

# ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING

## General Summary - Third Pass

The following presents an overview of the work that the "Answers to Everything" SIG accomplished during its 289 Monday-evening meetings conducted between January of 1997 and April of 2019, and on a correspondence basis until February 2022, toward its mission to compile a nonpartisan agenda comprising solutions to all the political, economic, and social problems facing America today.

This document presents only the actual decisions themselves, with little explanation or other background. Anyone wanting to know more about these findings is invited to consult the SIG's complete Final Report, 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.

These conclusions reached by the 'Monday group' will be compared and contrasted with the partial findings of other panels which also worked on this Project, so some of the conclusions appearing in this document may not be reflected in the full published version, and all the Questions and Answers will be rearranged into a more logical sequence, so all observers should wait until the full published version comes out before taking any action in response to any of our recommendations.

An important 'ground rule' that should be remembered when reviewing this document is that all the answers contained herein were subject to subsequent reconsideration and modification by the group at any point through the end of the Third Pass. In instances where the group changed its position on a particular question at any time, this document usually shows only the position currently held by the group, although there are a few exceptions where we mention certain major policy changes. In any case, all preliminary decisions are discussed in the SIG's Final Report.

Agenda begins with a few introductory Questions addressing the Project itself. The core of the Agenda is currently 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. We decided toward the end of the First Pass that we would change the order of these Questions later to treat the more fundamental issues in all categories first, followed by all the elements which depend upon them, as will be reflected in the full published version.

### INTRODUCTION

Answer 0.8 - We generally want to be happy, but being 'happy' means different things for different people, although there are some frequent similarities.

Answer 0.9 - Things which make nearly everyone happy include freedom from stress, freedom from tyranny, civil liberty, peace of mind, freedom to walk, simple pleasures, adequate sunlight, adequate green space, and peer approval.

Answer 1 - There are three factors which must be assessed in order to determine whether the investment of time and effort into this project is worthwhile, being (a) whether or not we are satisfied with the current political/economic/social order, (b) the extent to which we may be empowered to make changes in the current order, and (c) how badly we want to try to do so.

Answer 1a - Notwithstanding the fact that there are many things about our current order that we like, there are yet many areas which could do with drastic and immediate improvement.

Answer 1b - While there certainly are numerous individuals and groups and institutions with a vested interest in maintaining the *status quo*, or with a general resistance to change, there yet are many methods available to us (particularly involving the Internet and the Social Media) to get the public's attention and to galvanize their interest in effecting the necessary improvements in our current order. We therefore may have it within our power (possibly with a certain amount of luck) to arrange to have certain changes made.

Answer 1c - After some debate, we decided that we do want to put in the effort required to develop our Master Agenda, notwithstanding one attendee's observation that it is the "epitome of arrogance" to attempt such a project.

Answer 1.9 - Whether we should write a 'magnum opus' book depends on whether we should look only at isolated topics, or whether we should construct a 'whole agenda' covering everything.

Answer 2 - For multiple reasons, we decided against the 'band-aid' approach, where we focus only on specific problems in specific areas. Better to build an overall agenda covering Everything.

Answer 2.4 - Our original position was that Economic and Social topics depend on Government Organization, which depends on philosophy of America, which depends on existence of America among multiple nations, which depends on whether or not to have a one-world government, which depends on to what extent individual needs and desires impact sociopolitical structure, which depends on the relationship of the Individual to the State, which depends on Rights, which depends on the Source of Rights, which depends on the Source of People. We later learned through experience that Political, Economic, and Social topics interrelate in a more complicated manner.

Answer 2.8 - As to Epistemology, we can't really 'know' anything, but can have varying degrees of confidence about the truth or accuracy of a particular assertion. Validity of any argument is independent of the identity and credentials of the arguer.

Answer 2.9 - We should go back to some basic point of universal agreement, so that we can see where and why we first begin to disagree.

## **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**

Answer 3 - 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.

Answer 3.3 - The assumption that the Universe is real creates a sense of trust in the Universe, and creates in us a motivation to create a world that works. It also means that we want to make our own individual lives as meaningful and real as possible.

Answer 3.5 - We adopted the operating assumption that we have freedom of will.

Answer 3.7 - Factors which can mitigate corruption include promoting wideness of perspective and making people feel important within society.

Answer 4 - For our basic choices as living creatures, we can do nothing and starve, do nothing and hope to be fed by some kind of 'welfare', kill ourselves directly, or take affirmative actions to increase the chances of continued living.

Answer 5 - Individual authority to come up with different answers to these choices depends on the more basic question of to what extent (if at all) an individual has power over her own life, which in turn goes to questions of rights.

Answer 6 - As a 2021 change to the fuzzy phrasing which our panels concocted in 1997, we now define a 'right' as the "ability to enjoy a certain activity or benefit without legitimate opposition".

Answer 6.3 - There are two different kinds of rights, including those which are 'natural', and those which are derived from a social contract.

Answer 6.5 - We agreed to use the term 'natural' to refer to those rights which are not engendered by humans, and the term 'civil' to refer to those rights which are.

Answer 7

It is meaningful to speak of 'natural rights' as a separate category, even though all rights are subject to (i.e., can be abridged justifiably by) civil authority, because certain degrees of rights can require higher protocols for abridgement. We are asserting that the Natural human impulse is to feel victimized when -- without consent or provocative action on one's part -- one's Life or Sense of Self is threatened, or one's freedom of Non-Injurious Self-Determination is restricted, or one's Property Voluntarily Created is appropriated, or any other similar Right is violated. Such impulse can be overwritten through physical coercion or psychological manipulation or social conditioning or other means, but it is the Natural pre-programmed Sense of Victimization which we are holding as the basis for all Natural Rights. More generally, it appears that all natural rights have natural restrictions, in that none of us gets to enjoy any of those natural benefits forever.

We have identified the following as 'natural rights', listed in what we feel is the proper order of precedence, such that in case of conflict or limited resources preference is generally to be accorded to the lower-numbered items over the higher-numbered:

- 1) **Sense of self** – Whether we're talking about actual killing or simply a lobotomy, the knowledge that one exists as a living organism is our most precious possession, even more precious than freedom of will. It is common to virtually all animal species to try to maintain the existence of this gift for as long as we practically can, with only very rare exceptions. Thus, for any second party to come along and try to take that ability away from us – without any mandate or other provocative action on our part – is going to create a sense of violation and victimization among virtually all of us, so we think that it is fair to extrapolate this universal sense as a 'natural right' of which we are all instinctively aware.
- 2) **Physical non-abuse** – Somewhat less precious than the sense of self – but no less common to all animal species – is the need to be as free from physical pain and immobility as we practically can. Thus, we have decided that it is safe to project a universal feeling of victimization at the unprovoked abuse of one's physical body, such as the genital mutilation of women in Afghanistan, and the foot-binding of girls in China.
- 3) **Parenthood** – We have a natural right to reproduce, evidenced by the fact that Nature has provided us with the means to do so very easily. However, the natural right to reproduce carries with it a natural restriction that a population cannot get too high relative to its ecosystem, or else certain unpleasant natural calamities may arise. We initially felt that a mother has a natural right of ownership/control over the child whom she gestates and delivers, until the child reaches majority (however that condition may be civilly determined), such that the child may not be appropriated without the mother's consent (mother bears being noted in particular for their militant exercise of this right), on the grounds that the mother is the principal 'creator' of that life. However, upon further reflection, we noted that not all biological parents of either gender share the same sense of victimization when their children are removed; some of them are only too happy to give their kids over to adoption or foster care at earliest op, or even to abort them prior to birth. As a result, it's actually not the genetic contributors who have the natural right of parenthood, but rather those persons (whether genetically related or not) who voluntarily commit to the contractual responsibilities of parenthood, for it is they who will very predictably feel a sense of unjust abuse when this child in whom they have invested so much effort and/or financial support is injured or appropriated without a relevant provocative action. If the parental duties are divided in such a way that there is not one clearly-identifiable primary caregiver and principal decision-maker, and if those multiple caregivers disagree over some decision affecting the child's interests, and if some kind of harm is threatened to the child as a result of their inability to agree, then the case may need to be referred to civil authority for arbitration, but this does not mean that the parental rights in question have somehow degraded from natural to civil; rather, this would constitute one example of our previously-established principle that natural rights may occasionally require civil adjudication.

Whoever the *de facto* parents are, the child still has the same natural right of 'moral protection' against unprovoked physical abuse as anybody else, and this right needs to be recognized and respected by the child's parents as well as by all other persons.

- 4) **Property voluntarily created** – Inventors and musicians and visual artists often create new works because other people pay them to do so, and then those works arguably 'belong' to those patrons, a fact which the creators generally will not question. However, anyone who voluntarily creates any new thing (whether it is a physical object/development or whether it is a piece of artwork or other intellectual property) is almost always going to feel a sense of proprietary control over its disposition, and a sense of victimization if anyone tries to take control of said property without proper consideration. For, those things which we create voluntarily represent an exercise of our sense of self, which is defined by our existence and our thoughts and our voluntary actions. If the fruit of such voluntary labor is taken away against our will and without provocative action, then it is an attack on our sense of self, and therefore a violation of our natural rights.  
However, any physical or intellectual property is less valuable than human life, so this natural right is ranked below parenthood. Therefore, if you can take only one thing out of your burning house or onto the helicopter out of the country, then take your actual child before you take your sculpture of the child.
- 5) **Non-injurious self-determination** – Virtually all humans and other animals on the planet naturally and instinctively prefer to have at least some measure of freedom over their movements and actions, and generally (although with some occasional exceptions) don't care to be restricted in their movements without due cause. We can therefore interpret freedom of movement as a natural right, but it must have a logical limitation at the injury – or other rights violation – of any of our fellow planetary residents, for a society in which anyone gets to kill or rape or plunder at will is no society at all. In order to keep ourselves free from injury, and thus maximize the quality of our own existence, we agree as a species (and this happens throughout Nature, which is why we perceive it as an element of natural rights) to actively discourage injurious actions both by ourselves and among our neighbors.
- 6) **Biological killing of lower-order animals** – Higher-order animals (including humans) have a natural right to kill lower-order animals for food, or for a biological necessity unrelated to food. We find evidence for this in the fact that Nature has provided some animal species (including humans) with teeth and the ability to digest meat, and also in the fact that we're seeing this happen in Nature all over the planet.  
However, killing animals for any other reason would fall outside the area of natural rights.

There may be other natural rights which we haven't yet identified, but the items listed above appear to be the most fundamental.

Answer 8.1 - Prisons may prevent suicide attempts.

Answer 9 - Any right carries with it the right to waive that right.

Answer 9.5 - We can get behind the concept of an ERA as long as we make sure that it covers everybody in our Society, but that is a necessary condition of our support.

Answer 10 - All rights carry the responsibility to respect the rights of others. The existence of natural rights does not imply a responsibility on the part of all observers to intervene during an alleged violation. Pet owners have a moral responsibility to release their pets upon apparent request, unless they are judging in good faith with their superior intellects that continued 'protective custody' is actually in the pets' best interests; same principle applies to a trip to the vet, or any other action which a pet may protest, but which is actually in the pet's best interests.

Answer 11 - An individual generally has complete control over his/her own life. However, it also would be appropriate for smaller communities to make their own calls as to the proposed repression of anyone's rights, but with the ability to appeal any such decisions to higher authority, which would then be justified in enforcing its will on the smaller groups.

Answer 12 - Resolution #1: An individual can do anything that he/she/it wants, provided that he/she/it does not injure or threaten one or more other people against their will, and does not otherwise infringe upon their rights.

Answer 13 - Injury includes causing a negative change in the *status quo*. Impacting someone else's ability to enjoy rights (whether natural or civil) is an injury. In other words, if I am compromising your ability against your will to do things that you would be able (either physically or legally) to do otherwise, then I am injuring you. Threats are a form of mental injury.

Answer 13.5 - The same natural rights which apply to humans also apply to all non-humans who possess the three requisite ingredients of sense of self, will, and sense of victimization. In other words, non-human animals have rights, too. For this reason, we join with the 40+ nations which have gone on record as opposing the display of trained animals (especially the Big Cats) in circuses or other public exhibitions, because we are now more collectively sensitive than we were to the sense of victimization which many (if not all) animals must feel as a result of their prolonged captivity, and of their needing to perform various demeaning 'tricks' in order to please their human masters. We also are heavily against trophy hunting, and against mutilation for purposes of animal shows.

Answer 14 - It is necessary for people to interact, given the extent of our current population.

Answer 15 - It is probably not possible for each individual to create personally all the comforts that he/she could possibly want.

Answer 16 - Most of us voluntarily associate with others to work together, to play games, to satisfy romantic/sexual needs, to discuss the events of the day, to share the beauty of the world around us, and on and on.

