

ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING

Executive Summary of work completed to date

Updated 2/7/2018

The following presents an overview of the work that the "Answers to Everything" SIG has accomplished since the group began its weekly Monday meetings in January of 1997. It is intended for individuals who are interested in becoming new participants in our meetings, to help bring you 'up to speed' quickly, so that you can jump right in and participate actively in our current discussions, without having to sit through a lengthy in-person orientation, or read all of the individual reports that have appeared in the L.A. Mensa newsletter.

This document presents only the actual decisions themselves, without any explanation or other background. Anyone wanting to know more about these findings is invited to consult the General Summary, a copy of which is also posted on the L.A. Mensa website.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: The statements appearing in this document represent only the views of the local Answers to Everything SIG and some/all of its constituent members, but they do not constitute opinions held by Mensa (or any of its subsidiary chapters), which holds no institutional opinions on any subject.

An important 'ground rule' that should be remembered when reviewing this document is that all the answers contained herein are subject to subsequent reconsideration and modification by the group. In instances where the group has changed its position on a particular question, only the position currently held by the group is shown in this document, while the more noteworthy preliminary decisions are discussed in the General Summary.

The Agenda begins with a few introductory Questions addressing the Project itself. The core of the Agenda is divided into three Parts: Part I is for the political Questions, Part II is for the economic Questions, and Part III is for the social Questions. Each Part contains 6-8 Sections dealing with specific areas.

INTRODUCTION

Question 1 of the outline asked whether we need to undertake this Project at all. To address this, we found (a) that we are not sufficiently satisfied with the current system to let it alone, (b) that we are sufficiently empowered to make changes, and (c) that we therefore do want to put in the effort to take on this project.

The next step (Question 2) was to figure out the best approach for building the Agenda. Having considered multiple suggestions, we have finally decided to use the 'top down' or 'whole-agenda' approach, in which we evaluate an outline of questions in three parts (as discussed above), where each part starts with some basic principles and general global questions, and gradually introduces specific structures and processes that we want to be implemented locally. We then agreed that it is best to group similar topics together, and that it appears to make the most logical sense to address the groups in the order of political, economic, and social.

PART I - THE POLITICAL ANSWERS

This Part of the Outline has six Sections: Basic Principles, Government Organization, The Election Process, Executive Structure, Legislative Operations, and Judicial Reform.

SECTION I-A: BASIC PRINCIPLES

In order to be able later to achieve consensus on any complex or controversial topic, we needed to start with some very basic philosophical questions, beginning with Question 3, "Are we even here?". On this, we acknowledged that it may be technically impossible to prove the assertion, but we have yet accepted as an operating assumption that we do indeed exist. We also adopted the operating assumption that we have freedom of will. It is necessary for people to interact, given the extent of our current population.

Rights

Our current working definition of a 'right' is "the freedom to take a certain action, or to receive or enjoy a certain benefit".

Any right carries with it the right to waive that right. Certain rights may carry certain responsibilities, including the general responsibility to respect the rights of others, and conversely accepting certain responsibilities may convey certain rights.

There appear to be two basic kinds of rights, being those 'natural' or 'fundamental' rights which apply to all persons regardless of where or how they choose to live, and those 'civil' rights which are negotiated or legislated among members of a particular society. Any right can be legitimately abridged by civil authority, but 'natural' rights generally should require the fulfillment of some additional standards as a condition of abridgement.

Sentient and willful animals also have the same natural rights as humans. Pet owners should release their pets upon apparent request, except when continued protective custody is actually in the pets' best interests.

The existence of natural rights does not imply a responsibility on the part of all observers to intervene during an alleged violation.

We have thus far identified the following rights as 'natural', meaning that they should not be abridged, appropriated, or otherwise usurped against the subject's will and without any provocative action on the subject's part: sense of self, physical non-abuse, non-injurious self-determination [expressed in our Resolution #1, that "every individual ought to be able to do anything that he/she wants, provided that such action causes no injury (or immediate threat of injury) to others", where we have defined 'injury' as "compromising a person's ability to do what they would otherwise be physically and legally able to do"], property voluntarily created, parenthood, and biological killing of lower-order animals.

All natural rights contain some natural restrictions.

Species and populations can also have some/all of the same natural rights as individuals, but only if they likewise would universally feel the same sense of victimization at a threat from either Nature or (more likely) some other (either terrestrial or extra-terrestrial) species, and at present only modern humans are the only candidate species that we're seeing as possibly meeting this condition, although other candidate species could possibly evolve or be discovered later, at which time we probably will need some kind of impartial body to adjudicate such inter-species disputes.

Government

Given the necessity of people to interact, there will inevitably be some clash between individual interests and the interests of the overall society, and people's fundamental biological impulses to survive and to maximize the quality of their lives will often tend to give precedence to their self-interests. We should have some public organization in place to help balance these public and personal interests, and this organization needs to be monitored by the people, who should have ultimate power to authorize or de-authorize that agency.

Even a society that does not have any such problems would still need a public organization of some kind, whereby decisions to improve everybody's quality of life could get made and implemented. We find it appropriate for us to use the word 'government' to refer to this public organization. The exact role and scope of any such government is to be determined by the people whom that government serves.

If some government passes a law that I think is unfair, excessive, or otherwise inappropriate, then I should be allowed to disobey it, provided that I can demonstrate to a court of competent jurisdiction that I should be exempted from that law (either temporarily or permanently), for whatever reason. If I fail to make my case, then I am subject to the same reprisals as any other violator. If I am exempted in court, however, the applicable legislature will have an opportunity to override the judge's ruling, in which case standard procedure still applies.

There should not be one single government controlling the entire world. Governments should continue to have control over specific geographic regions. A 'country' is defined as a land area (which does not need to have any particular minimum size) with a specific border that has a national government in place to manage its affairs, and that has been recognized by the prevailing 'international oversight organization'. We have accepted the international borders that we currently have, any future changes to be recognized by the 'international oversight organization'.

International oversight organizations

We agree that there should be an 'international oversight organization' (or "I.O.O."), to serve as a central body for addressing issues affecting the entire world, or large areas of it.

We are allowing the I.O.O. to have some limited legislative authority, to protect the rights of one country from being abused by another country (pursuant to Resolution #1A, which is a corollary to Resolution #1 as applied to countries), but with sufficient checks and balances in place to prevent the I.O.O. from effectively becoming a one-world government.

The I.O.O. will have jurisdiction over the entire world, not just those countries who choose to be members. The I.O.O. shall not have the power to exclude countries from membership, though they may refrain from recognizing new states that result from the breakup of larger countries. There should be a neutral territory for I.O.O. headquarters.

The I.O.O. should comprise three houses, one having a single delegate from each country, one with proportional representation based on population, and one with proportional representation based on geographic area; a country too small to have a delegate of its own in either or both of the latter two houses may combine with neighboring countries to have a regional delegate. All houses will elect their own leaders, and there will be a steering committee to determine which house(s) should review each issue, and an executive committee to decide issues affecting the I.O.O. itself.

Enforcing arm should be staffed by member countries in proportion to their respective military strengths, and may enact reprisals against any country or other organization crossing a border with military force, or imminently threatening to do so. Involvement of I.O.O. in alleged violations of human rights shall be limited to making sure that people who wish to leave the country are permitted to do so. Funding of I.O.O. operations shall be in proportion to total number of delegates from each country, and I.O.O. debates are to be removed from public view.

The I.O.O. may use any of several means to communicate to all people in the world that they exist, and that they are available to transport people out in instances of alleged human rights violations. The I.O.O. should probably rotate any military personnel stationed at local embassies. Helpful if personnel stationed locally are familiar with local language and customs.

OK to have a central headquarters for the I.O.O., but should also have satellite offices around the world. A hotline should be set up to provide quick notification of hostilities or other severe trouble, and the line should be linked to all satellite offices.

Good for the I.O.O. to have an 'action committee' for defense, which can make quick decisions that will be subject to ratification or overrule by the full assembly. Several specific rules defined as to the staffing of the Defense Committee.

Citizenship

By far the most complex question that the Answers to Everything SIG has treated thus far has been Question 21, on whether an individual needs to identify himself/herself as being a "citizen" of a given country, or whether there can/should be such a thing as "dual citizenship", or whether an individual can be a citizen of no country, or whether we need any kind of citizenship at all. After a ten-month review and three re-reviews, our finding is that the institution of citizenship should be discontinued.

Secession and treason

Any segment of any jurisdiction may secede from its parent with approval of such action by a 2/3 majority of the seceding group. In this context, "treason" has been defined as any action which is intended to undermine or subvert the existing

government by a resident of that jurisdiction, not including the encouragement of secession. Penalties for treason should be among the stiffest available.

International relations

Peaceful transfer of territory between countries may be arranged without I.O.O. approval, if and only if such transfer is consensual among all affected countries. Individual countries may submit border disputes to arbitration by the I.O.O., though localized peaceful negotiations should first be given every chance to succeed. Multilateral treaties may be enforced by the I.O.O., though we shall require each house that is assigned to consider a particular policy statement to approve same by a 2/3 majority in order for it to carry. Neither the I.O.O. nor any individual country may incur into another country because it disapproves of that country's form of government. An individual or consortium may purchase all or part of a country if approved by 2/3 of the affected residents.

In general, a country may react unilaterally to any actual military incursion across its border, and/or appeal to the I.O.O. to take appropriate countermeasures. If there is sufficiently compelling evidence that an attack is immediately imminent, such that there is insufficient time to obtain I.O.O. authorization, a country may act unilaterally to prevent the attack, but they had better be in a position to justify their actions before the I.O.O. later, or else be subject to retaliatory action themselves. Otherwise, such matters should be left up to the adjudication of the I.O.O.

American government

Considering the general philosophical question of what sort of country we want to have in America, we agreed to retain many current institutions, including maximum personal freedoms, representative government, equal voting weight for each person, a free-market economy, and a federal system of government where many functions are devolved down to lower levels. We also agreed that we want to see more political and fiscal accountability, more enforcement of campaign promises, and less attachment to the idea that America should be the "watchdog" of the world.

SECTION I-B: GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Confirmed that we want a federalized government, with different functions assigned to different levels. No change recommended in existing State boundaries. To change a State boundary should require a 2/3 majority of the affected populations; to break up a State should also require majority approval of the national Legislature. Adopted the concept of 'subsidiarity', which says that functions should generally be devolved down to the lowest levels that can adequately manage them.

Decided some specific points on Territories, including which types of areas should be under direct federal control, the procedure by which that determination is to be made in specific cases, and what rights a Territory should and should not have.

Counties have been defined as essentially regional administrative arms of the State, and Cities have been defined as specific geographic areas where (1) certain laws could be enacted, and (2) certain small-scale administrative functions could be managed.

Agreed to incorporate the U.S. Constitution into our overall model, though we also

agreed that there are certain specific elements of the Constitution that we might like to change, when we get to the appropriate Sections of our Outline.

SECTION I-C: THE ELECTION PROCESS

Adopted Resolution #2A, that "Most or all legislative and senior executive government positions should be filled by individuals elected by the general populace, the will of the majority of the electorate being the best determinant of who should serve in which capacity", and Resolution #2B, that "Most or all subordinate executive government positions should be filled by appointment of higher levels, candidates for such positions to be nominated and/or screened by peer groups as applicable." Exception for Counties, the administrative heads of which should be appointed by the elected legislature. Each jurisdiction should have a constitution or charter that specifies the actual selection method for each position or class of positions in that jurisdiction; each constitution/charter should also specify the mechanisms by which that document may be amended.

Subsection I-C-1: Parties, Apportionment, and Voter Registration

Considered continued viability of political parties, and adopted Resolution #3, as follows: "Candidates for office may choose to attach themselves to one or more organizations to help with fundraising, publicity, and other such chores, but such affiliations should not appear on any ballot, and should not factor into the filling of any office within any legislature."

State election offices should have control over district boundary-drawing at all levels; some specifics determined as to actual process. Guiding principles for drawing the lines should include compactness, simplicity, and similarity of community makeup. Defined three specific rules to be imposed on drawing committees, along with certain procedures for approving or overturning the plans produced by those committees.

Agreed that voter registration continues to be important even in the absence of political parties. Several detailed rules compiled as to who should be permitted to register to vote, the conditions under which one may/must re-register, what should happen when a voter has been inactive for a certain number of elections/years, and related items.

