support? Has the state tracked down these deadbeats and are their wages being attached?

The article doesn't mention the other two children. Are they the oldest? Why aren't they watching their siblings instead of the people of Minnesota?

In "Who's Rich? Who's Poor?" I wrote about people who've learned how to scam the system with impunity. I'd like to know what other benefits is this woman receiving? Food stamps? Child tax credits aka welfare? Section 8 housing? Medicaid? I wouldn't be surprised if she's getting paid under the table and still collecting unemployment or SSI, but then again, I'm a very cynical person.

We've always been a very compassionate nation. We still are. We donate more to victims of disasters around the world than all other countries. However, the nanny state has taken hold in the United States and it has eliminated the incentive to take care of yourself and your family. The days of "rugged individualism" seems to be waning.

If the economic crises continues, I wouldn't be surprised to see rioting in the streets led by people like Mills complaining that their cradle to grave benefits have dried up. If you don't believe me, just look at the chaos in Greece. Once people get used to the government taking care of their every need, handouts are expected, and God help you, if you start saying, "no more."

So, when I read stories like this one, when people's own choices put them into predicaments such as the one Mills finds

herself, I don't feel sorry for her. I feel sorry for the kids and if their mother is so irresponsible, I hate to say it, but perhaps the state should raise them – it's already footing the bill.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.

P.S. If we find out that Mills actually adopted eight developmentally delayed and/or physically disabled children and her husband was killed in Afghanistan and left her without any life insurance, I take back all the bad things I said about her.

“Money for Nothing and Your ‘Chits’ For Free”

I know I'm beating a dead horse here, but I just can't help myself.

I run a law office which operates in Washington and California. I keep calendars, meet deadlines, know in which court my husband is expected to be, and do tons of paperwork. When I order supplies, I know exactly what I'm buying and know exactly when the order will arrive. I'm accountable to my husband. In other words, I keep track of a lot of things and I'm just one person.

The government has, how many, employees and all of them put together can't seem to keep track of anything. From the looks of things, it has no interest in weeding out the scammers.

According to a WSJ op-ed piece by James Bovard, the number of food-stamp recipients has risen to 44 million, up from 26

million in 2007 costing \$77 billion up from \$33 billion. The USDA has only 40 inspectors to oversee about 200,000 merchants who accept food stamps but who'll never be prosecuted for illegal activities.

Wisconsin food-stamp recipients routinely sell their benefit cards on Facebook and prosecutors won't prosecute.

In my state of Washington, food-stamp recipients are selling their cards on Craigslist. DSHS management has actually restricted fraud investigations into this criminal activity. Go figure.

Thirty percent of inmates in an Iowan jail collected food stamps. The same thing is happening in Wisconsin where more than \$12 million in overpaid benefits and other questionable charges were made in 2009, some which went to prison inmates. Again, same thing in New York and the list goes on and on.

Not only are monies going to people who aren't qualified to receive them, but government employees are scamming the system as well. Two employees of NYC's Human Resources Administration pocketed \$8 million from their food-stamp scam; Wisconsin staffers plundered almost \$300,000 and a Louisiana state bureaucrat scammed the system for \$50,000.

What's really disgusting is that, on the one hand, the food stamp program is considered by the USDA as a "nutrition" program but, on the other hand, it vetoed all proposals to prevent food stamps from being used for junk food. Although food stamp recipients rose by more than 50% during the Bush administration, you'd think that President Obama would do something about this so his wife would stop kvetching about junk food.

And the abuses aren't limited to food stamps. My husband often sees people selling their government-issued bus passes for money to buy drugs. In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid made \$70 billion in improper payments.

I remember reading last year about protestors on Wall Street, not angry about the failing economy or Wall Street scandals. Nope, they wanted an extension of their already 99 weeks of unemployment benefits! Sure, some people, through no fault of their own, lose jobs, yet, I know a few people who miraculously found a job after their 99 weeks were up.

What are the two million federal employees doing? I know every one isn't in charge of doling out money, but, really, who's in charge here? Who's watching the vault?

We've got a growing number of whiners in this country who feel entitled to the tax dollars paid by hard-working Americans. We've got the scammers who know they're not entitled to the monies they receive but don't return it. And then we've got the government that is either disinterested or impotent to do anything about it.

What was once a country whose greatest asset was its self-reliant citizens, is now becoming a nation of wimps and deadbeats. We only have to see what's happening in European welfare countries to visualize what our country may look like in the foreseeable future.

Cradle to grave benefits gut peoples' independence and individualism and results in a nanny state where folks believe they are entitled to free money.

I wasn't raised like that. I was expected to work after I graduated from high school and I continued to do so while attending and paying my own way through college and law school.

Instead of getting an education and become productive members of society, too many people feel entitled and are willing to accept a government stipend and then complain when the coffers dry up. The welfare mentality has always been alien to me.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.