Answer 16.9 - We define 'government' for our purpose here as 'one or more people who make decisions for the rest of a given community'.

Answer 17 - A certain amount of moderation/supervision by some kind of public organization is necessary in modern society.

Answer 17.1 - It is appropriate to use the word 'government' to refer to a public organization which supervises or moderates the interaction among people, notwithstanding any limiting connotations which that word may carry with some people, provided that we clearly define that term at the outset of and throughout any public presentation of our completed Agenda. However, as another change from our previous position, we may use the word 'administration' to describe the entity which does our public jobs for us. These entities need not be related.

Answer 17.5 - Nations are the primary divisions of the territory of the Earth, in which laws and political structures can be set up which are independent of and supplemental to any which may exist for the Earth as a whole.

Answer 18 - As minimum requirements, government should preserve each individual's rights, and prevent any one individual or group from taking unfair advantage of another. More generally, role of Government should be based on the needs and desires of the community, which will change over time and over different areas of the World, and probably should be somewhere in between the extremes of totally minimalist and totally pervasive. We should have different governments, with different roles and scopes, which should be prepared to change over time, according to the changing needs and desires of their societies. Having multiple governments in place at once allows them to try different ways of doing things at the same time, and to learn from one another, and to copy one another's methods.

Answer 18.3 - The extent to which a society gets to have a voice in the regulation of individual behaviors depends on the collective preference of that culture at a given stage of its history. In the specific case of America, we claim generally that any behavior is (or should be) 'acceptable' as long as it is not 'inappropriate' for any reason.

Answer 18.5 - If some government passes a law which you think is unfair, excessive, or otherwise inappropriate, then you should be allowed to disobey it, provided that you can demonstrate to a court of competent jurisdiction that you should be temporarily or permanently exempted from that law, for whatever reason. If you fail to make your case, then you are subject to the same reprisals as any other violator. If you make your case successfully, then the applicable Legislature is automatically notified, and shall have the opportunity under certain conditions to override the Judicial veto of their law.

Answer 19 - It was established during the latter part of the Q18 discussion that multiple governments should be in place around the World.

Answer 19.5 - War sucks.

Answer 20 - Generally best to leave international borders where they are for now, and allow any future adjustments to be overseen by the i.o.o. established in Answer 26, although we allow for the possibility of basing a rebordering upon a global write-in election for everyone's preferred national association. Clarified rule of the i.o.o. in situations where Nations are unable to resolve border disputes peacefully, being that they can respond to the Nations' request for arbitration, and may step in unilaterally

once the first act of violence occurs, or when it appears that troops are mobilizing for offensive action, but that no intervention may happen prematurely, to give peaceful and localized negotiations every chance.

Answer 20.9 - Whether we retain the institution of Citizenship or not, we do want to have a network of disease-screening checkpoints all around the Nation and World.

Answer 21 - Notwithstanding our original Answer and multiple confirmations, we found during the Second Pass that we should indeed retain Citizenship.

Answer 22 - Nations generally may set their own parameters for the privileges or requirements which may apply to its citizens, including if a given nation carries multiple 'castes' of citizenship. However, nations should clearly indicate the citizenship status of any given subject on any passport which they may issue to that subject, and such passports should continue to be required for international travel.

Answer 23 - An agency of the House of Nations (one of the three houses in our proposed 'Earth Congress') should arrange to be notified of every new citizenship, so that they can make sure that the subject's previous nation has been duly notified of the change.

Answer 24 - The default national affiliation of a newborn child shall be the same as that of her mother at the time of birth, regardless of the place of birth. That nation may accord different levels of privileges and responsibilities to newborn children and to minimally-educated adults and to certain other 'castes' of citizens, so a newborn child may be considered by her home nation as a 'pre-citizen' or an 'associate citizen', but such rules are internal.

Answer 25 - As to Secession, any segment of any jurisdiction may secede from its parent with approval of such action by a 2/3 majority of the seceding group, and under possible condition of a consideration being paid to the parent group to offset their investment.

Answer 25.5 - For the purpose of our discussion, 'treason' is 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.

Answer 25.7 - Penalties for treason should be among the stiffest available.

Answer 25.9 - Resolution #1A: A nation generally gets to do whatever it wants, provided that it is not injuring or threatening another nation against its will.

Answer 26 - We initially thought that it would be good to have an international body ("i.o.o.", meaning "international oversight organization") of a discussing/advisory nature only, establishing policies for the international community to observe voluntarily, and morally authorizing the remainder of the community to enact reprisals (of some kind) against an offending nation, said international body to have no enforcement power of its own, since we didn't feel that we could trust it. However, given the resolution achieved in what we are now calling Answer 25.9, we must have international oversight to determine when international rights violations are occurring, so we should have an i.o.o. with at least some enforcement power.



Answer 27 - Since the i.o.o. did not have any enforcement power at the time that we reconsidered this Question in November 1997, it couldn't really 'authorize' any nation to take a reprisal action, since there would be no alternative. Upon reconsideration in May 1999, we found it to be reasonable for the i.o.o. to cover the entire World, provided that limitations on power are always in place to prevent abuse. Added in January 2004 that the i.o.o.'s Environment Committee (or whatever it ends up being called) would have jurisdiction over any national environmental policies (damming, poaching, etc.) which impact other Nations, and that we should allow an appeal process. This function was assigned in May 2017 to the Environment Committee of the House of Territories of the Earth Congress.

Answer 27.5 - The i.o.o. should have a bylaw to prevent willful expulsion of member nations, though can still have a recognition procedure for alleged new nations. Added during reconsideration in May 1999 that it is generally in the interest of the global community to retain problem nations as members in order to facilitate continued dialogue.

Answer 27.6 - If each new nation appears poised to operate as a separate nation, with the power to trade and make treaties and do other international things, then it should be able to participate in the decision-making process, so the i.o.o. should recognize it, and install it as a member, as soon as it demonstrates that it is actually functioning as a separate nation.

Answer 27.7 - If a USA-type nation decides to break up into multiple constituent states, in order to increase representation in the i.o.o., then we could review that society's government structure, to see whether it is still operating a unified government in real life, and judge accordingly whether to recognize.

Answer 28 - No reason initially seen for the i.o.o. to occupy a separate geographic territory, but we changed our position later in favor of a neutral headquarters, either in a separate territory or in a neutral nation like Switzerland, to minimize the perception or reality of favoritism. In any case, the i.o.o. should also have satellite offices around the World, in case the HQ gets knocked out by military attack. A telecommunication line should be set up to provide quick notification of hostilities or other severe trouble, and the line should be linked to all satellite offices, so that a message that goes to one office gets to all the others. The expanded model submitted to the 2017 Swedish competition identified specific candidate locations within non-neutral nations for all three houses and the HQ, a neutral territory not being as important when the global authority is decentralized as now envisioned.

Answer 28.2 - We should not rotate i.o.o. headquarters. Did not see need as of 1998 to specify any recommended locations, but did suggest some options in 2017.

Answer 29 - One house of the i.o.o. should continue to grant one vote to each member nation, but another house should grant proportional voting based on total population, and a third house should be a house based on geography to address issues affecting nations of different sizes differently. No one nation should have veto power in the i.o.o.

Answer 29.1 - As indicated in Answer 17.5, a 'nation' is a geographic area which is defined by a specific border, and which has been recognized as sovereign by the prevailing international oversight organization. However, a valid alternate usage of 'nation' is as a large band of people bound by common genetics and culture.

Answer 29.2 - There need not be a minimum size for a Nation.

Answer 29.5 - We do not need to establish any particular selection method or qualification requirements for i.o.o. delegates.

Answer 30 - Delegates for each house of the i.o.o. were to be selected by the applicable nations, though later revised, for some delegations cross national boundaries in our model, so selection of the delegates will need to happen by diverse methods. Leadership of each i.o.o. house is to be elected by house members according to its own procedures. Overall leadership of i.o.o. was to be determined by election from all delegates, though later revised, such that the delegates elect representatives to an Executive Council, which in turn elects a Secretary-General.

Answer 31 - Given that i.o.o. now has some legislative authority in our model, we should identify those nations which are willing to make some portion of their forces available for global enforcement, and then select specific units from those forces to participate in any action which needs to be undertaken anywhere in the World. Various structures and procedures are suggested for the i.o.o.'s Defense Committee, by which it will comprise 15 members, 8 of which will constitute a quorum, and 9 of which will be expected to be on-call (that is, within 15-30 minutes of Committee headquarters) at any given time. On-call duty will rotate among 5 shifts of 3 delegates each, each shift being on-call for three weeks and then off-call for two. A period of six months probably is an appropriate term for delegates to serve on the Defense Committee before being rotated off.

Answer 32.0 - Whether the i.o.o. is only advisory or (as later resolved) has some legislative authority, we initially thought that it should basically stay out of local international squabbles to the extent reasonable, to reduce the likelihood that they will escalate into global issues, and save themselves for bigger-ticket items. We modified this position later, to allow the i.o.o. to arbitrate border disputes and other international disagreements when needed or requested, in order to prevent them from escalating. More specifically, the i.o.o. should recognize to which nation each area of the World belongs; if for some reason it has not been done in a particular case, then nations may decide the issue between themselves; where it has been done, unsanctioned border crossing is illegal, and the offending nation shall be subject to reprisal. We afterward allowed the i.o.o. to include a global court as an appeal venue for prominent international cases.

Answer 32.1 - We did not address any specific policies in early years, but later added prohibition of war, protection of environment, protection of endangered species, regulation of international cartels, and others. In general, a Nation may react unilaterally to any actual military incursion (including through the introduction of biological weapons across a Nation's border), and/or may 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, then a Nation 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. I.O.O. may incur into a country to suppress an imminent and serious threat by a 'terrorist' or other organization known to be operating within that country, provided that there is sufficiently compelling evidence of such threat coming from there, and also provided that the host country is not

acting swiftly enough to suppress the threat themselves. Individual countries may incur unilaterally into another country to defend against an immediate and serious threat by an independent (terrorist?) organization operating within that country's borders, but they had better be able to demonstrate good cause, or else the I.O.O. can pounce.

Answer 32.2 - There should be no unilateral police action taken by any nations against any other nations.

Answer 32.3 - If the i.o.o. is only advisory, then they can make a statement as to a nation's alleged violation of human rights. If the i.o.o. has some limited legislative authority (as we recommend), then their involvement in alleged rights violations should be limited to helping people as needed to leave who don't wish to live under the present regime, for which reason they should maintain an embassy in each large city if practical. You can take some possessions along, if space is available. Bringing pets shall also be subject to allowance by the transporting authority, and should consider the possibility of allergies possessed by your fellow passengers.

Answer 32.4 - (1) Delegations provide salaries and travel costs for their delegates, or else they forfeit a seat at the table. (2) Assess administrative overhead according to total tax revenue, even though it means a permanent agency tasked with finding these figures, which may need to be split for delegations which include portions of nations. (3) Nations contribute military personnel and equipment and funding on voluntary basis, when authorized by the i.o.o. in response to any unsavory situation anywhere in the World. (4) Larger expenditures such as poverty offsets and infrastructure investments and evacuation facilities should be funded by only those delegations who vote in favor of including those costs in their house budgets, probably also in proportion to total tax revenue, but can consider alternatives.

Answer 32.5 - In light of our revised finding that the i.o.o. should have some limited legislative authority, we now think that we don't need to allow the public in their sessions, in that it might hinder discussion. However, public should be able to access information on issues and votes.

Answer 33 - In the absence of an i.o.o. with enforcement authority, we would need to rely on individual nations to defend their own borders, and/or to bind together in non-aggression pacts or mutual-protection pacts. Consensual transfer of territory is okay to be left up to agreement of the parties.

Answer 34 - International treaties may develop and apply on their own without a legislatively-empowered global governance in place to enforce them, such that the participation by individual nations would be strictly a matter of option, but things may work better if we give our i.o.o. some limited legislative authority, even though we originally thought not to. In light of this our decision, we agreed that any promulgations by the i.o.o. should be so obvious that any nation which violates them deserve whatever they get. Any policy decision should require a 2/3 majority of whatever house is involved in such decision. Day-to-day decisions may continue to require only a simple majority.

Answer 35 - People should be able to leave their nation in response to alleged violations of human rights, and the i.o.o. (along with individual nations) can help people to leave, but may do little else, unless the nation in question is violating some

i.o.o. policy which was established by a 2/3 majority of the applicable house. If a nation is changing to a system of government that another nation doesn't like, the other nation has absolutely no right to go in to try to change it, and for them to try constitutes a violation of our Answer 25.9, that a nation generally gets to do whatever it wants, provided that it is not injuring or threatening another nation against its will. Any nations having previously committed this violation may deserve to have their asses kicked retroactively, for they really should have known better.