Subsection I-C-2: Qualifications for Office

There should be no residency, age, or citizenship requirement to be eligible to serve in public office. Voters may choose to elect convicted criminals, provided that they have full disclosure of such information before voting. No other requirements are to be added for government office, with preference toward letting the voters in each race decide the best candidate.

Treated the topic of term limits, and adopted Resolution #4, as follows: "RESOLVED, The imposition of artificial limitations on the number of terms served by any given public official is contrary to the interests of a free electorate, who should have maximum flexibility in choosing their representatives and leaders."

Candidates should not be required to answer questions on topics that do not directly relate to the qualifications for the positions that they seek, and it may be considered inappropriate for such irrelevant questions even to be asked.

Subsection I-C-3: Campaign Reform

Public funding of campaigns should be eliminated, though government may provide each candidate with minimum exposure by printing their pictures and campaign statements in ballot pamphlets, and by arranging a minimum number of debates in which all candidates may participate. There is to be no limit on campaign contributions, but there shall be a maximum spending limit, and there shall be full disclosure of all contributions and expenditures; the actual limits are to be set by individual jurisdictions, based on current economic and technological conditions. Campaign contributions received in excess of the jurisdiction's designated spending limit should escheat to that jurisdiction's general fund.

There shall be no filing fee for entering a campaign, but prospective candidates shall generally be required to collect a certain number of signatures on a petition. Specific provisions adopted as to the signature-collection process.

Each jurisdiction may set its own rules for its own elections, and the federal government in particular shall set and apply uniform rules for national elections. Candidates may generally expend their campaign budgets as they see fit, so most/all "equal time" rules currently in force may be discontinued. No polls or surveys pertaining to an election may be published during -- or at any time prior to -- Election Day, though candidates may contract with polling services to obtain information for private use, as part of their campaign budget.

Best for each jurisdiction's election office to maintain records of all campaign contributions as part of its normal operations. It is in the public interest for the campaign spending limit to be low. Changing the campaign spending limit should be done by referendum or initiative. No payments of any kind should ever be made to incumbent officials, except a government paycheck.

Subsection I-C-4: Voting and Tallying

Maximizing voter participation is not necessarily in the public interest (which expression we have defined as "the set of conditions which will tend to maximize the aggregate quality of life of the residents of a given geographic area"), but maximization of willing voter participation is.

Facilitating registration and making actual voting as easy as possible should help to maximize willing voter participation; however, providing prizes, cash payments, or other such incentives to vote is not in the public interest. The use of mailed ballots is to be encouraged (though in-person voting will still be permitted), until electronic voting can be fully implemented.

Popular elections should not happen more frequently than once every two years.

The final weeks before Election Day will include prohibition of campaign ads in broadcast media. All candidates sending out campaign material in the mail shall be required to send out at least one application for mail-in ballots. The announcement of election results shall not be permitted in any area while polls in any other area are still open.

We identified multiple issues surrounding electronic voting, but found that all such

issues should eventually be satisfactorily resolved by continuation of ongoing efforts, and that we can eventually transition to an environment where votes are cast only by electronic mechanisms.

The Electoral College is to be discontinued. Instead, State election officials will communicate statewide results on national elections to the national legislature, which will be responsible for totalling and certifying those results as needed.

We examined several alternatives to the standard procedure of having each voter vote for only one candidate, with the victory going to whoever receives a plurality of those first-place votes. Under the 'yes/no/abstain' method that we ultimately adopted, each voter may vote 'yes' to approve as many candidate(s) as he/she wishes, and may vote 'no' to disapprove any candidate(s), and may abstain from voting on any candidate with whom he/she doesn't feel sufficiently familiar. Each candidate's 'no' votes are subtracted from his/her 'yes' votes, and the victory goes to the candidate(s) with the highest quantity of (yes - no).

We concluded that there is no real value in having a "none-of-the-above" (NOTA) ballot option as part of our election model.

Subsection I-C-5: Recall Procedures

An appointed official shall be subject to removal by the official who made the appointment (or that official's current replacement), subject to the same just-cause requirements as may be applicable in any employer/employee situation, and elected officials may be removed by special recall election. The recall process is to be begun by gathering signatures on a petition (same as for the original election), with each jurisdiction determining -- for each type of office -- how many signatures shall be required to validate the petition. Simple majority of the voting electorate shall be both necessary and sufficient to complete the recall. Very high-level positions (such as President, Governor, etc.) should have separate backup positions (Vice-President, Lt. Governor, etc.). Most/all other elective positions vacated by recall should be filled by the highest-ranking candidate in the previous election that is both willing and able to serve, but should still have a designated order of succession from other positions for when no alternate candidate is available.

SECTION I-D: EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE

Guiding principles

The first few Questions in this Section deal with some general points on structuring, appointments, and reporting relationships in executive branches of government at different levels. Among our findings is that the guiding principles which should be observed by government agencies should include responding to the needs and desires of the people being served/governed, and more specifically that their actions should balance the long-term values of a society with its short- and medium-term policies and desires. Motivations for specific agencies to follow these principles can include competition with other jurisdictions, recall or unreelection of senior executives, incentive-based pay and bonuses for employees, and the possibility of firing or other disciplinary action for very poor service.

We don't want government to be making any decisions about our actions based on subjective judgments. Rather, anything that they would have us do or not do should

first have been approved and codified by the applicable elective legislature.

Removal from office

Feedback forms should be made available, to get public response on the level of service provided by government agencies and employees. To maximize the incentive to provide good service, we should replace the concept of tenure in the Civil Service program with protection from arbitrary firing. There should be no 'probationary period' in government service; once you're accepted for employment, you can be removed only for just cause. Even if a particular official (such as a U.S. President) is seen to be performing poorly, we're allowing for the possibility that to remove that official prematurely could cause an even greater disruption than leaving him/her in office.

Above findings summarized in our Resolution #5, as follows: "All government employees -- up to and including the Chief Executives of the United States of America and of each of its constituent States and subsidiary jurisdictions -- shall be subject to possible removal from their positions at any time, for cause relating to the quality of their service, and/or the cost necessary to produce it."

The Vice-President

We find that the Vice-President (or analogous official of a lower jurisdiction) should automatically succeed the President (or analogous local official) upon his/her death during office, and that the President and Vice-President should continue to be elected on the same ticket, even in the absence of political parties.

Reporting relationships

All administrative department heads should report first to the Vice-President, Lieutenant Governor, etc., provided that the Fed has a National Security Council that includes the U.S. President, the U.S. Vice-President, and the future equivalents of the current Secretaries of State and Defense.

The Chief Executive of a given jurisdiction may take any unilateral action that is specifically authorized by a legislative provision; he/she may also initiate actions not specifically authorized or prohibited by the Legislature, though such actions are subject to override within 30 days by a simple majority of the Legislature.

Any administrative reorganization that results in elimination of a currently-filled position shall cause the affected employee to be put on 60-day 'priority placement', whereby that individual shall be given preferential consideration for any vacancy existing within that period, and then be granted a severance package if found to be not sufficiently qualified for any of these.

The Legislature should have authority to confirm or overrule the appointments of all department heads and bureau chiefs in the Executive Branch.

Question 135

In this Question, we created a model departmental structure for each level of government. The model structures for States and localities are intended only as a default recommendation; those jurisdictions may adjust the structures to suit their

particular demographics, topography, economic potential, collective political philosophy, etc., etc.

Our current model structure stands as follows, with the individual Departments and Bureaus and Offices being listed in alphabetical order:

Federal

Administrative Services

- Accounting & Budget
- Building & Floor Planning
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Personnel
- Procurement
- Security
- Transportation Services

Defense

- Air Defense
- Intelligence
- Land Defense
- Sea Defense
- Space Defense

Domestic Affairs

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Business & Securities
- Census & Statistics
- Copyrights & Patents
- Domestic Trade
- Electronic Communications
- Language Resources
- National Parks
- Public Information
- Social Services
- Territorial Administration
- Water & Power

Finance

- Asset Management
- Currency
- Government Payroll & Pensions
- Revenue Collection

Foreign Affairs

- Cultural Exchange
- Diplomatic Relations
- Immigration
- International Trade

Health & Safety

- Disaster Relief
- Environmental & Consumer Protection
- Occupational Safety
- Public Health

Justice

- Criminal Records
- Detention
- General Counsel
- Investigation
- Marshal
- Prosecutor

Science

- Earth & Sea Exploration
- Measurement Standards
- Meteorology
- Research & Development
- Space Exploration

Transportation

- Air Traffic
- Airports & Harbors
- Highways
- Railroads

State

Administration & Finance

- Accounting
- Investments
- Payroll
- Personnel
- Taxation

Commerce

- Banking
- Consumer Affairs
- Corporations
- Gambling Regulation
- Insurance
- Tourism

Conservation

- Environmental Protection
- Historical Landmarks
- Wilderness Areas

Elections

(no separate bureaus)

Law Enforcement

- Gun Control
- Internal Auditing
- Investigation
- Police
- Prisons & Parole
- Prosecutions

Public Services

- Disaster Relief
- Job Training
- Occupational Safety

Transportation

- Driver's Licenses

- Highway Construction & Maintenance
- Vehicle Registration

County

Administration

- Budget & Auditing
- Facilities Management
- Personnel & Payroll
- Taxation

Education

(no separate bureaus)

Environmental Services

- Conservation
- Ecological Restoration
- Fish & Game
- Waste Management
- Garbage Collection & Removal
- Recycling
- Sewage Management

Health & Safety

- Animal Regulation
- Building Permits & Inspections
- Coroner
- Drug & Liquor Regulation
- Fire & Rescue
- Medical Services
- Restaurant Inspections

Parks & Recreation

(no separate bureaus)

Public Assistance

- Child Placement
- Counseling Services
- Disaster Relief
- Entitlements
- Job Placement
- Job Training
- Worker's Compensation

Records & Elections

(no separate bureaus)

Transportation

- Airports
- Harbors
- Public Transportation
- Street & Highway Maintenance
- Traffic Management

Water & Power

(no separate bureaus)

Municipal

Administration

- Facilities Management

- Finance
- Personnel
- Cultural Enrichment
 - Arts
 - Historic Preservation
 - Libraries
 - Parks
 - Special Events
 - Tourism
- Permits & Licenses
(no separate bureaus)
- Public Safety
 - Corrections
 - Disaster Relief
 - Police
- Transportation
 - Parking Enforcement
 - Public Transportation
 - Street & Highway Maintenance
 - Traffic Management

Subsection I-D-1: Executive Branch of Federal Government

Department heads should be referred to as 'Director' instead of 'Secretary'. The 'Chief of Staff' shall only supervise the President's personal support team, and shall not have any involvement in executive or political matters. U.S. President and Vice-President shall continue to serve 4-year terms. Measures adopted for when the spouse of a Chief Executive is found to be guilty of treason.

Subsubsection I-D-1-a: Department of Foreign Affairs

It is not reasonable to expect that relations between countries will always remain normal and peaceful, thus it is appropriate to have a separate Department that specializes in maintaining peaceful and constructive relations with other countries.

We will continue to have an ambassador for each country in the world, plus consuls for major cities. Consuls report to ambassadors, who report to District Directors, who report to the Diplomatic Relations Bureau, which shall include a unit for providing security services to foreign dignitaries, to relieve that function from the current Secret Service. Provisions adopted as to appointment of diplomats, who should generally serve until they retire or their performance is found to be sufficiently unsatisfactory as to warrant removal.

Embassies and consulates shall continue to be treated as sovereign territory of the countries being represented.

The institution of diplomatic immunity should be discontinued. No objection to treating arrested/convicted diplomats in special ways, but they should most definitely not get away with violating the criminal codes of the host country.

Further statements offered on travel checkpoints for disease screening and criminal identification. Generally, countries may perform these operations as they deem necessary and appropriate, and the U.S. may wish to continue performing some such

activities, but we would like it de-emphasized as much as we can.

It is OK for the U.S. to send free economic aid to foreign countries, but only after we have first taken care of the hungry and homeless and diseased within our own borders.

Question 148 considered the feasibility of merging the U.S. with Canada (with the possible exception of Quebec), and we determined not to offer such a recommendation at this time.