Answer 36 - If an individual or consortium wishes to buy part or all of a given nation, and establish their own laws and systems, then best to apply the same principle as with Secession (see Answer 25), that is, to require a 2/3 majority of the affected population, to protect the interests of future generations.

Answer 37 - Not really necessary to require advance permission of the i.o.o. for private purchase of part or all of a nation, as long as they monitor the sale, and step in when needed to respond to any violations of promises.

Answer 38 - Generally for America, we probably want to stick with the basic ideals of maximum personal freedoms, representative government, equal voting weight for each citizen, free press, resources allocated by free-market forces, etc. Also agreeing with much less silly restrictions on personal freedoms, homes for the homeless (including immigrants), no crazy people turned out onto the street because there is no money in the system, more say over where money goes, more accountability in government, greater enforcement of campaign promises, and no more being the watchdog of the rest of the World.

## **SECTION I-B: GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

Answer 39 - Good for America to maintain a federal system, same as with i.o.o. Higher body should generally concentrate only on specific items, with more power devolved to the lower levels.

Answer 39.5 - Primary standard for whether a given land area should be a State should not be either area or population, but rather whether it is industrially self-sustaining. Secondary standard should be whether it is in some manner distinct from each of its proposed neighbors.

Answer 40 - No major reason to change State boundaries as currently defined, but maybe the Dakotas could be combined, if we choose (as later resolved) to admit Puerto Rico as a State, and if for some reason we wanted to keep 50 States.

Answer 40.5 - Simply changing a boundary should require only a 2/3 majority of the populations of the affected States. To break up a State will enable greater Senate representation, so should require the approval of a 3/5 majority of the Senate, as would the elevation of any Territory to a State. A "very high majority" should be required to approve the complete demotion of any State to a Territory.

Answer 41 - Adopted the concept of 'subsidiarity', which says that functions should generally be devolved down to the lowest levels that can adequately manage them.

Answer 42 - General assignment of public functions to different government levels:

Federal: Agriculture Monitoring, Air Traffic Control, Antitrust, Census & Statistics, Communication Regulation, Copyrights & Patents, Currency Administration, Disease Screening, Food & Drug Regulation, Foreign Relations, National Defense, Postal Service, Railroad Maintenance, Research & Development, Securities Regulation, Territorial Administration, Trade, Water & Power

State/Local: Animal Regulation, Apportionment, Conservation, Consumption-Based Entitlements, Driver's Licenses, Drug/Liquor Licensing, Education, Elections, Emergency Health Care, Garbage/Sewage Management, Gun Regulation, Insurance Regulation, Libraries, Permits, Police/Fire Protection, Public Transportation, Tourism, Vehicle Registration, Worker's Compensation, Zoning

Both: Airport/Harbor Supervision, Arts, Corporations, Disaster Relief, Environment, Job Training, Judiciary, Law Enforcement, Occupational Safety, Parks, Public Health, Social Work, Street/Highway Maintenance, Taxation

Answer 42.1 - Even if a wilderness area crosses a State boundary, it should not be treated as a federal Territory.

Answer 43 - A separate Territory must be large enough that people who work there actually live there, and that there is actually a substantial permanent residential population.

Answer 44 - With possible exception for the central government district (see Answer 45), Territories should have full representation in any population-based house(s) of Congress, and no representation in any house(s) not based on population. Fed can allow certain Territories to manage certain functions if determined that they can and will do so. Territories are not liable for lease payments normally made by States.

Answer 45 - Central government district (we recommend changing the name from 'District of Columbia') should be reduced in size to cover only non-residential areas. Residents on the DC side of the Potomac should be attached to Maryland, and should have same voting power as all other Americans.

Answer 45.1 - Concluded in the Second Pass that Puerto Rico should either be allowed to become its own separate Nation (if it wishes to, and if it can demonstrate financial and political independence from all other Nations), or else be welcomed into the American family as a full-fledged State, but not be maintained as a Territory. Later learned of a 2017 plebiscite strongly wishing Statehood, so agreeing.

Answer 46 - Counties are essentially regional administrative arms of the State. Cities are specific geographic areas where (1) certain laws could be enacted regulating (or refraining from regulating) certain acts and behaviors which have no effect on higher levels, and (2) certain small-scale administrative functions could be managed without bothering higher levels.

Answer 47 - Should try to encourage Localities to assume as many functions as practical, and to get consensus of the entire State when it comes to having the State assume a given function.

Answer 48 - Default model constructed of which functions should go to either Federal, State, County, or City, or some combination of these:

Federal only: Agriculture Monitoring, Air Traffic Control, Antitrust, Census & Statistics, Communication Regulation, Copyrights & Patents, Currency Administration, Disease Screening, Food & Drug Regulation, Foreign Relations, National Defense, Postal Service, Railroad Maintenance, Research & Development, Securities Regulation, Territorial Administration, Trade

State only: Apportionment, Driver's Licenses, Gun Regulation, Insurance Regulation, Vehicle Registration

County only: Animal Regulation, Drug/Liquor Regulation, Education, Emergency Health, Entitlements, Fire, Sewage Management, Water/Power, Worker's Compensation

City only: Garbage, Libraries, Police, Zoning

Federal & State:

Federal & County:

Federal & City:

State & County:

State & City:

County & City: Public Transportation, Streets/Highways

Federal & State & County: Job Training

Federal & State & City:

Federal & County & City: Arts, Parks

State & County & City:

Federal & State & County & City: Disaster Relief, Elections, Taxation

Answer 49 - 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.

Answer 49.6 - No payments of any kind should be made to any government official, except a government paycheck. All public officials should complete divestiture of all business interests for the duration of their terms in office.

## **SECTION I-C: THE ELECTION PROCESS**

Answer 50 - Best way of determining which individuals are chosen to manage different government functions depends on the function.

Answer 51 - The method of selecting government officials should vary according to the function.

Answer 52 - Listed 13 possible methods for selecting government officials.

Answer 53 - Of all the possible methods, we found popular Election, Appointment by higher levels, and selection by Peer Panels to be the most viable. 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.

Answer 54 - Each jurisdiction should have a constitution or charter which 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**

Answer 55 - A 'political party' is a formal organization which is maintained for the purpose of exerting influence over the political process of a given society, and which may need to satisfy certain conditions established by that society in order to continue its existence, and the members of which may not concurrently belong in any similar organization.

Answer 56 - We identified 12 potential purposes for which political parties could be used.

Answer 57 - Of the 12 identified potential purposes of political parties, the only one which we consider to be potentially healthy and constructive in today's environment is 'banding together to increase power'. However, the potential benefits of that item do not outweigh the detrimental effects of the other eleven.

Answer 58 - Political parties should not be used for narrowing selection fields.

Answer 59 - Vote-splitting is rendered a non-problem with our AWAO (aka #YesNoAbstain) voting method.

Answer 60 - Political parties should not be used to determine who fills certain special positions within legislative bodies.

Answer 61 - In general, we prefer to allow legislators to set their own election procedures, depending on each assembly's size, scope, level, demographics, duties, etc., provided that all individual legislators are allowed to have a full vote. Additional notes established for starting new assemblies and for enabling rule changes in existing assemblies without making the process too easy.

Answer 62 - Agreed that 'keeping score' of anything by party is misleading and divisive, and generally destructive of the political process.

Answer 62.5 - Found generally that political parties should not be used as a formal part of the selection process, 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."

Answer 63 - The same people should be involved in drawing district lines for different levels, each State deciding for itself how its drawing people shall be selected.

Answer 64 - Guiding principles for drawing district lines should include disregard for voter behavior, equal population within each district, similarity of community makeup within district, compactness, and simplicity.

Answer 65 - Fed should not draw district lines.

Answer 66 - States should have authority to draw district lines.

Answer 67 - Self-drawing probably not workable. Make sure that someone from each Locality is on the drawing panel.

Answer 68 - State election offices should have control over district boundary-drawing at all levels. Panel drafting plan should comprise a number of representatives equal to the total number of Congressmembers in that State (whether we have two or three houses in Congress), apportioned among the Counties according to population. Panel may approve a draft plan by majority vote, and submit it to the Governor, who would either approve or veto it, just like a passed bill; if vetoed, then the panel can override by a 2/3 vote. Judiciary may throw out a plan only if there is strict violation of any specific rules/laws, not because the plan is allegedly unfair to some group or constituency, but they may interpret what constitutes a 'logical' boundary for our concavity rule, and the laws of a particular State may allow the judiciary to rule on certain limited exceptions to the basic rules. Notwithstanding the 5-4 decision reached by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, we find that the national Judiciary Branch must step in if a given State is in clear violation of established anti-gerrymandering rules.

Answer 69 - In order for a given district to be sufficiently simple, it may not have more than 8 line segments, and may not have any concavity except where dictated by a pre-existing boundary. In order for it to be sufficiently compact, proportion of the square of the longest straight-line distance within the district to the total area of the district must be at least 2 (for a perfect square), and may not be more than 3.

Answer 70 - Voter registration continues to be important even in the absence of political parties, if only to prevent duplication.

Answer 71 - You must be human, alive, and conscious in order to register, and you must not be certified as medically insane. You must be registered in a certain area for some minimum period of time before actually voting there. Tending to disfavor tying voter registration to chronological age, holding property, or paying poll tax.



Any disenfranchisement for a bad act should be only temporary. A primary-school graduation is both necessary and sufficient for an individual to be permitted to register to vote (as well as being necessary for being drafted), with understanding that the eight years of primary school are to be used to teach all the facts and skills and values which we expect all American adults to possess, except that passing a standard test on the structure and processes of government shall serve as an alternative to a primary-school diploma for voter registration. There shall be no chronological age after which the franchise shall be taken away, nor shall we require periodic recertification after a certain age. Franchise may be taken away as a result of conviction of certain serious crimes, the exact duration of Disenfranchisement to be determined by Judge and/or Jury as part of normal sentencing process. Those with apparent mental illness may vote if they demonstrate minimal awareness by being able to sign the register.

Answer 72 - Being a Citizen of a given nation is a minimum condition for being allowed to vote there.

Answer 72.5 - One may vote only where one lives as of Election Day, though may participate in campaigning activities in other precincts.

Answer 73 - Originally agreed that we could have a cutoff age by which everyone should have the franchise, and still allow younger people to vote if they pass a certain test. Later resolved that anyone not passing the standard primary-school curriculum should pass the same standard civics test required of current students wishing to vote early, or else should not be allowed to vote.

Answer 74 - All people should be able to vote no matter how stupid they are, and even if they don't know Everything about the structure and process of government, since they can still form opinions as to which candidates are most compatible with their personal agendas. We should be testing youngsters on their civic knowledge to make sure that they don't simply play with the levers in the voting booth, but instead intend to vote sincerely.

Answer 75 - Each eligible voter shall be entitled to one full vote.

Answer 76 - Records & Elections bureau of each County should publicize on its official website the current voter registration for each Precinct, shortly before the election, but with a long-enough advance that people have time to check the list and initiate any applicable responses.

Answer 77 - Should re-register every time that you move, but we can allow you to vote by provisional ballot with proof of current residency if you have moved within the same County, and then we can update your voter registration for you. Proof of current residence shall always be required when registering or re-registering, and every effort shall be made to cross-check and delete previous registrations. Better communication shall exist between Registrar and Coroner, to remove records of dead people.

Answer 78 - Voters may be flagged as inactive if they haven't voted within a certain number of elections or years. Such individuals may still vote, but only if they show proof of current residency.

Answer 79 - State Legislatures may decide actual term of inactivity which must pass before any action can be taken on an inactive voter registration.

Answer 79.5 - Our recommendation is ten years of inactivity needing to have passed before any action can be taken on an inactive voter registration.

Answer 80 - District apportionment shall be based on population, not on the numbers of registered voters.

### **Subsection I-C-2: Qualifications for Office**

Answer 81 - Population-based house should have each Representative represent a single small District. There should be no Residency requirement. Instead, we should let Voters decide who is generally the most qualified candidate.

Answer 82 - Voters may choose to elect convicted criminals, provided that they have full disclosure of such information before voting.

Answer 83 - No new requirements are to be added for government office, our preference being to let the voters in each race decide the best candidate.

Answer 84 - All term limits are to be removed.

Answer 85 - If the majority of Voters in a District feels that their Representative has been in there too long, but they are undecided as to a replacement, then they still do not need Term Limits, if they have a Voting Method which solves the Vote-Splitting problem.

Answer 86 - If the public is reluctant to change from a long-term incumbent to an unproven stranger, then that's their choice, and it should not be mitigated just to give more people a chance to throw their weight around. The needs of the public are more important than any others, and their choices should always be maximized.

Answer 87 - No other reason seen to support or allow term limits, and we 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."

Answer 88 - An amendment should be added to the Constitution, repealing the 22nd Amendment, and prohibiting any level of American government from enacting term limits on any public office.

Answer 89 - Candidates should not be required to answer questions on topics which do not directly relate to the qualifications for the positions that they seek.

Answer 90 - It may be considered inappropriate for such irrelevant questions even to be asked by the press to any candidate. Further, no other public or private individual should ever be asked any incriminating or embarrassing questions, including by the police. Lawyers may not ask witnesses whether they keep diaries.

### **Subsection I-C-3: Campaign Reform**

Answer 91 - For the duration of the time that we still have political parties, primaries/caucuses for National office should all be held at the same time.

Answer 92 - Public funding of campaigns should be eliminated.

Answer 95 - There is to be no limit on campaign contributions, but there shall be a low maximum spending limit, and there shall be full disclosure and itemization of all contributions and expenditures. The actual limits are to be set by individual jurisdictions, based on the economic and technological conditions extant at the time.

Answer 95.4 - Changing the campaign spending limit should be done by referendum or initiative.

Answer 95.5 - Any funds received in excess of a designated campaign spending limit should escheat to the General Fund of the applicable government, except the Fed (which, according to MMT, does not really 'need' the money, since all its checks are good by definition), in which case the excess should be diverted to a common campaign fund to be shared equally by all candidates appearing on the final ballot.

Answer 97 - We still need greater emphasis on revealing the identities of all partners of any organizations contributing to any campaigns, even in an environment of campaign spending limits.

Answer 100 - A simple listing on the ballot is not sufficient to provide voters with the information necessary to make good choices.

Answer 101 - Government may provide each candidate with minimum exposure by printing their pictures and campaign statements in ballot pamphlets.

Answer 102 - Government may provide each candidate with minimum exposure by arranging a minimum number of debates in which all qualified candidates may participate.

Answer 103.1 - Most debate answers should be spontaneous, though some debate questions may be provided to all candidates in advance.

Answer 103.2 - We are expecting that TV stations will broadcast debates as part of their ongoing commitment to public service, but government can provide debate funding if for some reason this does not happen. Private civic organizations are also welcome and encouraged to host supplemental debates.

Answer 103.3 - Debate questions may be proffered by anyone, including other candidates.

Answer 103.4 - Always invite at least three participants to every debate, and always select those candidates with the highest counts of petition signatures.

Answer 104 - We can post videos of the debates on government websites. No other suggestions offered for government assistance of campaigns.

Answer 105 - Candidates must meet a requirement of petition signatures in order to establish that they are serious.

Answer 105.5 - Each jurisdiction sets a fixed number of candidates N in each race, where N is at least 3, and the N candidates with the highest signature counts get access to the ballot. We recommend a default of 5 ballot positions for each local race, 10 for each State race, and 15 for National. The petition process should include the capability for people to submit signatures *sua sponte*, instead of needing to wait to be approached by someone with a physical petition. Use 'digital signatures' to make the verification process easier. As a change from previous decision, now feeling as of late in the Third Pass that the current signature count of any candidate should be openly available on the website maintained by each Elections Office, and that signatures can be added and removed and changed right up until the one real-time deadline for all time zones, for multiple reasons stated in the full Final Report. #OpenBallot

Answer 105.6 - We possibly should also grant to the public the ability to make changes to ballot sizes and other elements in our nomination model.

Answer 105.7 - Candidates should appear on the ballot in descending order according to signature count.

Answer 106 - 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.

Answer 107 - Candidates may generally expend their campaign budget as they see fit, so most/all 'equal time' rules currently in force may be discontinued.

Answer 108 - We don't want results reported while polls are open (including while any voters are still in line), and we don't want polls published too close to Election Day.

Answer 109 - First Pass finding was that no polls or surveys pertaining to an election may be published within a certain period prior to Election Day, though candidates may contract with polling services to obtain information for private use, as part of their campaign budget. As a modification adopted during the Second Pass, the moratorium on publication of candidate-related polls/surveys should last at least two weeks, but may be extended as far back as the final determination of which candidates will appear on the final ballot.

#### **Subsection I-C-4: Voting and Tallying**

Answer 109.9 - Our working definition of 'public interest' is "the set of conditions which will tend to maximize the aggregate quality of life of the residents of a given geographic area".

Answer 110 - Maximization of voter participation is not necessarily in the public interest, but maximization of willing voter participation is.

Answer 111 - It was initially found that a majority of votes actually cast shall be sufficient to establish victory, and that a majority of the entire electorate is generally not needed; this finding was modified in the course of our comparative analysis of voting methods, as described below.

Answer 112 - 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. Added when considering Question 281 in Session 146 that popular elections should not happen any more frequently than once every two years.

Answer 113 - In a Third Pass change to our original finding, we now think it net-best to allow vote-by-mail, and to announce continually to the public that the vote-by-mail option exists, but generally to encourage Election Day voting over vote-by-mail wherever practical.

Answer 114 - Also as a Third Pass change to our original finding, we can allow candidates to send out vote-by-mail applications if they really wish, but not require it. Any accompanying literature should emphasize that such mailed ballots are to be used only by those voters who have already made up their minds about the entire election, although the principal encouragement is that voters generally should seek to keep an open mind until the end of the campaign, same as we ask jurors not to form any opinions on a case until all the evidence and closing arguments have been presented. Further, we suggest that voters should harbor a level of distrust against any candidate who encourages vote by mail, or who includes vote-by-mail applications in their campaign literature, on grounds that they are seeking to encourage voters to make their ballot decisions before all the facts are in.

Answer 115 - The announcement of election results shall not be permitted in any area while polls in any other area are still open.

Answer 116 - It should not be considered unfair to those residing in eastern Time Zones to be required to wait for the closing of polls in western Time Zones before any results could be announced.

Answer 117 - We should create a standard polling period of 24 hours which will begin and end at the same real time in all Time Zones, so that any voter can select whatever time of day is most personally convenient.

Answer 118 - In order to mitigate staffing expense and/or security risks in having polls open during the late-night hours, each locality can choose (by ordinance or by popular vote) whether they wish to have the polls open for the entire 24-hour period, or whether they wish to take a break of some duration during the night.

Answer 119 - We can facilitate Electronic Voting in such a way that you can confirm that your vote counted, but nobody else can see how you voted: Your sample ballot contains a unique passcode (new for each election) printed on the inside, so that only you can ever see it. Log in with that passcode, and cast your votes as desired. After the election, you can look up your passcode on the website maintained by your local elections office, and see all the votes associated with that passcode, so that you know that your votes counted. All that anyone else sees is a random passcode which probably never was used before or will be used again, so there should be no way that they can trace it to you.

Answer 120 - 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.

Answer 121.5 - Vice-President (or analogous official of a lower jurisdiction) should automatically succeed the President (or analogous local official) upon his/her death during office.

Answer 122 - President and Vice-President (and analogous local officials) should continue to be elected on the same ticket, even in the absence of political parties. Final Report provides details on how to do so in an #OpenBallot environment.

Answer 124.4 - Features of an ideal Voting Method include (1) that people are allowed to express their will as accurately as possible, (2) that the method is fairly easy to understand, (3) that it encourages sincere voting, (4) that it gives equal weight to all voters, (5) that a significant number of active votes is required for victory, (6) that it solves the Vote-Splitting Problem, and (7) that it solves the Polarized-Environment Problem. Only method to satisfy all these filters is Approval With Abstention Option (AWAO), aka 'Yes/No/Abstain', so that is our primary recommendation for either ballot propositions, single-seat offices, or representative assemblies. Under this method, each voter may vote 'yes' to approve as many candidate(s) as she wishes, and may vote 'no' to disapprove any candidate(s), and may abstain from voting on any candidate with whom she doesn't feel sufficiently familiar. Each candidate's 'no' votes are subtracted from her 'yes' votes, and the victory goes to the candidate with the highest quantity of (yes - no). There should be no minimum cutoff which needs to be achieved by a candidate in order to win. We are not fans of either 'single-transferable vote' (STV) or any other form of proportional representation.

Answer 124.6 - There is no real value in having a "none-of-the-above" (NOTA) ballot option as part of our election model, and we do not wish to have a second election if the highest-scoring candidate fails to achieve any given cutoff.

### **Subsection I-C-5: Recall Procedures**

Answer 124.7 - The five questions which we immediately see as needing resolution regarding the recall process are Who should approve the recall?, By what majority must a recall motion pass?, Who should replace the person being recalled?, How is the recall process to be begun and completed?, and What grounds should be considered sufficient for recall?.

Answer 124.71 - We don't need to require establishment of 'just cause' for recall, but we imagine that initiators will want to state some reason(s) for recalling.

Answer 124.72 - 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. In order to prevent abuse of process, with the losing side continually initiating recalls in vain attempts to redo unhappy election outcomes, petitions for recall should comprise signatures from only those who originally voted for the winning candidate, and who have now changed their minds.

Answer 124.73 - An appointed official shall be subject to removal by the official who made the appointment (or that official's current successor), subject to the same just-cause requirements as may be applicable in any employer/employee situation. Elected officials may be removed by special recall election, and judges may be

removed by legislative vote, without requiring an establishment of 'just cause'. Legislative body which gets to exercise oversight over the selection of Department heads and Bureau chiefs also gets to order their removal if the President or Vice-President (or State/Local equivalent) is hesitant.

Answer 124.74 - Simple majority of the voting electorate shall be both necessary and sufficient to complete the recall.

Answer 124.75 - 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.

Answer 124.76 - If an incumbent deceases in office, and if there is no designated order of succession (especially in the case of a Legislator), then give the spouse first option to fill the vacancy. If the spouse agrees, then the accession takes place immediately, but can be overruled by a 3/5 vote of the population-based house of the applicable Legislature.

## **SECTION I-D: EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE**

### **Guiding principles**

Answer 125 - Government agencies should respond to the needs and desires of the People being governed. Agency actions should reflect both the long-term values of society and the short- and mid-term policies of various Branches of government. When there is any conflict among these, policies should be moderated somewhat to reflect the values of the People being affected. We don't want government to be making any decisions about our actions based on subjective judgments; rather, anything which they would have us do or not do should first have been approved and codified by the applicable elective legislature. We should amend or repeal 18 USC §202, to remove any exceptions to the rule in §208(a) that no officer or employee of the Executive Branch may participate in awarding a government contract in which he has a financial interest. Any government agency which fields any requests from the public at all should display those requests on a public website according to date received and tracking number, including all pending requests and those requests completed within the preceding year or two; any such agency not displaying such a website should be routinely suspected of attempting to cover up its inadequacy. Government agencies should seek to come in under budget, or not to exceed budget by more than 5% without satisfactory explanation.

Answer 126 - 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. Possible additional motivation is if we make agency funding a matter of public vote through the decennial Census, although we currently are leaning toward making such votes non-binding until we get a better feel for how sincerely and constructively the public responses will tend to be in real life. Give bonuses to employees whose departments come in under budget, but only if the budget is balanced, or else they will overload to get under more easily.

## **Removal from office**

Answer 128 - 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.

Resolution #5: "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." Notwithstanding what some recent Presidents and their mouthpieces have publicly asserted, we claim that neither the President nor any other government official is 'above the law', or should be treated as such.

Answer 128.5 - It follows from Resolution #5 that any impeachment and/or other forced removal of an incumbent President generally should include the Vice-President, since they were elected together, and presumably were subject to the same influences, but there can be exceptions. The expression 'high Crimes' apparently relates to what we now call 'Felonies', and any one 'high Crime' or 'Misdemeanor' is sufficient to allow impeachment under the current rule.

## **Reporting relationships**

Answer 131 - All administrative department heads should report first to the Vice-President, Lieutenant Governor, etc., provided that the Fed has a National Security Council which includes the U.S. President, the U.S. Vice-President, and the future equivalents of the current Secretaries of State and Defense.

Answer 132 - A jurisdiction's Chief Executive may take any unilateral action which is specifically authorized by a legislative provision. She also may 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. (In this sense, the Legislature generally is (or should be) considered to be the 'first branch' or 'highest branch' of government, contrary to the common perception of three separate-but-equal branches.) If only one house was involved in the original legislative provision, then only that house need pass overturn by simple majority. If two houses were involved, then the greater majority between the two shall decide whether the action is to be overturned. If three houses were involved, then two of the three houses must agree by simple majority that the action is to be overturned.

Answer 132.3 - Chief Executive shall not have the authority to 'shut down' the Government -- nor any segment(s) of it -- for any period of time nor for any reason.

Answer 132.5 - Any administrative reorganization which results in elimination of a currently-filled position shall cause the affected employee to be put on 60-day 'priority placement' (even in a #JobsGuarantee environment), 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.