Subsubsection I-D-1-b: Department of Defense

We do want to maintain a standing armed force for defensive purposes, but we should not initiate military attacks against any other countries for any reason. We may (and should) participate in I.O.O.-sanctioned campaigns against countries who initiated hostilities with other countries, and we may (and should) defend ourselves and our allies when directly attacked, but that should be the full extent of our military involvement.

Military service should never be compulsory. OK to provide incentives for service if desired, but ultimately keep it voluntary.

Only restrictions permissible on who may serve are (1) the physical capability to perform jobs in Service, (2) passing a psychological evaluation, (3) not belonging to any organization that has expressed ill will toward the U.S., and (4) an intelligence level above some designated minimum. As long as the same entrance standards (e.g., height, weight, age) are applied equally to all recruits, there is no valid reason to deny induction on the basis of either gender or sexual preference.

Pregnant women in Service should be re-assigned as needed to duties which are not hazardous or physically over-strenuous, and should be given a healthy maternity leave when the time comes. In no wise should they be discharged from Service as a result of getting pregnant.

Barracks and latrines may generally be shared among soldiers of all combinations of gender and gender preference, but different military units may experiment to see which different types of showering arrangements work best and worst as far as both practicality and allowing all soldiers to feel comfortable.

We do wish to continue to have an agency to gather intelligence on other countries, including by covert mechanisms as needed. This agency can/should be part of the Department of Defense, and we find that it is absolutely not necessary to have a separate department for 'homeland security'.

Subsubsection I-D-1-c: Department of Finance

Confirmed that this department will cover Asset Management, Currency, Government Payroll & Pensions, and Revenue Collection. Other questions of an economic nature to be evaluated in Part II of our Outline.

We do want to maintain ample acreage for forests, both as a strategic reserve for lumber and also to help replenish our regional oxygen supply. OK for some forest land to be sold or leased to private commercial organizations, but we also want to

continue to keep some forest land in the custody of the federal government, specifically the Bureau of Asset Management.

Subsubsection I-D-1-d: Bureau of Environmental & Consumer Protection

There should be an agency at the national level to treat environmental issues, but similar agencies should also exist at more local levels of government. Environmental issues at the national level often dovetail with issues involving consumers of products, so the federal agency will consider both types of issues concurrently. Some specific functions that can be discharged by this administrative agency include ecosystem oversight, air quality, safety of food products, accuracy of packaging labels, and seismic monitoring.

Government should not be mandating fluoridation of drinking water, but local governments may arrange for chlorination or other treatment that may be needed to make water sufficiently potable. Government emphasis on species preservation should be limited to preventing significant population depletions that would cause an unhealthy shift in the ecosystem balance.

Subsubsection I-D-1-e: Department of Science

We see it as a responsibility of a progressive government to be conducting and/or coordinating and/or funding more scientific and technical research, and we are recommending that all such activities be managed through a central federal agency. Briefly considered the idea of making this a completely separate branch of government, instead of an agency of the Executive Branch, but decided to stick with the original model.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f: Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, Labor, Commerce

We found in Question 170 that we do not need to have a separate Cabinet-level department for each of these functions, and that they can be either segmented into different other departments, or else dismissed from the federal Executive Branch entirely. Considered merging all of these functions into a single Commerce Department, but decided to stick with the current model structure for the present.

Subsubsubsection I-D-1-f-i: Bureau of Agriculture

General mission of this agency should be to maximize the quantity and quality of our agricultural output. Specifically, this agency can monitor production levels, safety of agricultural processes, and humane treatment of livestock. All other functions of the current Department of Agriculture are to be either discontinued or assigned elsewhere. Any such monitoring of safety or livestock treatment should be conducted in accordance with specific written standards established by the elective legislature, and not on the basis of subjective judgments on the part of federal regulators.

Production monitoring should be of an informational and advisory nature only, and we're strongly recommending never to pay farmers not to grow certain crops.

Subsubsubsection I-D-1-f-ii: Bureau of Electronic Communications

Any monitoring and/or restriction of electronic communication content should be managed at the federal level, since these communications cross state boundaries all the time. In considering the extent of such monitoring and/or restriction, we would generally like as much freedom as we can accommodate, but we're still willing to be sensitive to the needs of those individuals who find certain types of material to be offensive.

Agreed to have a rating system and warnings for images of violence. Willing to allow a similar system of ratings and warnings for images of sex and/or nudity, consumption of harder intoxicants, and utterance of certain vocabulary words, but these standards should be updated continually through the use of fill-in-the-blank polling questions on the periodic Census.

Internet sites should be subject to the same anti-libel rules as all other media. Pop-up ads and spam e-mail's constitute an invasion of personal space for any individual who has not specifically opted in to allow such solicitations. There should be restrictions against propagating computer viruses, and parents should be able to block websites on the basis of selected keywords. No further Internet regulation beyond this.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f-iii: Bureau of Domestic Trade

Confirmed earlier concept that this agency will be concerned primarily with the effective distribution of goods within this country, while international trade will be controlled (as needed) within the Department of Foreign Affairs.

As a guiding principle, we want to make sure that internal trade is not overregulated at the expense of free enterprise. Beyond this, the topic of exactly what this agency will be doing will be treated in Question 461; if we find at that time that domestic trade can be allowed to proceed without government oversight, then we will be able to remove this Bureau from our model structure.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f-iv: Bureau of Water & Power

There should be a federal agency concerned with energy, whose primary functions are to make sure that we are producing and/or importing enough water and energy to meet our needs, that it is effectively distributed around the country, that safety in production and distribution is maintained at all times, and that we are continually exploring new technologies. Water quality is to be managed by local authorities, and jurisdictional disputes among countries should be adjudicated by the I.O.O.

One specific function of this bureau would be to administer dams which are involved in widespread water redistribution and/or hydroelectric production. Smaller dams operated for regional flood control purposes can be maintained by local authorities, though the Fed may step in if it is found that local mismanagement is presenting an imminent and serious threat to public safety. Any planning by the Water & Power Bureau as to distributing water from a given water source should take into account the ecological impact to the locality.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f-v: Bureau of International Trade

We should have no tariffs or other such restrictions on foreign trade, except that the same federal safety and accuracy standards that apply to goods manufactured within

this country shall apply equally to imported goods.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f-vi: Labor

We found that there are no labor-related administrative functions that need to be dealt with within the federal Executive Branch at all, except as to the collection of certain statistics, which can/should be managed by the Bureau of Census & Statistics.

Subsubsection I-D-1-f-vii: Transportation

Listed some transportation functions to be handled within the federal Department of Transportation, and some other functions which should not be handled by that agency.

Some safety regulations such as seat belts and helmets may possibly be enacted at the national level, but the Fed may also allow some regulations to be enacted and administered more locally.

The Fed generally has no business either specifically approving or specifically forbidding construction of a highway that does not cross any state border, unless there is a demonstrable environmental impact upon a neighboring state, or unless the highway is planned to cut through a national park or other federally-owned land. Two or more states may pool their resources to create highways crossing state boundaries, without any involvement from the Fed. The Fed should not be able to mandate speed limits on any highway in any state.

Air traffic controllers should not be permitted to go on strike, even with advance notice. Any air traffic controller who walks off his/her job while planes are in the air, particularly without arranging for adequate coverage, is presenting an immediate and serious threat to public safety, enough that he/she should be subject to criminal prosecution and whatever punishments may be forthcoming.

Subsubsection I-D-1-g: Department of Justice

There should be some federal agencies concerned with the enforcement of federal laws, and we have adopted the name 'Department of Justice' to cover all these. The structure currently includes bureaus for Criminal Records, Detention, General Counsel, Investigation, Marshal, and Prosecutor.

The 'Chief Prosecutor' shall be the head over the Prosecutor's Bureau, the staff position of 'United States General Counsel' shall be responsible for making any appearances on behalf of the United States in federal civil court, both the Chief Prosecutor and the General Counsel shall report directly to the Director of Justice, and we are discontinuing the use of the expressions 'Attorney General' and 'Solicitor General' at the federal level. Candidates for Director of Justice shall possess the same academic credentials as any other attorney, but we are not designating at this time any additional requirements on legal licensing or experience.

OK for this department to maintain a database of information that can be used for checking the backgrounds of those applying for certain high-profile jobs. However, this database should be strictly limited to actual criminal convictions, and should not include what anybody does within their personal lives. There should be a legislative

committee charged with providing oversight over such areas, both specifically to make sure that no unauthorized information is being collected and generally to make sure that the agencies of the Executive Branch are not abusing their authority.

The Marshall's Office shall include a unit for providing security services to domestic VIP's, to relieve that function from the current Secret Service.

Subsubsection I-D-1-h: Other non-administrative Executive operations

As previously suggested, there should be a periodic Census, and we agree to keep the period at ten years. We will require universal participation as to certain minimum questions (name, age, gender, and residential location), with non-compliers subject to criminal penalty and/or a visit by a Field Enumerator. The form can also include non-binding polling questions, particularly as to broadcast standards (both visual images and vocabulary), to gauge the current mood of the country.

The primary function of the Bureau of Measurement Standards (formerly "Weights & Measures") shall be to spot-check the accuracy of newly-manufactured measuring instruments. Generally, we should not change 'weight' to 'mass' in our general conversational usage, unless and until we change in earnest to the metric system.

There should be exactly one language with which every American should be expected to be familiar, and there also should be exactly one 'official language' for purposes of all internal and external government communications, per our Resolution #6: "For government purposes, American English shall be considered the official language of the United States. Such resolution shall not preclude the use of other languages in private situations." Since we found that the designation of an 'official language' does logically imply a standard vocabulary and pronunciation, a government office probably would be needed to make this system work. This agency (the "Bureau of Language Services", reporting to the Domestic Affairs Department) shall communicate its standards by publication of one or more books, with periodic updates to reflect the continuing evolution of the language.

There shall be an office at the Federal level for emergency relief in case of natural disaster. (In our current model, the bureau reports to the Health & Safety Department.) This office shall generally supplement local efforts on request, and shall step in unilaterally only when it is clearly evident that state and local authorities have been incapacitated to the point of not being able to respond effectively themselves.

We do want to have an agency for Copyrights & Patents, and it may reside as a bureau within the Domestic Affairs Department. We would like for the offices to be financially self-sustaining, **if** the volume of new intellectual-property applications is high enough that application fees can cover both unit costs and overhead costs, and still be reasonable, but we acknowledge that funding by tax dollars may be needed if this is not the case. Copyrights are to remain valid for 50 years or the lifetime of the author, whichever is longer, with no option for renewal, except that the lifetime option will apply only if the author of record is one or more natural persons. Patents are to remain valid for 10 years, with a one-time option to renew for another 10 years, upon payment of the applicable additional fee.

The Fed shall create a network of help/orientation centers that will provide voluntary 'one-stop shopping' for housing, food, banking, mail, lockers, office services, job

training/referral, career/financial counseling, language/literacy education, medicine and disease screening, psychological/substance rehabilitation, shelter from abusive family members, hospice care, and several other services, so that homeless people and others can get their focus while they arrange their next steps. We identified several specific parameters for these centers, which will be managed by the Social Services Bureau of the Domestic Affairs Department, as possibly the only function performed by that agency.

Subsection I-D-2: Executive Branches of State Governments

Where there are no specifications listed for a particular agency, we are generally allowing the applicable jurisdiction to establish and implement its own functionality preferences, though we reserve the option to add further recommendations later on as we think of them.

Commerce

The state Consumer Affairs Bureau should check for false advertising, including by periodically spot-checking gas pumps for false calibrations.

OK to continue to have non-profit corporations, and for them to be regulated as needed by the Corporations Bureau of the Commerce Department.

Our standard Resolution #2B protocol shall apply to insurance commissioners; i.e., they shall be appointed by their bureaucratic higher-ups, being the Commerce Department head and the state Chief Executive, after nomination and/or screening by peer panels as applicable.

Taking positions against 'redlining' by auto insurance companies, and in favor of mandatory auto-liability coverage. However, allowing self-insurance under certain strict conditions, and allowing premium discounts when drivers show a clean record for a long-enough period of time.