Answer 133 - Legislature should have authority to confirm or overrule the appointments of all Department heads and Bureau chiefs in the Executive Branch. In



a multi-house environment, the specific authority should reside with the 'upper house', that is, the house with the fewest members.

### **Answer 135**

We created a model executive 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**

##### Administration

- Accounting & Budget
- Building & Floor Planning
- Elections
- Facilities Management
- Personnel
- Procurement
- Security
- Transportation Services

##### Defense

- Air Defense
- Electronic Defense
- Homeland Security
- Intelligence
- Land Defense
- Sea Defense
- Space Defense

##### Finance

- Asset Management
- Business & Securities
- Copyrights & Patents
- Currency
- Domestic Trade
- Government Payroll & Pensions
- Labor Relations
- Revenue Collection

##### Foreign Affairs

- Cultural Exchange
- Diplomatic Relations
- Immigration
- International Trade

##### Interior

- Agriculture
- Electronic Communications
- Environmental Protection
- Indigenous Relations
- National Lands

- Territorial Administration
- Transportation
  - Air Traffic
  - Airports & Harbors
  - Highways
  - Railroads
- Water & Power
- Justice
  - Criminal Records
  - Detention
  - General Counsel (incl. United States Sentencing Commission)
  - Investigation
  - Marshal
  - Prosecutor
- Public Services
  - Arts
  - Census & Statistics
  - Consumer Protection
  - Disaster Relief
  - Occupational Safety
  - Postal Service
  - Public Aid (includes monetary payments and 'help centers')
  - Public Health
  - Public Information
- Science
  - Earth & Sea Exploration
  - Energy
  - Measurement Standards
  - Meteorology
  - Research & Development
  - Space Exploration

## **State**

- Administration & Finance
  - Accounting
  - Investments
  - Payroll
  - Personnel
  - Taxation
- Commerce
  - Banking
  - Consumer Affairs
  - Corporations
  - Gambling Regulation
  - Insurance
  - Tourism
- Conservation
  - Environmental Protection
  - Historical Landmarks
  - Wilderness Areas
- Education
  - Accreditations

- Accreditation Applications
- Certification Renewals
- Home Schools
- Private Schools
- Public Schools
- District Oversight
- 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
- Sheriff
- 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
- Civic Events
- Historic Preservation
- Libraries
- Parks
- 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**

Answer 137.5 - Department heads should be referred to as 'Director' instead of 'Secretary'.

Answer 138 - Other than the President and Vice-President, and their personal staff, there are no functions which we want discharged at the Federal level and which are not included in the Departments which we identified in Answer 135a. The 'Chief of Staff' shall only supervise the President's personal support team, and shall not have any involvement in executive or political matters.

Answer 138.2 - U.S. President and Vice-President shall continue to serve 4-year terms.

Answer 138.5 - If the spouse of a Chief Executive is found to be guilty of treason, then that person (like any other) should be removed from being in any position of influence over the Executive, and the Executive should not have authority to pardon the spouse if she can pardon anyone at all. If the Chief Executive is found to have been under ongoing undue influence of any other persons, even without a specific violation of any criminal act, then the Executive may be subject to Recall under the provisions established above, or removal by a 3/5 vote of the population-based house of the Legislature.

Answer 138.8 - Chief Executives of States and Nations should not have the legal authority to pardon anyone, least of all themselves, either directly or through the appointment of complicit successors, for they have abused the privilege. Most that they can do is to issue a formal request to the applicable Court of Appeal (or possibly the Supreme/Superior Court), that they reexamine either a criminal sentence or the underlying conviction, but even then the Executive must have had no involvement in the selection of any of the judges who would be considering their appeals, as generally provided in Answer 300.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-a: Foreign Affairs**

Answer 139 - Peaceful interactions which one nation might want to have with another include trade, tourism, intelligence on criminals, currency exchange, sharing medical and scientific discoveries, space/geophysical exploration, disaster relief, air/oceanic travel, postal delivery, political protection for travelers, diplomacy, special events (conferences, Olympics, etc.), student exchange, and others.

Answer 140 - It is not reasonable to expect that relations between nations will always remain normal and peaceful.

Answer 141 - It is appropriate to have a separate Department which specializes in maintaining peaceful and constructive relations with other nations.

Answer 142 - We will continue to have an ambassador for each nation in the World.

Answer 143 - Ambassadors report to District Directors, who report to the head of the Diplomatic Relations Bureau.

Answer 144 - Consuls, legates, and other associate diplomatic staff should be nominated by the incumbents of the positions to which they will directly report, with approval coming from the next-higher management level. In the case of a particularly sensitive or critical position, even higher levels (up to and including the national Legislature) may ask to be involved also.

Answer 144.1 - Diplomats generally should serve until they retire or their performance is found to be sufficiently unsatisfactory as to warrant removal.

Answer 145 - Embassies and consulates shall continue to be treated as sovereign territory of the nations being represented, to provide safe havens for people traveling abroad who get in any kind of trouble.

Answer 146 - 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.

Answer 146.5 - Further statements offered on travel checkpoints for disease screening (intercontinental only) and criminal identification. Generally, nations (including America) may perform these operations as they deem necessary and appropriate, but we are recommending global cooperation in order to mitigate disease and capture dangerous criminals wherever they may try to hide.

Answer 147 - It is okay for America to send free economic aid to foreign nations, but only after we have first taken care of the hungry and homeless and diseased within our own borders, otherwise we will need something in return.

Answer 147.1 - Generally, refugees who are escorted out of a given country by the i.o.o. should be left with the nearest country which can expediently accommodate them, exceptions to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Answer 147.2 - We may not be able to force Nations to supply military aid to the i.o.o. upon demand, but we should try to impress upon reluctant Nations that it is in their interests to help the i.o.o. maintain an environment in which international military aggression will not be tolerated, in order that those Nations may more easily maintain their desired neutrality. Nations which don't have armaments or trained troops to contribute to an Allied military action may still be able to participate passively by lending their roads and harbors and airports and other facilities to the Allied forces.

Answer 147.3 - We define the expression 'crossing a border with military force' as a violent attack against the territory of a Nation, whether in the name of another Nation or in the name of an independent organization.

Answer 147.4 - If an attack by independent thugs is allegedly in a given nation's name, but that nation actively (and truthfully) disclaims all responsibility, then it clearly would be in that nation's interests to help the i.o.o. remove the perpetrators from the occasion of further destructive action, and to do whatever else may be needed to redress the situation.

Answer 148 - It is not being added to our Agenda at this time to encourage a Canadian-American merger, and in fact we now actively recommend against it.

Answer 148.2 - We would like to continue America's role as the one place in the World where people can go if they're getting hassled within their own countries, so we agreed not to have any restrictive Immigration policy in America.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-b: Defense**

Answer 149 - We do want to maintain a standing armed force for defensive purposes.

Answer 150 - Found in the First Pass that we should not initiate military attacks against any other nations for any reason. Modifying our position during the Second

Pass, we may (and should) defend ourselves when directly attacked, and we may (and should) participate in I.O.O.-sanctioned campaigns against nations who initiated hostilities with other nations, but that should be the full extent of our military involvement.

Answer 151 - If parties within a sovereign nation are violating laws or principles which we in the U.S. perceive to be accepted internationally, then we should not unilaterally move in to try to coerce them to adjust their actions.

Answer 152 - Once we have all the elements of our Agenda in place, it will not be necessary for the U.S. to act as the world's 'policeman', if it ever was.

Answer 154 - Military service should never be compulsory, in either peacetime or wartime. Good to provide incentives for service, but ultimately keep it voluntary.

Answer 155 - If you need a draft, then you probably shouldn't be at war in the first place.

Answer 156 - Restrictions permissible on who may serve include (1) the physical capability to perform jobs in Service, (2) passing a psychological evaluation, (3) not belonging to any organization which has expressed ill will toward the U.S., and (4) an intelligence level above some designated minimum.

Answer 157 - 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 gender. 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, but in no wise should be discharged from Service as a result of getting pregnant.

Answer 158 - We see no reason to disallow homosexuals in the military. To the contrary, we should actively welcome and encourage any volunteers that we can get, since they may be in short supply one day. The same standards of physicality and performance and treatment should apply to all soldiers, regardless of gender or sexual preference or any other related attribute.

Answer 159 - Barracks and latrines may generally be shared among soldiers of all combinations of gender identities and gender preference, but should contain opaque shower stalls so that no one needs to be seen naked who doesn't want to be.

Answer 160 - We do wish to continue to have an agency to gather intelligence on other nations, including by covert mechanisms as needed.

Answer 160.1 - Activities of the Intelligence Bureau of the Department of Defense can include spotting for any plans of terrorism, and sharing any information learned with the Armed Forces, the Public Health Bureau, and/or other government agencies as appropriate. It is absolutely not necessary to have a separate department for 'homeland security'. We do what we can to identify and apprehend the terrorists, but we also help our own cause by becoming less of a target for terrorists.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-c: Finance**

Answer 161 - Confirmed in Session 100 that this department would cover Asset Management, Currency, Government Payroll & Pensions, and Revenue Collection. Adjustments were made to the Department structure later, as summarized in Answer 135. Other questions of an economic nature are evaluated in Part II of our Outline.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-d: Environment**

Answer 162 - Whether resolved earlier or not, protection of the environment is a function which should be the responsibility of government.

Answer 163 - 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.

Answer 164 - All national issues of an environmental nature should be brought together into one single organization.

Answer 165 - Environmental issues at the national level often dovetail with issues involving consumers of products, so original decision was for a single federal agency to consider both types of issues concurrently. Some specific functions which could be discharged by the combined agency include ecosystem oversight, air quality, safety of food products, accuracy of packaging labels, and seismic monitoring. We later separated Environmental and Consumer Protection into different Departments.

Answer 165.5 - Government should not be mandating fluoridation of drinking water, but local governments may arrange for chlorination or other treatment which may be needed to make water sufficiently potable.

Answer 166 - Some emphasis should be given by government to the preservation of 'endangered species', to the extent described in Answer 167, and to the prevention of 'trophy hunting'.

Answer 167 - Federal emphasis on species preservation should be limited to preventing significant population depletions which would cause an unhealthy shift in the ecosystem balance, and assisting the global governance (probably through the U.S. Marshal's office) with local apprehension of known hunters of key species which are already threatened or endangered.

Answer 167.5 - People who are interested in conservation can engage in it themselves, but that may not be enough. Our model proposed in Section II-C of replacing the Income Tax with an increased (but nonregressive) Sales Tax is intended to encourage conservation of physical resources. We can also continue to provide monetary incentives for recycling. Suggestions for improving conservation efforts can be added here as they are put forward from any direction.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-e: Science & Technology**

Answer 168 - Not all scientific and technical research needs to be coordinated or funded by government, and private organizations may continue to carry on such research independently if desired, but all that which is managed by government should be managed through a central federal agency.



Answer 168.5 - Briefly considered the idea of making Science a completely separate branch of government, instead of an agency of the Executive Branch, but decided to stick with the original model, where it is one of 8-9 Cabinet-level departments.

Answer 168.7 - We should require a Ph.D. degree in some Science discipline for anyone seeking to head the Science Department.

Answer 169 - Functions and issues to be handled by the Department of Science should include the Bee population, Agricultural research, ultrasonic insect repellent, Space Exploration (including a radio observatory on the far side of the Moon), and whatever else we may think of later.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f: Commerce**

Answer 170 - We do not need to have a separate Cabinet-level department for each of Agriculture and Transportation and Energy and Labor and Commerce, which can be segmented into different other departments. Considered merging all of these functions into a single Commerce Department, but it got too big and nasty.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f-i: Agriculture**

Answer 171 - General mission of the Bureau of Agriculture should be to optimize 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.

Answer 171.5 - 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 perpetual custody of the federal government. Originally considered assigning Forestry to the Bureau of Asset Management, but in the Second Pass changed it to the Agriculture Bureau of the Department of the Interior.

Answer 172 - We're strongly recommending never to pay farmers not to grow certain crops.

Answer 173 - Even if future growers are stupid enough to ignore the recommendations of the Bureau of Agriculture (or whatever private association may perform the function of monitoring production levels), which we feel to be pretty unlikely, they would learn their lessons pretty quickly, so this is not a valid reason to pay farmers not to grow certain crops.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f-ii: Communication**

Answer 173.8 - 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.

Answer 174 - Agencies regulating communication (such as the FCC) should be included in the Department of the Interior.

Answer 175 - Primary functions of the Bureau of Electronic Communications shall be to interconnect all populated areas of the country, and to enforce any appropriate restrictions.