Elections

As determined in Subsection I-C-1, each State election office shall have control over apportionment line-drawing at all levels. As determined in Subsection I-C-3, each State election office should monitor all campaign contributions, and arrange for contributions received in excess of the designated spending limit to escheat to the State's general fund.

Law Enforcement

We should have stricter enforcement of the law requiring use of signals when turning or changing lanes, and all cops should be required to obey prevailing traffic laws when not in active pursuit. Both of these can be helped by citizens capturing violations on video.

Prisoners should not be allowed to commit acts upon other prisoners (assault, rape, extortion, etc.) that they would not be permitted to do in the 'outside world'. Prisoners with light records may work off part/all of their sentences by cleaning highways, but not the hard-core repeat offenders who would need more extensive supervision.

Transportation

A minimum understanding of American English shall be required in order to obtain a driver's license, beyond that which is required to pass any written exam on the 'rules of the road', so an additional test shall be administered on language facility.

Determined several specific parameters for improving traffic flow on highways.

Smog certification is to be handled by the Vehicle Registration Bureau of the Transportation Department, but overall car safety is to be controlled as needed by the Environmental & Consumer Protection Bureau of the federal Health & Safety Department.

SUV's present a safety hazard and inconvenience for people who drive conventional cars and can't see through/around them, so we agree that States may impose whatever registration surcharges they wish on SUV owners, to compensate the general public.

Subsection I-D-3: Executive Branch of County Governments

Environmental Services

Those involved with fishing and hunting should be required to prevent overdepletion, and counties should share information with other counties and states as needed, to show migrations and population-change patterns.

Health & Safety

Animal Regulation should pick up and spay strays.

The county Coroner's Bureau performs all processing of deceased bodies, including seeing to the disposition of any personal assets. Good to use DNA and other technologies to identify unknown deceaseds prior to cremation. Hospitals should be reporting all deaths to the Coroner's Bureau.

Users should not be required to pay for emergency services except when necessitated by their direct and deliberate action (arson, e.g.). Counties may contract with private companies to provide fire and/or paramedic and/or ambulance services, but also should reserve the right to perform them directly if privatization proves too expensive or otherwise problematic.

Good to minimize administrative operations in health departments, but records databases should network with those in other counties and states. However, these records should include only the most pertinent information, and nothing which would compromise an individual's privacy.

Public Assistance

The county Job Placement Bureau can offer voluntary job-switching service between current employees each of whom lives where the other works.

Transportation

Landowners should be constrained from building multi-unit residential developments in known flight paths, but individual landowners may build single-unit dwellings in flight paths if they wish.

Water & Power

Utility allowances can be provided to people who sign a statement certifying financial need.

Subsection I-D-4: Executive Branch of Municipal Governments

Cultural Enrichment

Good to have public lending libraries with free Internet access, but they should not be permitted or required to ban/censor actually-published works, and we don't want the Government having access to records as to what books individuals check out. Generally opposed to all provisions of the Patriot Act.

People should be allowed to play softball on designated softball fields without advance reservations or permits, when the fields haven't already been reserved by pre-payment. Especially stiff fines should apply for littering in parks or other recreational areas. Triple the regular littering fine when throwing out a lit cigarette anywhere. Communities may decide to enact certain regulations on the use of public facilities, but we generally prefer to have minimal regulation and maximum freedoms.

Permits & Licenses

City planners/developers should generally try to spread housing and jobs out to a larger number of smaller towns. Zoning and business licensing OK.

Public Safety

Once the federal help/orientation centers for homeless and other disadvantaged individuals are operational, local communities may enact tougher laws against actively accosting or threatening the public, but should leave alone 'passive panhandling' and other non-harmful/non-threatening activities.

Police budgets can be partially funded by criminal fines, but not entirely. Where applicable, fines should be set at a given percentage of inflicted or threatened damage; we are suggesting 300% of damage for actual harm, and 150% of the estimated amount of harm in case of threat.

No hand-held cellphone use while driving.

Transportation

Paint red any curb area where you don't want people parking, rather than making people guess rules or estimate distances. There should be a 'pothole hotline', to help the City determine prioritization of repair. Limit heights of curbs.

Speed bumps should be left up to local preferences, and there should be well-advertised public hearings to determine this, each time that installation of speed bumps is contemplated.

Shouldn't have to stop at two red lights in a row, unless absolutely necessary. Good to have traffic light sensors, but they shouldn't work when someone has gone past the limit line. Motorcycles should be allowed to proceed after coming to a complete stop. Dumping push-buttons for pedestrians at traffic signals.

SECTION I-E: LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS

Based on our findings in previous Sections, the national Legislature will have at least these functions assigned to it:

- To consider vetos of so-called 'judicial review' of previously-passed legislation;
- To decide (majority vote) whether an existing State is to be broken up;
- To approve and codify all applicable restrictions on individual and corporate behaviors, except where better to defer such judgments to lower jurisdictions;
- To authorize and/or prohibit actions of the Chief Executive, and to override (must be within 30 days) any unilateral action of the Chief Executive;
- To confirm or overrule the appointments of all department heads and bureau chiefs in the Executive Branch;
- To establish and maintain policies (through an applicably-designated committee) that provide harmonious balance among the needs of businesses, consumers, and the environment;
- To establish binding written standards for agricultural safety and livestock treatment;
- To receive notifications when the Bureau of Water & Power is intervening in the administration of local flood-control dams, and to override such decisions as appropriate;
- To ensure that information gathered by the Department of Justice on non-criminals is not overly invasive;
- To total and certify the results from States as to national elections.

In addition to whatever functions are managed and decisions made by the national Legislature, we agree that there definitely should be national propositions on national ballots, so that the public can directly trump the Legislature on certain topics.

Actual Questions in this Section are arranged in seven Subsections, to approximate the flow of legislation through the process. These seven Subsections are Basic Structure, Introduction of New Business, Committees, Amendments, Debate and Voting, Veto, and Miscellaneous.

Subsection I-E-1: Basic Structure

It is best overall to have at least the major policies of a large society decided by an assembly of popularly-elected legislators, as opposed to 'benevolent dictators' or a direct democracy.

For a country as large as America, we think that it's best to have three houses in the Legislature, one with a certain number of delegates per State, one with a delegate for each n of population, and a third with representation based on geographic area,

same as the I.O.O. The same arrangement might be best for at least the largest States, whereas smaller and/or more homogeneous States may be able to do with two houses or even just one, but we agree to let each State decide for itself. Counties and cities can each manage capably with just a single house in their legislatures.

The per-State house will continue to have 2 delegates per State. The per-area house shall include 1 district for each of Hawaii and the District of Columbia, and shall comprise ordinary districts in the 48 contiguous States measuring 2° wide x 2° tall, bounded by odd meridians, with enough delegates assigned to Alaska to produce a total number of delegates equal to 240. Designating 600 delegates for the population-based house.

Territories get to participate equivalently in the population-based house, but the per-state and per-area houses will continue to involve only actual States, except that the District of Columbia shall have a minimum of one delegate in the per-area house.

States may exercise their own options as to whether the delegate positions assigned to them shall be filled by geographic district, by proportional representation, by at-large elections, or by some other means. However they do it, though, the delegates must be popularly elected, and any geographic district must conform to the rules that we established in Question 69.

Members of the per-state house shall have 6-year terms, with approximately one-third being elected every 2 years. Members of the per-area house shall have 4-year terms, with approximately half being elected every 2 years. Members of the population-based house shall have 2-year terms, with the entire house being elected every 2 years.

Mid-term vacancies shall be filled by the highest-ranking candidates from the previous elections who accept within the first 10 days of eligibility, failure to thus accept enabling the next-higher-ranking candidates to become eligible for 10 days, and so on, a special election ensuing if no candidate from the previous election accepts.

There should be no change in representation amounts for a given State between decennial censuses.

There should continue to be a Chairman of each House, elected by all delegates using the 'yes/no/abstain' method. The first ballot is open, and goes to subsequent ballot only in case of a tie among all candidates, in which case subsequent ballots are limited to candidates with previous experience in that House, unless all candidates are equally experienced/inexperienced, in which case subsequent ballots are limited to the half who enjoyed the largest margin of victory over the next higher-ranking opponents in their most recent elections.

In case of foreseen temporary absence by the incumbent Chairman of the House, that Chairman can designate a replacement. In case of unforeseen temporary absence, the House shall conduct an election for a *pro tem* Chairman.

Any election for Chairman of any House shall be conducted by the 'Custodian of Congress', a position filled by Congressional appointment that remains filled even after Congressional adjournment, until it is actively re-filled by new Congressional

appointment. The 'Custodian of Congress' also has the ongoing responsibility of managing all staff who work for Congress as a whole.

Disqualification of a delegate from his/her membership in a particular house without a recall vote from that delegate's constituency shall require a motion passed by a simple majority of that house, directing that a tribunal of that jurisdiction's supreme judicial assembly convene to conduct an impartial review of the case, their approval being necessary to complete the termination.

Subsection I-E-2: Introduction of New Business

The authors of any bill should designate at least one committee to review the bill. The bill goes first to a 'Bill Assignment Committee', who may recommend one or more additional committees to evaluate the bill. It is then read to the full assembly, who may modify any of the committee assignments, after which reading the bill goes to the designated committees for actual evaluation.

Subsection I-E-3: Committees

Good to continue to have 'committees', as decided by the entire membership of any house, and not subject to veto by that jurisdiction's chief executive.

Committee names generally should reflect clearly and unambiguously what those committees actually do. In particular, any 'Rules Committee' should be only working on the assembly's general operating procedures, and should not have anything to do with any piece of ordinary legislation. Also, there should not be any such thing as a 'Ways & Means Committee'.

Committees shall be unlimited in membership, and each delegate shall have his/her choice of up to 3 committees to join. If membership in a particular committee ever drops to zero, that committee is automatically disbanded, with all records automatically going to the Custodian of Congress (or corresponding local authority) for disposition as applicable.

A committee may pass a non-binding motion to ask one of its members to resign, whereas a binding vote to terminate a particular delegate's membership in a particular committee may be passed by a 2/3 majority of the full house.

We do want to have an 'Executive Oversight Committee' within the per-State house of the federal legislature to help with the evaluation of senior appointments within – and other actions taken by – the Executive Branch. The committee may recommend by simple majority that any executive appointment or other executive action be reviewed by the full per-State house, which may reverse such action by a 2/3 majority, with no time limit for appointments but within a 30-day limit for other executive actions.

There should also be an 'Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee' in each of the 3 houses of the federal legislature. Convene a special committee if a question ever arises as to whether a particular State should be converted back into a Territory.

The Custodian of Congress can open sessions of federal committees, either personally or through a duly-designated deputy, and can conduct elections for committee chairs using the 'yes/no/abstain' method.

Any vote taken by a committee shall be based on the number of ballots cast, not on the total number of voting and non-voting members of the committee.

Committees generally may only evaluate a bill and report back to the full assembly, unless all committees assigned to evaluate a bill recommend against it, in which case the bill may die directly.

If at least one committee is recommending further consideration of the bill, then the Bill Assignment Committee generally decides the sequence in which such items are to be taken up by the full assembly.

Subsection I-E-4: Amendments

No amendment gets attached to any bill without a 3/5 majority of the full house, nor without a statement included within the text of the amendment motion to the effect that the proposed amendment is germane to the bill to which the proponents wish it attached.

Once an ordinary bill is passed (with or without internal amendments) by a given house, it is circulated to the other two houses as applicable. Either of the other houses may attach additional amendments by a 3/5 majority, and any such amendment gets locked into the bill if it is also approved by at least one other house.

Subsection I-E-5: Debate and Voting

Houses and committees may generally set their own debate procedures, but all formal proceedings are to be televised.

Delegates may always vote when physically present, and may also vote remotely if they have been present (either personally or electronically) for at least 75% of the debate.

Houses and committees must have at least 50% of their memberships present (either in person or electronically) for a quorum in order to call a session to order, but business may continue normally if attendance falls below quorum at any subsequent time prior to adjournment.

Good to set time limits for actual voting, and to enforce them strictly.

Ordinary bills and motions shall require a simple majority for passage, but following items of business (in addition to those noted above) shall require a 2/3 majority: Reversal of any action within 24 months after original enactment, premature termination or change of any multi-year scientific or infrastructural project, and any appropriations in excess of budget.