Answer 176 - We would generally like as much freedom in our electronic communication 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, and such content should not be banned outright. Internet sites should be subject to the same anti-libel rules as all other media. Telemarketing and printed 'junk mail' should be eliminated. 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; our e-mail addresses are not yours to sell, and it should be illegal to make the saleability of our e-mail addresses a condition of purchasing any product or service. There should be restrictions against propagating computer viruses, and parents should be able to block websites on the basis of selected keywords. Little or no Internet regulation beyond this.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f-iii: Domestic Trade**

Answer 177 - Managers of Foreign Trade probably would be mostly concerned with what goods we need in this country versus what goods we can feel free to release, while managers of Domestic Trade would concentrate on effective distribution of goods within the country. These functions therefore should be organized in separate bureaus.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f-iv: Water & Power**

Answer 178 - There should be a federal agency concerned with Energy.

Answer 179 - Energy exists in our model as a Bureau of the Science Department, but only for the research aspects of the topic. Water & Power now exists as a Bureau within our restored Interior Department, to focus on production and distribution.

Answer 180 - Primary functions of the Bureau of Water & Power 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, on condition of notice to all three 'Economic & Environmental Affairs' (or equivalent) committees of Congress, who shall have authority to

countermand such actions. Any planning by the Water & Power Bureau as to distributing water from a given source should take into account the ecological impact to the locality, including by hearing from local representatives. In particular, the national Water & Power Bureau should monitor water-delivery systems throughout the nation, and step in to fix problems wherever local authorities (such as in Flint) appear to be unable and/or unwilling to do so directly. Water & Power should also assume the mission (as we can make funds available by cutting unneeded expenses elsewhere) to retrofit all residential garages in the nation with electric-car chargers.

Answer 180.1 - Everybody should be entitled to a minimum share of water, any additional use to be subject to surcharge.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-f-v: International Trade**

Answer 181 - We should have no tariffs or other such restrictions on foreign trade, except that the same federal safety and accuracy standards which apply to goods manufactured within this country shall apply equally to imported goods.

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

Answer 182 - We found in the First Pass 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. We modified our position in the Second Pass, and added a Bureau of Labor Relations to the Finance Department.

Answer 183 - Best to keep all Statistics-keeping in one agency.

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

Answer 184 - Listed some transportation functions to be handled within the federal Department/Bureau 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 generally better for the Fed to allow some regulations to be enacted and administered more locally.

Answer 185 - The Fed generally has no business either specifically approving or specifically forbidding construction of a highway which 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.

Answer 186 - Two or more states may pool their resources to create highways crossing state boundaries, without any involvement from the Fed.

Answer 187 - State authorities have much more knowledge about the specific features of each highway, so they are in a much better position to determine appropriate minimum or maximum speeds.

Answer 188 - The Fed should not be able to mandate speed limits on any highway in any State, but may recommend in case of a big 'energy crisis' as in the 1970's.

Answer 189 - Air-traffic controllers should not be permitted to go on strike, even

with advance notice. Any air-traffic controller who walks off his 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 should be subject to criminal prosecution and whatever punishments may be forthcoming.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-g: Justice**

Answer 190 - There should continue to be some federal agencies concerned with the enforcement of federal laws.

Answer 191 - We have adopted the name 'Department of Justice' to cover all agencies concerned with the enforcement of federal laws.

Answer 192 - The structure of the Department of Justice currently includes bureaus for Criminal Records, Detention, General Counsel, Investigation, Marshal, and Prosecutor.

Answer 193a - 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, and shall be head of the Bureau of the General Counsel in order to receive bureaucratic help.

Answer 193b - Both the Chief Prosecutor and the General Counsel shall report directly to the Director of Justice. We are eliminating the titles of 'Attorney General' and 'Solicitor General', since they are not sufficiently descriptive of the responsibilities of the jobs. 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.

Answer 194 - Elections restored at the Federal level as a Bureau of the Department of Administration, and can conduct massive polling on official websites between Presidential elections. Any investigation of alleged voter fraud or election mismanagement -- either at the Federal level or anywhere below -- could still be conducted by the Bureau of Investigation within the Justice Department. The Marshal's Office shall include a unit for providing security services to domestic VIP's, to relieve that function from the current Secret Service. Department should also include the United States Sentencing Commission, as an import from the Judiciary.

Answer 194.1 - OK for the Justice Department to maintain a database of information which 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.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h: Citizen services**

Answer 195 - Combined into one organization all agencies which provide direct benefit to citizens.

#### **Subsubsubsection I-D-1-h-i: Post Office**

Answer 197 - Original finding was that postal services should be devolved to private enterprise. Changed in Third Pass back to public control.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-ii: Elections**

Answer 200 - We currently have Elections as a Bureau of the Federal Department of Administration. Functions include making sure that national election standards are applied properly and equitably throughout the Land, maintaining the website which collects signatures for all national offices, and conducting ongoing polls of the entire American public as to the performance of incumbent officials and also as to any pending public issues of the day.

Answer 201 - Election of Senators and Representatives should be administered at the State level. Election of delegates to the per-Area house should be administered at the County level, with individual Counties in each delegation reporting their internal figures to the Elections office of the County which has the highest population within that delegation, unless the regional offices work out some other arrangement.

Answer 202 - Any limits on campaign funds received, funds spent, advertising space purchased, or any other form of election activity should be set by the Legislature. However, enforcement of any such standards may happen among any combination of Branches, the more the better.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-iii: Statistics**

Answer 203 - There should be a periodic Census.

Answer 204 - Even if we have more accurate accounting of voter registrations now, including the earlier-discussed provision of registration expiration, we still can use an exhaustive count of all citizens/inhabitants.

Answer 205 - We agree to keep the Census period at ten years.

Answer 206 - Congressional representation and public funding levels may not be sufficient motivations in our model environment for people to want to participate in the Census, unless we use it as an opportunity for them to tell the Government things which it may not already know, especially how we feel about certain topics not on recent ballots.

Answer 207 - Several steps identified to encourage/require resident aliens to participate in the Census.

Answer 208 - Confirming our finding in Answer 148.2, we should not have either entirely-open nor entirely-closed borders, and some amount of Immigration should be allowed under certain conditions.

Answer 213 - We will require universal participation as to certain minimum Census questions (being Name, Age, Gender (including Trans/Other), and Residential location), with non-compliers subject to criminal penalty and/or a visit by a Field Enumerator. Several supplemental Census questions were identified which individuals could answer on a voluntary basis.

Answer 214 - Any monitoring or possible adjustment of Price levels should be coordinated by the Currency Bureau of the Federal Department of Finance.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-iv: Measurement Standards**

Answer 215a - We continue to need an operating agency for Weights & other Measures.

Answer 215b - Primary function of the Office for Weights & other Measures shall be to spot-check the accuracy of newly-manufactured measuring instruments. We should also require approval from the Office for Weights & other Measures for any patent application on a new measuring instrument.

Answer 216 - Office for Weights & other Measures should be in the Science Department.

Answer 217 - Office for Weights & other Measures should have a more generic name. Agreed to call it the "Office of Measurement Standards".

Answer 218 - We should change 'weight' to 'mass' in our ordinary conversation only if we ever convert to the Metric System, but not otherwise.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-v: Language Services**

Answer 219 - Language standardization can occur more efficiently in the Private sector than in Public, so after some back-and-forth we are recommending against an Office for Language Services in our Federal structure.

Answer 220 - Each nation should decide for itself whether it shall have one or more 'official languages' for official communications, but it is generally recommend that each nation should designate at least one 'official language'. In any case, there should be at least one language with which every American should be expected to be familiar, and there also should be at least one 'official language' for purposes of all internal and external government communications.

Answer 220.5 - An 'international language' might be helpful for diplomatic and other purposes, and we observe that English has largely assumed that role (whereas French previously was the *lingua franca*, while Greek and Latin served the role in earlier times), but English is not as flexible as certain other languages, so a change might be indicated, although we are not offering a specific recommendation at this time.

Answer 221 - Although we allow different Nations (including America) to make their own decisions on the matter, we yet generally recommend for simplicity that each Nation have no more than one 'official language' with which everyone is expected to be familiar.

Answer 222 - Any 'official language' should be used for all Public Interactions, but all private entities have discretion to adhere to the Common Standards or not.

Answer 223 - On condition that we are not seeking to regulate how people speak in private fora, the selection of one or more 'official languages' does not (in our opinion) constitute a violation of the Constitutional provision of free speech.

Answer 224 - American English should be the 'official' language of the United States. We leave it up to the Canadians to decide (and change over time if desired) whether they want to maintain a separate 'Canadian English' or speak a more-or-less unified 'North American English'.

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."

Answer 227 - Authority to make a decision (or modify it later) as to 'official languages' in real life may rest with direct Popular Vote, but we are recommending that it be made by an assembly which is designed to represent the views and interests of the Populace, and which has authority to make such binding decisions.

Answer 228 - There should be national propositions on national ballots, possibly to include a decision on any 'official language(s)'.

Answer 229 - The designation of an 'official language' logically implies a standard vocabulary and pronunciation, so it makes sense for a standard to be designated by whatever entities have jurisdiction over the area, as long as we are not impinging upon individual Liberty nor eradicating valuable Cultural Diversities.

Answer 230 - The designation of American English as our 'official language' does not imply that American English will be a static or 'dead' language.

Answer 231 - Any physical reference books produced by an Office of Language Services (or equivalent) could be in some combination of hardbound and paperback, according to the type and frequency and breadth of usage, and the frequency and scope of any updates. However, we have since found against having such an office within the Federal administration.

Answer 232 - Any physical reference books produced by an Office of Language Services (or equivalent) should be purchased by users. Proceeds could help offset the costs of production, possibly to the point of zero Net Cost, or even to the extent that the Bureau becomes a Profit Center. However, we have since found against having such an office within the Federal administration.

Answer 233 - Anyone wishing to obtain citizenship within this country needs to have (and demonstrate through testing) the same amount of language facility as we require from any primary-school graduate.

Answer 234 - A minimal 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. Format should be more SAT-style as opposed to essay-style.

#### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-vi: Disaster Relief**

Answer 235 - There shall be an office at the Federal level for emergency relief in case of natural disaster.

Answer 236 - Federal disaster-relief efforts should supplement Local.

Answer 237 - Fed may step in with disaster relief if it's immediately clear to all 'reasonable minds' that the State has an unforeseen logistical incapacitation which prevents its ability to respond. Slowness resulting from any other factor is a matter of judgment, and it would be inappropriate for Federal officials to substitute their judgment of appropriate response speeds for that of the Local officials, so they should not take any unilateral actions in such circumstances.

Answer 238 - Federal officials shall set budget amounts to fund the Disaster Relief Office. If our annual loss experience is significantly higher or lower than the budgeted expectation, then (according to our interpretation of MMT) we can adjust tax rates and/or other spending levels as may be needed to restabilize the currency.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-vii: Patents and Copyrights**

Answer 239 - We do want to have a Federal agency for Copyrights & Patents, and it currently resides in our model as a Bureau within the Finance Department.

Answer 240 - We would like for the Offices to be financially self-sustaining (even in an 'MMT' environment -- see Part II), **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.

Answer 241 - Motivations for employees and managers within the Bureau of Copyrights & Patents to minimize their operating costs basically follow what would apply to most Government agencies generally, including the possibility of adverse job actions imposed by higher management, the prospect of direct operational oversight by either higher management or the Legislative Branch, and Employee-Of-The-Month-type recognitions of good individual performance. In this particular area, however, Legislative intervention might be initiated by multiple complaints from Authors or Inventors on excessive application fees.

Answer 241.5 - 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.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-viii: Public Assistance**

Answer 242 - Optimal general approach for dealing with the problem of the Homeless is to help them reintegrate into society.

Answer 243 - Government should attempt to provide at least the minimal amount of support necessary to maintain a minimally tolerable standard of living for Everyone, along with the opportunity to reintegrate into society (possibly by provision of low-cost housing, job training/referral, literacy education, etc.). Private charities can do anything supplemental which they may desire and can do.

Answer 244 - We should have a public network of places where homeless people would go to obtain any services which they need.



Answer 245 - Government 'help centers' (a better name than our previous 'orientation centers') shall provide housing, food, banking, mail, lockers, office services, job training/referral, career/financial counseling, language/literacy education (both English and Spanish), disease screening and other medicine, psychological and 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. Much of the work to be performed in these facilities will be by current or former users. Users could be issued ID cards for obtaining various supplemental services, but cards would need to have expiration dates.

Answer 246 - Our federal network of 'help centers' (previously referenced in our writings as 'orientation centers') should be open to all local residents regardless of citizenship status. However, citizens can be granted preferential seating on any bus relocating users to other centers which have less crowding and more available jobs.

Answer 247 - Help centers should be located generally in your more urban areas, not so much where there are homeless people, but where there are lots of people generally. We project needing one center for every 500 homeless, so total number of centers may (and hopefully will) need to decrease over time, and so we need to be able to consolidate facilities as the need for their existence lessens.