Subsection I-E-6: Veto

Once a bill is fully approved by the Legislature, it is referred to the Chief Executive, who may enact it directly by signature within 30 days, or who can take no action, in which case the bill automatically takes effect in 30 days.

Third option is to actively veto all or some portion(s) of the bill. After a full veto, the house of origination has 24 months in which to override the veto by a 2/3 vote, or else the bill dies.

After a partial veto, the approved portions of the bill go into effect in 30 days, unless the house of origination first blocks enactment by simple majority. After such a block, the house of origination can unilaterally override the partial veto by a 2/3 vote, in which case the entire bill goes into effect immediately. Or, the house may take no action for 24 months, in which case the entire bill dies. Final option, the house may pass one or more amendments to the bill by simple majority.

After any such amendment(s), bill resumes normal process through the other houses, and veto cycle starts over if the bill survives to again reach the Chief Executive's desk.

Subsection I-E-7: Miscellaneous

Referenda and initiatives are to be allowed at both the State and national levels, but only for measures which have first been addressed and defeated by the applicable Legislature. An initiative measure can be placed on the legislative calendar directly upon acquisition of a designated minimum of voter signatures, and goes on the popular ballot automatically if it fails to achieve legislative approval. A measure originating in the Legislature and failing to achieve approval can be referred to popular vote either by a 1/3 vote of the Legislature within 30 days, or by a designated number of voter signatures within 24 months. Any referendum or initiative shall require a 3/5 popular majority for approval.

Most provisions in this Section ought to be included in the U.S. Constitution. Any validly-proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be put to popular vote of the entire nation, and shall be deemed ratified if it achieves a 3/4 majority.

We may continue to have certain agencies under the direct authority of Congress, including future equivalents of current Congressional Budget Office and Library of Congress. All such agencies shall be under the management authority of the 'Custodian of Congress'.

Anybody gets to say unofficially that something is "National <something> Week" or "National <something> Month", but only Congress gets to make such a designation officially, in which case it is to be known as "Congressional <something> Week" or "Congressional <something> Month".

Nobody gets to be registered as an official lobbyist, and any attempts to bribe legislators (including directly and indirectly, immediate and deferred, monetary and 'in kind') should be prosecuted actively. There are enough legitimate ways in our model to educate and persuade legislators without resorting to unethical practices.

Laws and contracts enacted by any governmental jurisdiction should automatically expire after a certain point, unless affirmatively renewed by the Legislature, as should all other laws and judicial decisions and criminal convictions based explicitly (either directly or indirectly) upon them.

All non-constitutional laws shall automatically expire 50 years after passage unless affirmatively renewed by the Legislature. No government contract with a private corporation shall have a term longer than 25 years.

A 40% affirmative vote shall be sufficient to renew a law or contract within 24 months before its scheduled expiration. The renewal period should be equal to the original period, and should commence immediately upon enactment of the renewal motion.

SECTION I-F: JUDICIAL REFORM

Subsection I-F-1: Basic Functions of a Judiciary

We do need some kind of judiciary, to help assess whether anyone's rights have been violated, and to recommend/order specific responsive action as appropriate when that does happen.

An ideal judiciary should observe the following principles already established in the course of previous Questions:

- 1) There are two basic kinds of rights, being 'natural' and 'civil'.
- 2) There are at least 6 actual natural rights, and maybe more besides.
- 3) Any right carries with it the right to waive that right.
- 4) Rights carry responsibilities to respect the rights of others.
- 5) Every individual has complete control over his/her own life, and over what means he/she will use to survive (if making that choice) and to maximize his/her quality of life, except when interfering with the rights of others.
- 6) Resolution #1: "Every individual ought to be able to do anything that he/she wants, provided that such action cause no injury (or immediate threat of injury) to others", where 'injury' is defined as 'compromising a person's ability to do what they would otherwise be physically and legally able to do.

Additional philosophical principles which we derive from the above include:

- 7) The purpose of justice is to achieve balance among different people's rights.
- 8) The achievement of balance among different people's rights is a never-ending process which will always require some amount of subjective judgment.
- 9) There therefore is no such thing as 'absolute justice'. It's all relative and subjective.

Subsection I-F-2: Judiciary Structure

Each governmental jurisdiction from international to municipal should have its own judiciary to adjudicate and enforce the laws of that jurisdiction.

Assignment of 'bad acts'

Bad acts to be initially adjudicated by the I.O.O. should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- 1) Crossing a national border with military force;

- 2) Environmental disasters – caused by either willful intent or negligence – affecting either international territory and/or multiple Countries simultaneously;
- 3) Crossing a national border with a known infectious disease;
- 4) Violation of international treaties;
- 5) Institutionalized slavery;
- 6) Genocide; and,
- 7) Widespread physical mutilation.

Bad acts to be initially adjudicated by the Federal judiciary should include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- 1) Environmental disasters confined within a Country, but affecting more than one State;
- 2) Violation of interstate covenants;
- 3) Crossing a State border with a known infectious disease, if there is documentation that the patient was officially notified by an attending physician or public health agency of competent jurisdiction that he/she was being quarantined and served with a specific travel restriction which required staying within the State;
- 4) Crossing a State border while under a State-imposed restriction to stay within the State border for some fixed duration;
- 5) Crossing a national border without going through all internal requirements.

Bad acts to be initially overseen by State judiciaries should include and be limited to:

- 1) Interactions among Counties; and
- 2) Interactions among Cities in multiple Counties.

Bad acts to be initially overseen by municipal judiciaries should include only violations of any laws/ordinances passed by the Cities themselves.

Bad acts to be initially overseen by County judiciaries should include anything not specifically assigned to any other level.

Better to combine criminal judiciaries and civil judiciaries into one single structure.

Funding

Generally, judiciaries shall be funded by a mix of civic support and fines paid by the losers.

Lawyers shall submit all legal bills to the court for approval, rather than directly to the client, so that the judge can assess whether the client is being overbilled.

Judges shall pass all these bills as submitted (not as modified) to a public or private watchdog agency (or more than one), who will then post the aggregate efficiency data for every lawyer online.

Losing parties shall provide compensation to offset the prevailing party's legal costs, generally according to a formula -- using data from a sampling of legal bills as submitted to the court -- indicating the relative complexity of the case in terms of

the number of hours spent by the judge/court in treating it, but in any specific case subject to modification by the judge/court.

Appeal

OK to appeal cases to higher jurisdictions when judicial misconduct or honest procedural error is suspected. If appeal is upheld by higher court, then case is usually re-tried in the original jurisdiction with a new judge, but may be tried *de novo* directly by the appellate court.

Appeal may be initiated by either party, including to sequentially higher levels as applicable, but the appellant must show good cause with affirmative evidence before any further action is actually taken on the case. Each appeal shall be accompanied by an appropriate filing/processing fee, to be held in escrow and forfeited to the court if the appellant ultimately loses, but to be returned to the appellant and instead fined upon the appellee if the appellant ultimately prevails.

Timeframes

Appeals should be filed within 30 days of previous decision; appellate court shall try to respond within 45 days.

Better to have one single structure to treat both original cases at one's own level and appeals from subordinate jurisdictions.

Both new cases and appeals should come to trial within 3-6 months after initial acceptance by the court, or else adjust judiciary staffing levels accordingly.

Lawyers

We possibly could do without lawyers, but we probably should not try to in a society with ever-increasing complexity.

With one exception (next paragraph), all legal proceedings should continue to operate in an 'adversarial' environment, where all parties get to be represented by legal professionals acting as their advocates.

In criminal cases, there generally should be a preliminary proceeding involving a group of judges (similar to the 'grand jury' concept, except focusing more on overall fact-finding than on evaluating sufficiency of evidence for trial) who operate in an 'inquisitorial' environment, where they decide what witnesses to call, what questions to ask, etc., without any lawyers present to try to influence their decisions. Their preliminary review could help lawyers and judges to decide whether an actual adversarial trial is indicated, in which case they issue an 'indictment'.

Plea-bargaining should be used only for sentencing purposes, and not to get in the way of our finding out the actual facts of a case.

Attorneys should be blamed for losses when justice is done, but rather only when verdicts are overturned on appeal.

There should continue to be an early step in place within all areas of law where the attorneys summarize the stipulations and issues.

A combination of State bar associations and private watchdog agencies/websites should be sufficient to police lawyers' adherence to non-financial ethical practices.

Subsection I-F-3: Judicial Review of Legislation

The Judiciary generally may get to find that some lower law violates some higher law, but that power should be specified in that society's constitution, and not just assumed by the Judiciary.

Such overruling should happen only upon a 4/5 majority of the judicial panel. Even then, the Legislature should have the option to override the judicial veto, which shall require a 2/3 majority of the originating house and a 60-day time limit.

Any initiative or referendum should be officially reviewed for legal violation before voting, with the results of the official review appearing in the official ballot literature. If there is found to be a conflict with any higher law within that civic jurisdiction, then the proponents would need to include in the ballot the exact changes which would need to be made in the higher law concurrently in order to accommodate the proposed measure. If there is a conflict with an applicable law established at a higher civic level, then any judge at either level would be able to so state. No one gets to invalidate an initiative or referendum simply for being morally bad.

Judiciaries at any civic level may continue to make informal laws independently of the Legislature, wherever the current law is silent on a particular point at trial. Such decisions may continue to be cited as precedents in future legal cases, until such time (if any) that the Legislature for that jurisdiction ever adopts a formal law covering that point.

Any new law should apply retroactively. Any individual who has had to pay fines based on the previous law should have those fines refunded with interest. Any individual who ever faced incarceration based on the previous law should be released if still incarcerated, and should be recompensed by the applicable government for each year of unjust imprisonment.

Subsection I-F-4: Bad Acts

People should not be held accountable for any acts which do not injure or threaten injury to others; any laws prohibiting such acts should be overturned, including outside America, and including convincing as needed the religious organizations to which the lawmakers belong.

If a given alleged 'bad act' affects more than one jurisdiction, then it should be tried only once, by the lowest jurisdiction which encompasses all those affected. If a given alleged 'bad act' has impact within only one jurisdiction, then it generally still should be tried only once, unless new compelling evidence emerges after initial acquittal. Generally not good for a defendant to be charged separately under multiple laws which a jurisdiction may have that are similar but not identical, unless it can be demonstrated that the concurrent violation of certain additional laws makes the alleged 'bad act' even worse than it would have been otherwise.

For the 'Nuremberg question', if a military officer (commissioned or non-commissioned) orders a subordinate to do something that is viewed by the

international community as a 'war crime', then responsibility and any applicable penalties should be shared among all participants, according to their relative levels of participation. Subordinates do not get to come back and claim that they were "just following orders" and that they therefore should be incurring no penalties. However, penalties for a given subordinate 'war criminal' may be partially mitigated if it can be shown at trial that he had strong individual reason to expect an unusually-serious reprisal for disobeying. These principles apply regardless of whether the alleged 'war crime' violates some specific international statute, or whether it instead violates some as-yet-uncodified 'universal human morality'. The verdicts of a 'war crimes' tribunal may under appropriate conditions be appealed to higher levels of international court, all the way up to the full 'international oversight organization', or some combination of its houses.

Subsection I-F-5: Arrest

Police officers must be uniformed, and drive in marked police cars, before they may detain or arrest anyone for minor offenses. However, un-uniformed officers in unmarked cars may attempt to prevent or mitigate serious crimes, and to catch the criminals red-handed.

Probable cause should be duly established before anyone gets arrested for anything.

Pursuits and investigations of suspected criminals may follow those suspects into other jurisdictions as applicable, but subject to the permission of local authorities, to be requested in advance whenever practical, or retroactively otherwise. Jurisdictions shall have the option to overturn any arrests occurring within their borders by police officers of other jurisdictions, if they find that those officers somehow acted improperly at the time. Disputes between jurisdictions may be appealed for adjudication to the next higher level, but advance negotiations of standard policies is recommended.

Countries may likewise decide -- either universally or on a case-by-case basis -- whether incoming refugees shall be protected within their borders or extradited to the pursuing governments. Lower-level jurisdictions shall have similar decision-making authority, but subject to upward appeal as applicable.

If a solitary 'bad act' simultaneously affects multiple jurisdictions at the same level, the case shall be adjudicated on a one-time basis by the lowest jurisdiction which comprises all those allegedly affected.