Answer 248 - Help centers should be organized at the Federal level, not at State or below.

Answer 249 - Network of help centers probably should be organized into Regions, Districts, Areas, etc., to facilitate communication and coordination among different places in the country.

Answer 250 - Federal help centers will be managed by the Public Assistance Bureau of the Public Services Department, as the only function performed by that agency.

Answer 251 - Each deputy director in the Public Assistance Bureau should report to an intermediate 'regional director'.

Answer 252 - Once the system of help centers is up and running, local jurisdictions could pass and enforce stricter ordinances against vagrancy, loitering, begging, etc., subject to our provision in Answer 18.5, that the applicable Judiciary could suspend or overturn such laws pending confirmation by a supermajority of the applicable Legislature.

Answer 253 - Notwithstanding original panel conclusion, finding in the Third Pass is that users of the help centers may walk freely wherever they will on public grounds, same as everyone else, but that they must sleep at the centers if they have no other housing available.

Answer 254 - Usage should be prohibited at help centers of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and any other substances from which some may be trying to recover.

Answer 254.5 - Do not encourage users of help centers to have children or risk doing so, and do provide free birth control and counseling on its use, but still allow adult users to make adult decisions.

Answer 255 - Help centers can have free laundry and broadcast TV and some other low-scale 'creature comforts', to encourage people to hang out who would benefit from using these facilities, but we also want to keep the scale low enough to discourage people from hanging out too long.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-h-viii: Public Health**

Answer 255.5 - Various suggestions offered to help us manage the Corona Virus which was current as of April 2020, and prevent/mitigate any similar pandemic situations going forward.

### **Subsubsection I-D-1-i: Administration**

Answer 256 - We may have an Administration Department at the Federal level (known in earlier phases as the "Department of Administrative Services"), to handle most/all functions supporting the rest of the Government's operations, or at least those of the Executive Branch.

Answer 257 - Functions of the Federal Department of Administration include Accounting & Budget, Building & Floor Planning, Infrastructure Maintenance, Personnel, Procurement, Security, and Transportation Services.

Answer 258 - Security aspect of the current Secret Service operation is to be divided between the Diplomatic Relations Bureau of the Foreign Affairs Department for foreign dignitaries, and the Marshal's Office of the Justice Department for domestic VIP's.

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In the next three Subsections, although we didn't always reach our findings in this same order, for ease of reference we are here presenting our findings in the same sequence as that in which the supervising agencies are listed in Answer 135. Question numbers were added later to facilitate cross-reference in later Passes.

Where there are no specifications listed for any 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.

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

### **Answer 258.1**

Commerce - Consumer Affairs

The state Consumer Affairs Bureau should check for false advertising, including by periodically spot-checking gas pumps for false calibrations, as a supplement to the efforts undertaken by the federal Bureau of Measurement Standards.

Commerce - Corporations

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

## Commerce - Insurance

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 position against 'redlining' by auto insurance companies, even for Comprehensive coverage, based on the arguments that the maximum loss amount for any given type of car is not dependent on geographic location, and that people have much more control over the type of car that they buy than over their area of residence and the overall loss experience in that area. However, we noted back in 2006, and affirmed early in the Third Pass, that we were very receptive to being persuaded to change our minds. For, an insurer's loss experience is going to be a combination of individual loss rates and the overall probabilities of loss, the latter of which can indeed vary according to geographic area when it comes to Theft and Vandalism. We ended the Third Pass by confirming our finding against the practice, on grounds that it might have been actuarially okay if we did not have our extensive history of racial segregation and racial subjugation in America, but that in the actual case we need to reverse those historical trends by making sure to avoid any practice which suggests even the possibility of racial profiling.

Taking position in favor of mandatory auto-liability coverage, based on the arguments that people should be able to recover from losses which are not their fault, and that the State should not be penalized by needing to advance claim payments, even if later reimbursed by the parties at fault. However, allowing self-insurance under certain strict conditions.

Auto insurers may continue to graduate their premium structures according to the recent driving records of the insureds.

## Conservation - Environmental Protection

We like the Environment, and favor increased environmental standards.

## 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

Prisoners should not be allowed to commit acts upon other prisoners (assault, rape, extortion, etc.) which they would not be permitted to do in the 'outside world'.

## Transportation - Driver Licensing

We like when they do that thing where you get to approve your picture before they print it on the license.

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.

#### Transportation - Driving

We want stronger enforcement of the laws which require drivers to use turn signals or hand signals when changing lanes.

Drivers should be able to use car-mounted video (probably situated at the rear-view mirror) to catch offenders, and to submit it anonymously to police by e-mail. We may not be able to use such anonymous evidence to prosecute any offender directly, if we uphold our current legal principle that an accused should be able to face his accusers in court, but we could at least use such footage to issue warnings, and then when an actual cop catches the driver committing the same 'bad act' the penalty can be stiffer.

We may encourage Drivers to carry Passengers during rush hour, but we should not require it.

All cops should be required to obey prevailing traffic laws when not in active pursuit. This can be helped by citizens capturing violations on video.

#### Transportation - Highways

Arrows on highway signs ostensibly indicating what lanes you need to be in in order to get to certain destinations should point to those lanes and only those lanes which will actually get them to the indicated destinations, no more and no less.

Good to have lighted signs for traffic jams and Amber Alerts and stuff, but we should watch to make sure that we're not slowing traffic down further by giving people more to read. We disagree with the sign that "BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING".

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.

Whenever anyone works on the side of the highway, the nearest lane should be blocked off for safety.

It's good to have heavier-dotted lines between highway lanes which will shortly be going in different directions.

There should be no cleaning or construction activity during rush hour.

Off-ramps should always precede on-ramps, so that there is no cross-traffic between vehicles merging on with those merging off.

An on-ramp generally should not be merging with the previous far-right lane, but rather should stay as its own separate lane until the next off-ramp, to mitigate the

slowing and dangerous 'funnel effect' of squeezing more lanes of traffic into fewer lanes, the exception being when you are far enough away from urban centers that lane reductions can happen safely and without significant impact on traffic flow.

Transportation - Vehicle Registration

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 Consumer Protection Bureau of the federal Public Services Department.

We like the allowance of ordinary Registration Renewal by mail or electronically, and the continuation of efforts to automate and streamline the experience in physical DMV offices for any unusual situations.

SUV's present a safety hazard and inconvenience for people who drive conventional cars and can't see through/around the larger vehicles, 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**

#### **Answer 258.4**

Environmental Services - Fish & Game

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

Environmental Services - Waste Management - Recycling

Homes should be allowed to place more unwanted-but-still-usable products on their curb for pickup, but it should be done the day before the regular garbage is collected, and a coordinated effort should be undertaken by local governments and/or private enterprises to collect these products on the scheduled dates for redistribution, so that residents do not need to bother making pickup appointments with anyone. Same could be done with unwanted clothes and electronics and other products which people are too busy or lazy to take to any remote reclamation center, so that those products can more quickly get into the hands of people who can actually use them.

Environmental Services - Waste Management - Sewage Management

We recommend that each County with a sizable homeless population would do itself a big fat favor by arranging for adequate toilet facilities in its urban areas, at least until our network of Federal help/help centers is complete. Pay toilets probably should be de-emphasized in future.

Health & Safety - Animal Regulation

Animal Regulation should pick up and spay strays.

Counties should decide what kind of policies they want to have for the movement of animals in public areas, including for 'service animals' who may or may not tolerate being leashed. However, we recommend against introducing dogs into areas which previously were held as people-only, such as offices, restaurants, apartment buildings, schools, buses, train stations, airports, regular parks, and hospitals.

#### Health & Safety - Coroner

Coroner's Bureau arranges for processing of deceased bodies (either directly and/or by delegation to private industry), including seeing to the disposition of any unclaimed 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. Seems trivial to us that they would want to do that without being told, because otherwise they would be stuck with a lot of dead bodies, but a panelist at Session 132 claimed that it was not always happening, so stating here to make sure.

#### Health & Safety - Fire & Rescue

Users should not be required to pay for emergency services except when necessitated by their direct and deliberate action.

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.

Fire Departments get to order mandatory evacuations according to their professional judgment, and we should all do whatever they say, and may be compelled to do so if necessary. At some point, they can do more to save your home if you're not in it than you can if you are still there.

We should be getting more accustomed to the idea of using unmanned equipment to enter condemned buildings in order to retrieve valuable possessions which are light and compact enough to carry. Until such time as such robots are as ubiquitous as yesterday's calculators and today's burner phones, we should expect to charge homeowners for their use, partly as an insurance premium against damage or loss from the structural nonintegrity of the building being searched, and largely as an incentive to motivate them to keep their most prized possessions wherever they can be gathered most quickly and easily in times of emergency.

#### Health & Safety - Medical Services

Good to minimize administrative operations in Health Departments.

Good for Counties to maintain networked medical databases, so that emergency patients can be treated even if they don't have their files handy, but these records should include only the most pertinent information, and nothing which would compromise an individual's privacy.

#### Public Assistance - Job Placement

Job Placement Bureau can offer voluntary job-switching service between current employees, to allow workers performing similar jobs in each other's geographic areas to change places, in order to reduce commuting times and traffic volume.

#### Transportation - Airports

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.

#### Transportation - Traffic Management

Counties with big traffic problems should do more with job matching and/or staggered hours and/or telecommuting, to ease rush-hour demands.

#### Water & Power

Utility allowances can be provided to people who sign statements certifying financial need, but such benefits can be denied if the applicant is residing in a zone containing highly-developed properties.

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

#### **Answer 258.7**

#### Administration - Finance

Police budgets can be partially funded by criminal fines, particularly in the area of special capital projects, but not entirely, since not all criminal activity is easily redressable by fines alone, and since we still will need a Police Department with some overhead costs even if we successfully reduce criminal activity to our theoretical goal of zero. 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.

Considered in 2006 an idea first suggested in 1999, to allow municipalities to bill foreign nations when their people travel within those municipalities, and rejected the concept.

#### Cultural Enrichment - Libraries

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.

#### Cultural Enrichment - Parks

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.

Communities may decide to enact certain regulations as to whether non-residents may use their public facilities, but we generally prefer to have minimal regulation and maximum freedoms. In particular, generally best to keep parks wide open to everyone with no restriction.

#### Permits & Licenses

City planners/developers should generally try to spread housing and jobs out to a larger number of smaller towns, in the interests of general improvement in quality of life through decentralization.

Zoning OK. Zoning provisions should not be retroactive, and should be made clear to all prospective home buyers.

Good to have Business Licensing, for a variety of purposes.

#### Public Safety - Police

No hand-held cellphone use while driving.

Triple the regular littering fine when throwing out a lit cigarette anywhere.

If a given community must allow Tobacco smoking within its borders at all, and also within its business districts, then at least please require and post an ample Tobacco-free radius around all business entrances, the wider the better. Smoke travels.

Once the federal help centers for homeless and other disadvantaged individuals are operational, local communities may enact tougher laws against actively accosting or threatening the public, including (per Third Pass) by 'passive panhandling' where drivers or other citizens are required to stop for any period.

#### Public Safety - Disaster Relief

Local authorities may determine that a particular building is too structurally unsafe for any amount of occupancy, and disallow residents from going inside for any nonzero amount of time. Get your stuff out sooner, or wait until demolition.

#### Public Safety - Police

As with County equivalents, City Police should obey local traffic laws when not in active pursuit.

We should have stricter enforcement of the law requiring use of signals when turning or changing lanes. Said enforcement can include private citizens submitting video evidence to the police for the issuance of warnings, as that technology becomes more widely available.

#### Transportation - Parking Enforcement

Parking Enforcement people should obey local parking laws when not actually citing someone.



Paint red any curb area where you don't want people parking (especially near fire hydrants), rather than making people guess rules or estimate distances.

#### Transportation - Street & Highway Maintenance

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. However, per Answer 694, speed bumps should be discouraged in favor of speed-limitive street surfacing.

There should be a 'pothole hotline', or rather its Internet equivalent, to help the City determine prioritization of repair.

Limit heights of curbs.

Consider very carefully whether you want to run street sweepers which mostly kick up dust and dirtify all the nearby parked cars.

#### Transportation - Traffic Management

Good to have traffic light sensors, but they shouldn't work (or at least should take longer) when someone has gone past the limit line.

Motorcycles should not be allowed to proceed through a red light after coming to a complete stop, as a change adopted during our Second Pass.

Recommending that the parallel sign showing the street that you're driving on and the local address range should be on the closer side of the street, so that you can read it more easily while sitting at a red light, and not need to slow down clogging traffic to read the sign while crossing the intersection, but noting that opinion on the point seems to be divided, so allowing Localities to make their own choices.

Retaining push-buttons for pedestrians at traffic signals, as another change adopted during our Second Pass.