It is appropriate to continue the basic policy of 'statutes of limitations', whereby all individuals shall forever be free from arrest or prosecution once a certain number of years have passed without conviction after a particular alleged 'bad act'.

Subsection I-F-6: Investigation

Standards shall continue to be maintained for the gathering of evidence. Specific examples enumerated in the General Summary include warranted searches, elimination of torture, preservation of physical and chemical integrity, and an end to 'racial profiling'.

If certain evidence is obtained illegally, then it still shall be admitted, but the officers who performed the illegal actions shall be disciplined and/or reassigned, and any

sentence shall be reduced by an appropriate increment in compensation for the violation of the defendant's rights.

Subsection I-F-7: The Trial

We shall continue to make it part of the standard procedure to have a hearing wherein a defendant is asked to declare whether or not he committed the alleged crime.

An additional penalty shall be imposed on any defendant who pleads 'not guilty' and then is later found to be guilty.

Defendants who choose to go to trial shall have the option, in either criminal or civil cases, to have their decision rendered by a judge or by a jury.

For the present, standard jury sizes shall be gradated between 6-12, depending on the relative severity of the alleged offense, lower numbers for lighter offenses, higher numbers for heavier. Defendants shall have the option to select a non-standard jury size, provided that the number remains within the 6-12 range, and provided that their selections shall not be available as excuses to challenge the outcomes later.

However, we should be acquiring better empirical data on jury accuracy in different combinations of jury size and voting requirements, by requiring all judges in jury trials to officially record -- for summation within a public website, and for association with specific cases within a secured module -- what they think the verdicts ought to be, based upon the evidence presented, such recording to be made after each jury retires for deliberation but before it returns with a result. The data for all such cases can be combined and collated according to a variety of factors, but the general aim is to see where the occurrence of variation between the judge's non-binding opinions and the jury's actual verdicts tends to minimize, and then to use those points to help decide which combinations of jury size and voting requirement tend to be the most reliable for different types of cases tried in different States or regions.

When we do start to collect and collate such data, we are suggesting that an optimal notation for categorizing jury formats is observable in the example of "12-11-10", where "12" refers to the overall jury size, "11" refers to the number of votes needed to find in favor of conviction or liability, and "10" refers to the number of votes needed to find in favor of acquittal or nonliability.

However, even if the empirical data tend to show more similarity between judicial opinions and actual jury verdicts where conviction could still happen with one dissenting vote, we yet suggest on a purely philosophical level that unanimity must be required in order to convict someone, but that acquittals may happen with one or more dissenting votes, depending upon analysis of the empirical data.

We are tentatively recommending that civil verdicts could be decided with as many as two dissenting votes, but not with as many as three, pending analysis of sufficiently-large samples of empirical data.

We do not like the concept of 'professional jurors' who receive a living wage for full-time jury service. However, the jury pool should be left open to as many people as wish to serve, including those who are willing to serve on a full-time basis for the

standard low juror stipend, although priority should be given when needed to those who have served on fewer juries to date. In any case, jury service should be invitational, but not compulsory.

Various suggestions offered for making jury service more interesting and less obnoxious.

The process of *voir dire* can be speeded up by having the entire designated number of prospective jurors answer in advance whatever questions are being asked by the attorneys, and then by having the attorneys make lists of jurors who are immediately acceptable or who need to be questioned further in person. Jurors common to both attorney lists can be empaneled immediately, with various options available for completing the panel as may be needed.

Rather than seeking to challenge the reality of 'demographic balancing' among jurors in a panel, we should be embracing the practice, at least until our society matures to the point where nobody ever again uses race as a factor in making any kind of decisions about anything.

Cameras may be allowed to broadcast court trials on local public-service channels, provided that juror faces and identities are always concealed.

Subsection I-F-8: Punishment

If a given defendant who definitely committed a particular criminal act was mentally unable to have formed a specific criminal intent at the time of the action, we yet should not find that he was 'innocent' by reason of either temporary or permanent insanity. Rather, the official finding should be that he was 'causative' of the alleged harm in question, but his mental condition can still be considered when deciding upon the disposition of the case.

If a given defendant is for some reason 'incompetent to stand trial', then the trial still should take place, and the defendant still should be allowed to attend without being hampered by drugs or other means, and he should be represented by a public defender who has received special training in acting on the behalf of defendants who cannot contribute actively to their own defenses.

A defendant who has been found to be 'causative', but who was mentally unable to have formed a specific criminal intent at the time of the action, can be found to be 'non-guilty', as opposed to either 'not guilty' or 'innocent'.

The expression 'guilty by reason of insanity' is redundant at the very least, and may be dangerously misleading, so we are recommending against its use.

If a defendant is acquitted in a criminal proceeding, then it is inappropriate to try him again later in a civil proceeding, even with different standards of doubt and/or different voting requirements for the jury.

We generally should be avoiding excessive punishments, aiming instead to get the convicts back into society as expeditiously as we safely can, and reserving the more serious dispositions for only those cases where they are really needed.

We should not allow 'pain and suffering' to be claimed as an adjunct to the primary accusation. Rather, the court should basically assume that 'pain and suffering' is a component of whatever 'bad act' is being alleged, and should set the disposition accordingly.

We should rely upon recent and local judicial precedents, and the defense attorney's familiarity with the same, to prevent any damage award for 'pain and suffering' to be excessive.

Where applicable, punitive damages may need to take some form other than monetary.

Generally, we expect to still need punishment and the threat of punishment, even in our improved societal model, because we anticipate that some people will still have neurological or emotional problems which have nothing to do with our various political and economic and social improvements, and which can lead to the desire to commit acts of violence or other injury upon others, and which will not always respond to simple counselings.

Opinions have varied over time and geography as to when punishment becomes excessive, so there is no one standard which can clearly be applied to all times and cultures, and we are holding to our Answer 19 that nations generally should be allowed to decide upon their own internal sentencing guidelines, provided that they have no impact outside of their territorial borders. However, we yet strongly advise all national leaders that they generally should avoid imposing too many punishments which their people are likely to consider excessive, because with their greater electronic knowledge of the outside world they are more likely now than before to rise up and depose any overly-brutal leaders from power.

Additional actions may focus on some combination of rehabilitation, forced removal from the occasion, deterrence of the individual, and deterrence of the general public, according to the assessment of an impartial and objective jurist who considers both the unique facts of each case and the legal precedents established for recent similar cases occurring within that jurisdiction.

Even after making the victim completely whole, and covering all applicable court costs and/or police overhead, convicted defendants may need to receive some additional punitive sentences, in order to discourage similar crimes from being attempted again in the future.

If a criminal conviction involves multiple defendants, then the amounts of economic restitution and criminal penalty associated with the act should be allocated among the multiple defendants according to the proportion of their respective participations, notwithstanding the position stated in the Guidelines Manual (2016 ed.) of the United States Sentencing Commission, holding that each defendant ought to be sentenced as though he committed the entire crime single-handedly. After the initial allocation, the offense level calculated for each of the multiple defendants should be adjusted upward by an appropriately small-but-significant increment as an additional penalty for participating in a conspiracy.

If the guilty/liable party does not have the monetary resources available to make full financial recovery to the direct victim(s), then financial assistance to the direct victim(s) should be provided by the local jurisdiction as needed, after which the

money is owed to the local jurisdiction by the perpetrator, to be redeemed sooner or later one way or another.

We generally have an obligation to keep prisoners reasonably well-fed, comfortable, and protected from crime. However, different levels of living conditions can/should be maintained by different prisons around the country, such that convicted defendants may be assigned to different levels of initial confinement according to the relative seriousness of their offenses and their criminal histories, and such that prisoners may be either 'promoted' or 'demoted' to other facilities during the course of their terms according to the behavior which they exhibit while incarcerated.

If it has been determined that the total amount of fiscal and non-fiscal damage caused by an individual's multiple bad acts adds up to significantly more than he could ever be expected to repay in his lifetime, then we still might want to keep him alive in prison for some period if it can also be shown that he was legitimately unaware of the injurious nature of his actions, and that he is willing/able to produce some good to at least partially offset his previous evil. In most ordinary cases, however, either the perpetrator knew that his actions were wrong, or else he lacked the mental capacity to make that distinction, in either of which cases we have little motivation to keep him alive in prison, and to allow him to compound his original evil both by forcing society to pay for his livelihood and by presenting a deleterious influence on other prisoners.

Such an individual should not be committed to prison for the balance of his life, because keeping him alive and fed and comfortable and protected would consume resources which more justly should be devoted to innocent people, and would also consume prison space which more justly should be devoted to those convicts who have some real hope of redemption.

The termination of such an individual's life should be active, and as humane as the corresponding jurisdiction finds to be appropriate under the circumstances.

Notwithstanding the standards expressed in the Guidelines Manual (2016 ed.) of the United States Sentencing Commission, our position is that 20 years is the maximum sentence which should be imposed for any one criminal act.

If the sum of the current age for a given individual plus the minima of all remaining sentences (i.e., his 'earliest release age') exceeds 200 years, then we may fairly conclude that the individual is beyond redemption and therefore subject to life termination, even allowing for the possibility of some wrongful convictions. This standard may be extended in future years based upon increasing life expectancies.

Individuals found to be subject to active life termination for having an 'earliest release age' of higher than 200 years should have all their convictions double-checked for error prior to termination, but the standard presumptions of innocence need no longer apply.

PART II - THE ECONOMIC ANSWERS

This Part of the Outline has six Sections: Basic Principles, Government Spending, Taxes, Industrial Production & Distribution, Labor, Trade, and Individuals & Families.

SECTION II-A: BASIC PRINCIPLES

Answer 354 - For purposes of this discussion, we are defining the term 'economy' as referring to the 'production and distribution of valuable resources'.

Answer 355 - It is important for all of us in all current economic 'classes' to be concerned with how the economy is managed, if not simply for pure moral conscience over those many millions of people who are worse off than ourselves, and even if some of us already have enough 'stuff' that we do not feel that we need to worry any further about personal economic development, then at least for the self-interest of protecting our own economic positions, including from the ever-present threat of revolution from masses of people who may collectively decide at any time that they have had enough economic abuse foisted upon them by the 'super-rich'.

Answer 356 - This same principle also applies at the international level: If you don't want another country attempting to invade your space and to take away what you got, then you are strongly advised for your own self-interest to see to it that all individuals and all populations in all countries have access to at least a modicum of resources sufficient to mitigate their motivation to acquire additional resources through illicit means. It therefore follows that we should not have a policy of pure economic isolationism, even in a global non-war environment.

Answer 357 - Our general approach for attempting to optimize the production and distribution of resources shall be to describe on a philosophical level what factors would constitute a 'good' or 'healthy' economy, and then to try to create (or maintain) those institutions and practices which appear most likely to further those objectives.

Answer 358 - The main factors of a good-or-healthy economy are:

- (1) zero or near-zero poverty;
- (2) incentives for people to improve their standard of living by working to help the society which provides it;
- (3) non-excessive disparity between rich and poor;
- (4) non-excessive allocation of resources to non-beneficial products and activities;
- (5) relative accuracy of wages and prices;
- (6) sustainability of natural resources; and,
- (7) protection of the natural environment.

Answer 359 - The two basic methods of managing economy involve either Individual control (such as straight barter) or State control (such as Socialism and Communism). Other systems combine elements of these two basic approaches.

Answer 360 - Numerous disadvantages (enumerated in the General Summary) attend both Individual control and State control, so going forward we require an approach which hybridizes the best elements of each.

Answer 361 - We generally prefer Individual control to State control for America, but we do need a certain amount of State supervision. The Earth generally is 'owned' collectively by all beings who live upon it. Human Beings may exercise dominion and operating authority over what happens on the planet, but only upon the condition that our actions are not net-destructive of the planet and the ecosystem. Specific land masses can be assigned to different 'nations' of humans so that they can be managed according to different economic and political preferences, but those nations

owe an ongoing 'property tax' to the overall human society for the privilege of such internal control, and they must likewise agree as an ongoing condition of the assignment not to be net-destructive of the planet and its ecosystem, so those nations may not be truly said to be the complete 'owners' of their land, only 'renters'. Nations like America who wish to do so may further assign internal land areas for control by regions and provinces and districts, but those entities likewise owe an ongoing 'property tax' to the higher civic levels for the privilege of internal control, and they must likewise agree as an ongoing condition of the assignment not to be net-destructive of the planet and its ecosystem. The lowest civic levels may further assign specific land tracts to certain individuals or corporations, who similarly would owe an ongoing 'property tax' to those jurisdictions for the privilege of internal control, and who must likewise agree as an ongoing condition of the assignment not to be net-destructive of the planet and its ecosystem, so they similarly may not be truly said to be the complete 'owners' of their land, only 'renters'.

Answer 362 - One of the reasons why governments must continue to exist is to wield operating authority over any territory, even if it has been deeded to private individuals, in order to prevent unscrupulous persons or groups from taking unfair advantage of others by theft, coercion, extortion, or other improper victimization.

Answer 363 - It is unlikely that any one family can produce and process enough different kinds of food throughout the year to make for a varied and healthy diet, nor create all the non-agricultural conveniences which other people have, nor provide for itself all the personal services which are available to be performed, so everybody's quality of life often can be improved through cooperation and trade. Each individual or family produces some commodities and/or provides some personal services, and exchanges those goods for other commodities and services, so that everybody can have some of everything.

Answer 364 - It would be impractical to try to exchange such goods directly in all cases, however. Further, agricultural growers should be able to know the aggregate quantities which are currently being produced of all commodities, to help them with their strategic planning. We do not approve of the practice of paying people to refrain from growing certain commodities, but we do want to provide you with the information which you will need to make good strategic decisions for yourself. Growers therefore should report all their sales to the applicable governmental agencies, so that they can track production on a season-to-season basis for each commodity, and then report that information back to the growers for future strategic planning. Same goes for any non-agricultural commodities or personal services. We may possibly be able to create a replacement banking system which will allow bills to be posted and paid through a central governmental agency, in order to help them track and report the aggregate production information. In any case, growers have a motivation to report their individual productions accurately, in order to help maximize the reliability of the aggregate production information, so that they can make better strategic decisions for themselves.

Answer 365 - Distribution of economic resources requires both physical and economic infrastructure. The physical institutions are already in place throughout most of America, and in many other areas of the world, although certain areas may need to reduce their populations in order to allow room for additional infrastructure investment. Economic solutions may include governmental purchase of excess agricultural goods at cut-rate prices for direct distribution to the poor, possibly in exchange for work performed, and may also include moving some populations to

where the food is instead of the other way around. We can also 'tax the rich' in order to provide more orientation centers where poorer people can obtain minimally-decent meals and beds while they get their acts together, and which can also provide employment referrals to allow people to work to improve their standards of living, thus reducing the huge disparity between rich and poor in this country.

Answer 366 - Public network of orientation centers should only supplement the private networks of retail food markets, which can utilize free-market mechanisms to determine on an ongoing basis the true relative values of all commodities produced and services performed.

Answer 367 - Payment for goods and services generally should be by credit, rather than through straight barter. Credit comes from having previously produced some commodity or provided some service.

Answer 368 - Credit does not get created arbitrarily by growers and other employers. Instead, the aggregate credit supply is monitored and controlled in such a way that the base unit of credit retains approximately the same purchasing power over time. Our reliance upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has proven unsuccessful in this regard, and the weighting formulas constituting the index are too complex for the average adult to understand, and the current index includes factors such as Rent and Health Care and Leasehold Improvements which do not directly involve consumption of physical resources. We therefore are recommending instead that the amount of credit needed to feed one individual on a minimal-but-reasonably-balanced basis for one day should equal a set number of Dollars, preferably one Dollar, and that we then allow the evolving prices of all other goods and services to find their true values relative to that standard.

Answer 369 - While it may become necessary someday, for the present we are recommending against the harmonization of all national economies into a single global structure. Regions comprising several small nations might want to have regional currencies like the Euro, but large nations like America are better off with their own national currencies and credit measurements.

Answer 370 - We should no longer maintain an International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help stabilize rates of currency exchange. We should maintain a global insurance-type fund to provide short-term disaster relief as needed to less-affluent nations, and charge premiums to different nations according to their respective economic power. We also allow a separate investment-type fund for the provision of longer-term financial advances to less-affluent nations such as for infrastructure improvements, with the understanding that any such advances are eventually to be repaid to the fund when the improvements have once yielded their economic increases. Any nation which needs any further aid -- or which defaults on its loans from the international investment fund -- should be considered for dissolution by the international oversight organization.

Answer 371 - Credit supply in America shall be monitored and controlled by the Currency Bureau of the Finance Department in the Executive Branch.

Answer 374 - Insofar as we need any additional amount of credit in circulation in order to stabilize our base currency unit, and/or for transitional goals of feeding/educating our poor and improving our infrastructure, we should be taking first from those who have the most, so that the fiscal distance between the richest

person and the poorest person will be shortened. Specifically, we should tax from the richest individual/corporation until his/its total wealth reduces to that of the second-richest individual/corporation, and then we tax them equally until their totals reach that of the third-richest individual/corporation, etc. This approach means that we will need to maintain a public record of the total net wealth of each individual and corporation claiming domicile within this nation.

Answer 375 - A cashless society would be net-beneficial for us, so we do want to be phasing out our physical currency, once we have all the infrastructures in place for automatic recording of all sales transactions everywhere, and on the condition that venues such as stadiums and dance clubs sell vouchers upon entrance which can be issued to individual purveyors as desired, and returned for credit upon exit, minus an appropriate transaction fee.

Answer 376 - Until we actually get away from physical currency, we can treat any cash withdrawal from a private bank as an unreported expense, and apply any sales-tax rate directly to it. Conversely, we can also provide sales-tax credit upon any cash deposit. Then, if any currency erodes or is lost/destroyed, then there would be no accounting effect, because we have already written it off as an end-consumer expense, and not tracking it as part of our aggregate credit supply.

Answer 377 - Deposits may continue to be managed by private banks, provided that account balances are continually uploaded to the central authority, and combined such that government always knows for taxation purposes the combined net wealth of each individual and corporation. We are continuing to allow individuals and corporations and governments to carry debt.

Answer 378 - Loans may be issued by both banks and non-bank lenders, but not by government.

Answer 379 - The lending activities of banks must be closely regulated by government, including by the setting of minimum and/or maximum interest rates as may be needed, in order to protect the assets of the depositors. Non-bank lenders may charge whatever interest rates the free market will bear for the higher risks which banks are not willing to underwrite.

Answer 380 - To recapitulate, the basic elements of our model fall within five main categories, as follows:

Land Management

Our model system combines elements of Capitalism and Socialism, and is based principally on the premise that The Land does not belong to any Monarch or 'The State' or the Conquerors or the Laborers or the Capital Investors, nor even to Humanity collectively, but rather to all the creatures who live upon it.

The Land rests in the primary custody of Humanity. We may (and do) by global agreement designate that custodies of specific portions of The Land are allocated for direct administration to certain 'nations' of people, who generally may do within their borders anything which does not adversely impact life or health or property outside those borders, and who generally owe some

manner of periodic payment to the global collective for the privilege of self-administration.

Nations may further parse their lands into 'provinces', 'districts', and other administrative subdivisions as they see fit, which subdivisions similarly owe a periodic payment of some kind to the higher levels in consideration of the privilege of direct administration. The lowest administrative division may lease specific tracts of land to individuals and/or corporations (calling them 'indcorps' collectively) in consideration of a periodic 'property tax'.

Production and Distribution

Those 'indcorps' who control any tracts of land, and who possess the necessary skills and resources, should devote some/all of their land to agricultural and/or industrial production. Such production should be monitored by national (and possibly global) authorities, with the totals reported back to the individual producers.

Producers may sell their crops and other products to willing buyers, in return for a compensation commensurate with the relative value of the product and the amount of effort required to create it. Products which are not purchased by independent buyers may be purchased by governments at cut-rate prices.

Buyers (including governments) may sell elements of their purchases to other entities who will package and distribute the products as needed, until they finally reach markets where they may be purchased by individual consumers.

Currency

We allow you to earn credits in exchange for work, and then to use those credits to make your various purchases. Credits may be created by nations or by geographically-affiliated groups of nations, but not by the global authority.

Issuing governments may decide whether to create and release new credit units on the basis of work or on the basis of existence, or in some combination, but in any case the aggregate supply of credit should be controlled in such a way that the relative purchasing power of each unit of credit remains approximately the same over time. Specifically, we are suggesting that each currency unit be defined in terms of how much it costs to provide a minimally-acceptable level of feeding for one person for one day.

Credit transfers shall be recorded electronically. Credits generally shall not be circulated in the form of physical currency, except that entertainment venues may issue vouchers for temporary use by their customers.

Banking

Credit transfers shall be recorded by private banking organizations, who may charge fees to some/all of their depositors in order to remain in operation. All transactions shall be promptly and automatically uploaded to the national government, who will combine all account balances in order to track on an ongoing basis the net wealth of each 'indcorp'.

Banks may lend depositor funds, according to interest rates which are regulated by the national government in order to protect depositor assets. Non-bank entities may lend their private capital at interest rates which they decide according to market tolerance.

Taxation

Compensation to government workers can come in the form of new credit units if and only if the relative purchasing power of the base credit unit remains approximately the same. Insofar as new credit issuance would cause the purchasing power of the base credit unit to diminish, compensation to government workers should come by recycling the excess units previously issued to other 'incorps'.

Such 'taxation' can come in multiple forms, to be examined more closely in Section II-C, but one backup measure that we envision is for any supplemental taxation to come from those who currently have the greatest net wealth.

SECTION II-B: GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Answer 381 - Different jurisdictions at different levels should be allowed to decide for themselves whether they want larger government expense and higher taxation, or smaller government expense and lower taxation.

Answer 382 - For those jurisdictions which prefer smaller governments, the fact that government might be able to subsidize jobs for people who would not otherwise qualify for them should not be a deterring factor. Whether you want your governments to be larger or smaller, we still should not devote public resources to unnecessary and wasteful jobs, so any available government subsidies should instead be going to public education which can enhance people's abilities to obtain good productive employment.

Answer 383 - We do not subscribe to the economic theory which asserts that increased government spending is useful for stimulating the economy. To the contrary, we feel that the level of consumer demand is sufficient for determining generally how much economic activity we need, and specifically how much government spending we need.

Answer 384 - Each jurisdiction should poll itself periodically, to see how much it collectively wants to spend on government operations, relative to recent levels.

Answer 385 - We envision three main phases of procedures and protocols to incentivize effective regulation of Government spending. First, only 30% of any excess of Expenses over ordinary Income should be funded by direct taxation of the wealth of the super-rich, with the remaining 70% coming from increased rates on ordinary taxation, so that citizens participating in the poll referenced in Answer 384 are still motivated to vote in favor of reasonable levels of Government expense. Second, the voting requirements for legislative approval of the budget should become gradually more stringent as the variance from the Income and Expense levels established in the public polls becomes greater. Third, managers of individual government 'cost centers' should be prepared to explain satisfactorily any budget

variances of greater than 5%, at the risk of losing their jobs and any prospects for satisfactory future employment.

Answer 386 - We reviewed the Federal financial statements for the 2016 fiscal year, to see whether we have room to reduce spending from current levels. Determined that a total of \$425.2B out of our \$3.3453T of current (as of 2016) annual revenues needs to be allocated over each of the next 75 years for paydown of the national debt, leaving \$2.9201T available for current operating expenses. In order to reach this target from our current \$3.6655T of outlays not related to debt servicing, we need an overall operating-expense reduction of \$745.4B per year. We hoped (and successfully managed) to accomplish this while keeping intact the benefits currently going to SSA and VA recipients. General Summary contains precise outlay figures from FY2016 for all top-level federal agencies, along with a precise breakdown of the Department of Health and Human Services, and these figures show that the Medicare program is operating at a deficit of (\$1.4173T of outlays minus \$389.3B of receipts) equals \$1.0280T, which is easily enough to cure our overall budgetary shortfall, with \$282.6B left over which could be used to bolster other programs (such as Social Security) and/or reduce our overall taxes and stimulate the economy.

Subsection II-B-1: Operating expenses

Answer 387 - Maybe we could manage to trim about \$10M annually off of Salaries & Expenses within the Office of Personnel Management, but generally this does not seem to be 'where the game is happening' in terms of opportunities for expense reduction.

Answer 388 - Biggest non-entitlement cost centers are Defense at \$565B and Treasury at \$526B, so those are the areas where we wish to give our principal cost-cutting focus at this time.

Answer 388.1 - We can reduce Defense spending by (1) not trying to be better than everybody else in nuclear armaments, provided that we can still always obliterate all comers with a single motion; (2) reducing troop levels and active military installations, now that the Soviet Union is no longer an active military threat against our homeland; and (3) fixing Pentagon procurement as needed to encourage/require more competitive bidding with contractors, facilitated by periodic audits from the Legislative Branch.

Answer 388.2 - We can reduce Treasury spending by wiping all or nearly all of the \$133.1B of IRS costs off of our books, most of the remainder of the Treasury budget being Interest on the Public Debt, which under our model would gradually decrease to zero over the next 75 years.

Answer 389 - In order to soften the economic impact of laying off numerous Government workers in order to help balance our federal budget, we should devote most/all of the savings from Medicare, Defense, debt interest, and the IRS toward tax reductions, which businesses will experience either directly and/or by way of increased consumer sales, enabling them to take on more workers who were previously employed by the Government. However, as eager as we are to see the numbers come down, yet we probably should be a little bit more gradual in our cutting of expenses and taxes and government payrolls.

Answer 390 - We generally should provide three months of severance to all government employees who are laid off, to be paid in the same installment rates as the original payrolls, so that we do not need to create a separate fund for such payments.

Answer 391 - Congressional salaries can be limited by having each jurisdiction decide through periodic polling how much compensation its Congressional representative should receive during the upcoming period.

Answer 391.5 - We should continue to grant generous-but-not-luxurious pensions to former Presidents, except when individually restricted by extraordinary act of Congress.

Subsection II-B-2: Special projects

Answer 392 - Special projects should not be undertaken simply to provide work for people, and hopefully stimulate the economy. If we run out of actual work to be done, then better to sit back and enjoy our greater luxury.

Subsection II-B-3: Entitlements

Answer 393 - We probably should have consumption-based entitlements in our public sector generally, but for our long-term prosperity let's do try to keep effective reins on them.

Answer 394 - Governments generally should not be in the business of managing state-run insurance programs, but yet we should go ahead and have a system of 'universal health care' which is administered and financed entirely within the private sector. All individuals who can afford it shall pay premiums into the insurance pool through competing private carriers, at rates corresponding with their respective risk classifications. Individuals who cannot afford to pay the full premiums associated with their risk factors (including those with 'pre-existing conditions') should be placed into an 'assigned risk' pool, such that they can still receive coverage from one or more assigned carriers at reduced rates, so that nobody is ever completely turned away. All individuals who need it shall receive care for at least their most urgent medical situations, including some level of prescription-drug coverage as needed. Deductibles and copayments may continue to apply as appropriate, and some individuals may need to go into debt for unremitted premiums or medical costs which exceed their coverages. Costs can be kept down by requiring medical providers and/or insurance companies to provide certain proportions of their care on a *pro bono* basis.

Answer 395 - To the extent that some Government jurisdictions choose to stay in the insurance business, premiums still should be paid directly to the insurers by the insureds, without employers having anything to do with it.

Answer 396 - We acknowledge that requiring all individuals to obtain individual health coverage makes it less convenient than going with whatever carrier is selected by one's employer, but the greater diversity will give us a much better feel for how different combinations of price and services and advertising are actually most popular and therefore the most net-desirable. Those individuals who wish to avoid the hassle of shopping around for coverage can still engage the assistance of brokers for a reasonable fee.

Answer 397 - If people are allowed to refrain from paying premiums for health insurance, in order to save money or spend it elsewhere, then the insurance industry will probably not have enough funds collectively to provide even the most essential of medical services to everyone who needs it. We therefore need to require premium payments from all who can afford it.

Answer 398 - Coverage for the most serious injuries and illnesses should continue to be provided even to those who have recently lost their jobs, or who otherwise have not been able to pay their full share of premiums. OK for more discretionary levels of supplemental medical care to be provided only on a pay-as-you-go basis, and for missed premiums and uncovered medical costs to be tracked for future remediation where practical.

Answer 399 - Antiselection is a problem which attends insurance pools where some members are allowed to 'opt out', because it means fewer premium dollars available to go around. In our modern medical environment, it appears that we need all individuals to participate in the pool even if some would prefer to 'opt out', so participation is now to be required of everyone.

Answer 400 - Actuarial projections are more accurate when we can include data on all individuals in the Nation, including the unemployed and those who consider themselves too healthy to bother with insurance, so best for that reason as well to require everybody's participation in a single nationwide insurance pool.

Answer 401 - Various points are recapitulated at this place in the General Summary in the hope of appeasing those individuals who may feel uncomfortable in being forced to contribute dollars toward economic aid for the less-fortunate. Theoretical option remains for particular States or Counties to 'opt out' of the nationwide insurance pool, but then they would need to figure out how to deal with their sick and injured on their own, so that option is not recommended.

Answer 402 - Another reason in favor of national health coverage is that certain poorer Counties may not be able to afford medical care for all their residents even if they all pay the standard premium rates, such that it may be necessary for more prosperous States and Counties to pay more to cover those who have less.

Answer 402.5 - Disability, Workers Compensation, Unemployment, and other forms of state-run insurance programs generally may operate as they currently do, but we should make sure that there is little or no supplemental funding coming from general taxes except when duly approved by a particular jurisdiction, in which case we should still make sure that the government of that jurisdiction is never running a budget deficit as a result of such funding, or as a result of anything else.

Answer 403 - In order to reduce the number of children who suffer because they are born into poorer families, and in order to reduce the economic burden on society for such overpopulation, we are suggesting that parents volunteer to become sterilized after the birth of their second child, unless they can demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to care properly for additional children. At some point, if voluntary sterilizations prove insufficient to deal with the overpopulation problem, then certain poorer communities may decide that they need to proceed with forced sterilizations after the second child, again except where financial responsibility is duly demonstrated.

Answer 404 - Generally good for the governments of wealthier nations like America to provide free economic aid to poorer nations, especially if it goes to infrastructural or other systemic improvements which will help enable the regions in question to produce more for themselves going forward. However, we first should make sure that our own populations are fed and bathed and sheltered and educated and provided with basic medical care.

Answer 405 - Social Security should be maintained as a mandatory and universal retirement program, but it should be moved to the private sector. Annuity premiums should be taken off the top of paychecks as they are now, but the funds are to be remitted to private annuity carriers selected by the employees. Annuity carriers will price their packages high enough that they will remain solvent and operational, but also low enough to be attractive in the new competitive environment. Annuity benefits will come out of current revenues, so that it will never again be necessary for the present generation to 'borrow' from the future. Benefits will be denied to retirees whose net worth exceeds the calculated threshold of 'non-poverty', in order to provide greater funding to the individuals who need it more.

Answer 406 - It appears from experience that people cannot be trusted to plan for their own retirement on a completely voluntary basis, and that the premium funds taken in from voluntary contributors will not be sufficient to afford proper care for all our retirees, so we must continue to extract retirement contributions from all workers on a mandatory basis.

Answer 407 - At the time that we are ready to transition Social Security to the private sector, each worker's accumulated share of the Social Security Trust Fund is to be remitted to the private annuity carrier of the worker's choice, and then treated normally after that. Lump-sum distributions are not to be made available.

Answer 408 - Federal art grants may be issued to those artists who can make sufficiently-compelling cases that their projects will somehow serve the entire Nation, or large sections of it. Public funding for any art projects which serve only those who visit local museums and galleries should be sought at more local levels.

Subsection II-B-4: Debt servicing

Answer 409 - Recapping from Answer 386, we do not wish to maintain a national debt.

Answer 410 - Also recapping from Answer 386, we do wish to pay down our current national debt.

Answer 411 - Also recapping from Answer 386, we are currently projecting a 75-year timeframe as being net-optimal to pay down the national debt.

SECTION II-C: TAXES

Answer 412 - We are opposed to 'revenue sharing', where governments tax with the expectation that some of their revenues will need to be distributed among higher and/or lower governmental jurisdictions. This does not include the periodic payments which lower jurisdictions must by treaty pay to their parent governments in exchange for the privilege of self-administration.

Answer 413 - The threat of removing Federal 'revenue sharing' as a means of enforcing Federal policies at the local level should not be allowed, and should not be treated as a reason for maintaining 'revenue sharing' at all. Federal agencies generally should not be instituting policies which require any enforcement at the local level, and should be funding and staffing their own enforcement bodies insofar as they still choose to institute such policies.

Answer 414 - There are methods other than traditional taxation by which we theoretically could raise Government revenue, but we don't see these as particularly effective or even safe. Voluntary donations to the Government should be rebated to the public in the form of temporary tax breaks. Governments also derive revenue currently from Charges for Services, Operating Grants, and Capital Grants.

Answer 415 - Recapping from Answer 368, it is important for numerous reasons to keep our currency unit fairly stable, and that will not happen if we simply print or otherwise issue more dollars whenever we need to cover our uncontrolled expenses.

Answer 416 - We generally do wish to maintain a system of taxation in order to provide the ongoing revenues which we need for funding public operations.

Answer 417 - Several types of taxation are in active use. These include taxing on stuff earned (income), on stuff produced (excise), on stuff bought or sold (sales), on stuff owned (property), on stuff bequeathed (estates), and on all (or certain sets of) persons equally.

Answer 418 - Some public operations (such as military protection) may be funded by taxing all persons equally, while others may be funded by taxing those who own property. Most should be funded by taxing those who buy things, rather than those who work and earn money, so we favor a shift from income taxes to sales taxes. Estate taxation is to be discontinued in the new sales-tax environment.

Answer 419 - Shifting from income taxes to sales taxes may tend to reduce spending, but we perceive that as a good thing.

Answer 419.5 - Mechanisms are already in place for collection and remittance of sales taxes, but the General Summary lists a few provisions which we want to keep in place in order to make sure that businesses are not now motivated to try to evade them as we shift away from income taxes.

Answer 420 - Elimination of income tax might inhibit the use of certain tax exemptions, but we perceive that as a good thing.

Answer 421 - Insofar as we retain any level of income taxation, all loopholes should be closed.

Answer 422 - Income tax does appear to be constitutional, despite some claims to the contrary.

Answer 423 - Insofar as we retain any level of income taxation, rates should continue to increase with higher income brackets, but we would need a better balance between simplicity of structure and non-excessivity in rate hikes.

Answer 424 - Elimination of income taxation is another reason why we get to open our borders to all immigrants.

Answer 425 - The actual tax rates which we can expect to pay under the new system will still depend on numerous factors, including locality, but just to give ourselves a general idea we are selecting as a sample the City of Pasadena in the County of Los Angeles in the State of California. We also are assuming that the IRS is to be eliminated at the Federal level, but that all other Government functions are to be retained in their current positions and at their current levels. We eliminated Income tax, but introduced Capitation and Wealth taxes, and we tied the levels of the different types of taxation to different types of government costs. We maintained the rule that Wealth tax should be no more than 30% of overall revenue within any governmental jurisdiction. The net result of all these calculations is that we can expect middle-class taxpayers to save an average of 13.155% in taxes under our model.

SECTION II-D: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

Answer 426 - We are recommending 24-hour stock trading, and that a portion of Federal sales-tax revenue should come from stock transactions.

Answer 427 - We should continue to have measures on the books to prevent monopolies.

Answer 428 - We don't want to allow any action which physically prevents a competitor from doing business, and we also don't want to allow any company to make any public statement about a competitor's product/service, except only by direct quotation of independent industry-review organizations.

Answer 429 - Generally, no company should be allowed to have more than 1/3 of the market share within its industry. One exception is that an inventor may maintain a monopoly over her invention for the legal life of her patent, but not afterward. Other exception is if there are not at least three companies willing to compete within a given industry, or if the government specifically wishes to maintain a monopoly within a particular industry, in either of which cases the government shall be allowed to regulate prices as it sees fit, but should always avoid setting rates too high and risking the public displeasure.

[All other agenda elements remain to be addressed by the group. Remaining subject headings appear at the bottom of the General Summary.]