OK for communities to either allow or prohibit turning right on red light, according to local conditions, but post prominently at your municipal borders -- and/or at the traffic lights themselves -- any significant changes in traffic laws from those observed by the adjacent municipality.

Traffic lights should be timed in such a way as to facilitate traffic flow going in a certain direction at a certain time of day, and then change for a different time of day.

Shouldn't need to stop at two red lights in a row, unless absolutely necessary.

Navigation apps may continue to show side roads.

### **SECTION I-E: LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS**

#### **Subsection I-E-1: Basic Structure**

Answer 259 - An elected Legislature is generally better than either a direct democracy or a benevolent dictator.

Answer 260 - Advantages of a multi-house Legislature over one house include checks and balances, the increased robustness of any decision reached independently by multiple houses, and the option to assign different areas of business to the houses.

Answer 261 - Agreed on three houses for the American national legislature, including one based on geographic area, as with the I.O.O. States can choose between one-house and two-house legislatures, based on their size and diversity and other relevant factors. Counties and Cities should be able to do with one house.

Answer 261.1 - The per-State house will continue to have 2 delegates per State. Designating 600 delegates for the Population-based house. We initially agreed in November 2006 to have the same number of delegates in the per-Area house as in the per-State house, in order to balance their respective influences, which currently would give delegates in the per-Area house districts of about 200x200sqmi to represent, but in October/November 2010 we changed our position such that the per-Area house would serve as the 'middle' house, and thus should have a number of delegates somewhere between the 100 of the current U.S. Senate and the 600 of the per-Population house. It would be better to base the per-Area districts on actual geographic Area, rather than according to State boundaries, because it is the geographic Area that the delegates are supposed to be representing, and because we would like to reduce the impact of State politics on the process; also better to have national uniformity in determining representation within a national legislature. Districts in the per-Area house generally should be 2°x2° in size and shape, approximately bounded by odd-numbered latitudes and longitudes, but actually following the nearest County borders, and tweaked as needed in order to produce exactly 240 delegations, so that the number is easily divisible by 3, 4, and 5.

Answer 261.2 - District of Columbia (which we are suggesting should be renamed) should be reduced in size such that all residential neighborhoods should be assigned to nearby States, such that there would be no reason for DC to be represented as such in any legislative house. All other Territories shall not be represented at all in the per-State and per-Area houses, but shall receive the same proportion of representation in the per-Population house as all States.

Answer 261.3 - 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 which we established in Question 69.

Answer 261.4 - 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.

Answer 261.5 - Mid-term vacancy shall be filled by the spouse unless overruled by a 3/5 vote of the population-based house of the applicable Legislature. In that case, assign to the highest-ranking candidate from the previous election who accepts within the first 10 days of eligibility. If no previous candidate accepts in time, then

Legislature may decide to leave the delegation unrepresented until the next biennial election, or (recommended) to decide upon a successor to fill the remaining term, on conditions that all candidates for the successorship must have been permanent residents of the delegation at the time that the vacancy was created, that they are nominated using the #OpenBallot method, and that the winner is selected using the #YesNoAbstain method.

Answer 261.6 - There should be no change in representation amounts for a given State between decennial censuses.

Answer 261.7 - Original position was that we should continue to require all houses to evaluate all bills, provided that we do certain things to the Amendment process to streamline the process. Later changed to allocate items of business to different Houses by category. Bill Assignment Committee of each house (see Answer 271) notifies each other house of any new bill as it is introduced; first house to effect a ruling on the bill may do so by simple majority only; any house which would reach a different ruling must do so by supermajority as established in Answer 280.

Answer 261.8 - There should continue to be a Chair of each House, even with advanced technologies. However, neither the Chair nor any other House official (especially including any so-called 'Majority Leader') should have unilateral authority to call any house into session, or to adjourn it.

Answer 262 - House chair shall be elected by all delegates using the Yes/No/Abstain voting method. First ballot is open, and goes to a second ballot only in case of a tie among all candidates, in which case the second ballot is limited to candidates with previous experience in that House, unless all candidates have equal experience, in which case the second ballot is limited to the half who enjoyed the largest margins of victory over the next higher-ranking opponents in their most recent elections. Added in September 2019 that ballots should be anonymous, because legislators will not always vote honestly to disapprove someone's candidacy if he is going to know of their disapproval.

Answer 263 - 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 which 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 (clerical, legal, logistical, janitorial, etc.) who work for Congress as a whole.

### **Subsection I-E-2: Introduction of New Business**

Answer 263.3 - House leaders should not be able to block introduction of any bills or other motions unilaterally. There should be limitation on the number of items which any legislator may introduce during a given session, so that no legislator has a chance to monopolize the Calendar. In a pluralist environment, we need not stack every new bill or other motion at the extreme bottom end of the Calendar, to be expedited only upon majority vote of the full assembly or some 'steering committee'. Better scheduling is to prioritize bills first according to how many sponsoring members each item has. If there is a tie for most cosponsors, then those bills may

be prioritized secondarily according to who has introduced the fewest bills during that session. Time of introduction may be the tertiary factor. Upon the conclusion of any Calendar item, an Incidental Motion shall be in order to move up a business item originally scheduled for later, including to take up the item immediately, and the motion may pass with a simple majority. To take up a business item on an emergency basis while another item is still pending shall require the same provisions to apply as are listed under Answer 277.3 for general debate cloture.

### **Subsection I-E-3: Committees**

Answer 264 - Legislative houses generally should have similar groups of delegates organized into committees for the purposes of performing detailed evaluation of certain items of business.

Answer 265 - Determination of which committees should exist within a given house should be left up to the entire membership of that house, and shall not be subject to veto by the Chief Executive.

Answer 266 - Committees shall be unlimited in membership, and each delegate shall have his/her choice of up to 3 committees to join.

Answer 267 - If membership in a particular committee ever drops to zero, then that committee is automatically disbanded, with all records automatically going to the Custodian of Congress (or corresponding local authority) for disposition as applicable.

Answer 268 - Any legislator who wishes to serve on a given committee shall be permitted to serve on such a committee, regardless of his/her qualifications or experience, unless actively dismissed from same by due process.

Answer 269 - 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 committee. Failure of the expulsion motion shall cause the matter to rest, but passage shall automatically be appealed to the full house, where we feel that a 3/5 majority is a more realistic requirement for confirmation of the Committee action, with any lesser vote causing the dismissal to be overturned. The subject of the motion may always cast a vote on it, until that right is duly removed.

Answer 269.5 - Custodian of Congress can also open sessions of committees, either personally or more likely through a duly-designated deputy. That individual can conduct elections for Committee chairs, which election also shall be open to all members and decided anonymously through Yes/No/Abstain.

Answer 270 - 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.

Answer 271 - 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 this reading, the bill goes to the designated committees for actual evaluation.

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 a bill, then our original decision was that the Bill Assignment Committee generally decides the sequence in which such items are to be taken up by the full assembly, but as of the Third Pass we are standing with the procedure designated in Answer 263.3 for automatic scheduling of all bills except where modified by a proper majority of the full assembly.

Answer 272 - 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'.

Answer 272.3 - There should be a mechanism in Congress to evaluate any and all actions taken unilaterally within the Executive Branch, and to overturn any such action within 30 days. We find that this responsibility should reside within an 'Executive Oversight' Committee within the per-State house alone. This will also be the body which evaluates appointments of all Department heads and Bureau chiefs within the Executive Branch. Any appointment approved by a simple majority of the Committee is passed with no further action required. Any appointment which fails to achieve a simple majority is referred to the entire per-State house, where it can be irrevocably overturned by a 2/3 majority, but otherwise passes. There shall be no fixed time constraint imposed on the evaluation of new Executive appointments, but we are suggesting that the matter be given as high a priority as practical, for the positions are nominally left vacant until appointment is confirmed, while the functions get discharged by 'acting' executives whom Congress might not like.

Answer 272.4 - We do want there to be a mechanism for determining whether a particular State "ain't makin' it" and needs to be converted back into a Territory. However, this hopefully will be so infrequent an occurrence that we don't need a standing committee for it, but rather should convene a special committee within each house when necessary.

Answer 272.5 - At least one House in each Legislature should maintain a committee to create and monitor a Budget of revenues and expenditures for the applicable government. As with most committees, the work of the Budget Committee should be subject to approval and amendment by the full House. The process of approving the Budget should never interfere with the ongoing operation of the government, so there never should be such a thing as a 'government shutdown' due to any problem with finalizing the Budget. Instead, the most recent Budget should always continue in effect until a new Budget has been duly created and approved to replace it.

Answer 272.6 - There should be an 'Economic & Environmental Affairs Committee' in each of the 3 houses of the federal legislature.

Answer 272.7 - Executive Oversight Committee of the per-State house continually reviews all unilateral Executive actions, and may recommend by a simple majority that a particular action be reviewed by the full per-State house, who may reverse such action by a 2/3 majority within 30 days of the original action. Otherwise, the action stands approved. All units in the Executive Branch must notify the Executive Oversight Committee of all actions, and copy them on all important memos and

instructions and other correspondence. If the Executive Oversight Committee finds out that an Executive action has been taken without prompt notification, then they can recommend the removal of the responsible personnel, for ratification by the full assembly.

#### **Subsection I-E-4: Amendments**

Answer 273 - We dislike the fact that it's currently so easy to attach provisions to bills which are not in the least bit germane to those bills.

Answer 274 - Requiring a 3/5 majority to attach any amendment creates a motivation for the proponents of such additional provision to introduce it as independent ordinary business.

Answer 275 - Language of the amendment motion should routinely include that the vote is also on whether the proposed amendment is germane to the previous motion.

Answer 275.5 - If the rules of the Legislature are such that a given piece of legislation must be approved by more than one house, then the following procedure shall apply to any amendments which want to be offered: Bill which has been approved within a 1<sup>st</sup> house goes to a 2<sup>nd</sup> house only. The 2<sup>nd</sup> house adds its amendments, and the bill goes back to the 1<sup>st</sup> house. If the 1<sup>st</sup> house approves all amendments, then they get locked into the bill, and the entire bill goes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> house. If the 1<sup>st</sup> house rejects any amendments offered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, then the bill goes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> house with both agreed versions and 'pending amendments' offered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> house. Whether the 3<sup>rd</sup> house receives the bill as one document or as a document-plus-pending-amendments, they have the option to add further amendments on their own. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> house is getting the bill as one document and passes no amendments, then they can pass the bill. Any amendments go to both other houses for consideration. Basically, each house gets to offer amendments, and any amendments are considered by both other houses, and attached to the bill if approved by 2 out of the 3 houses. Any amendment offered by any house shall require 3/5 approval, same as in the initial house. Each new bill approved by a given house should be directed automatically to the 'lowest' house (i.e., the house with the highest number of total delegates) which has not already seen it. If any piece of legislation need be approved by only one house, then we should allow a legislative veto if each other house agrees by a 3/5 majority, or if any one house (including while we still have the current 2-house model) vetoes by a 2/3 majority.

#### **Subsection I-E-5: Debate and Voting**

Answer 275.6 - Houses and committees may generally set their own debate procedures, but all formal proceedings are to be televised. Time of the debate and the attendance during debate of each delegate must be clocked. 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.

Answer 276 - Good to set time limits for actual voting, and to enforce them strictly.

Answer 277 - Best and cleanest to require physical presence in order to vote, no proxies, no excuses, but we allow for exceptions in cases like the Corona Virus of

2019, in which everyone may need to participate remotely. In any case, when delegates are in the chamber, they should be required to vote within the time limit or lose the privilege.

Answer 277.1 - If the assembly is meeting physically, then delegates may vote remotely if they have been present (either personally or electronically) for at least 75% of the debate.

Answer 277.2 - Budget approval shall require only a simple majority, but requiring a 2/3 majority on (1) reversal of any action within 24 months after original enactment, (2) premature termination or change of any multi-year scientific or infrastructural project, and (3) any appropriations in excess of budget.

Answer 277.3 - In order to prevent extensive filibustering, petitions may be submitted to the Clerk of the Assembly at any time during a debate, indicating the desire of a 3/5 majority of delegates to have the Presiding Officer stop the pending proceedings, and either take a vote on the pending motion or immediately take up some other Calendar item specified in the petition.

Answer 277.4 - Change rules to prohibit practice of giving speeches to empty rooms.

Answer 277.5 - Any tie votes should resolve automatically to *status quo*, and the U.S. Vice-President shall no longer have tiebreaking power within the Senate.

### **Subsection I-E-6: Veto**

Answer 278 - We do generally want the Executive Branch to have some veto authority over the Legislative, in order to provide a counter-balance against Legislative oversight of the Executive, and also to include the important Executive perspective in the consideration of any proposed action. Veto power shall not apply in the case of purely internal measures, such as debate rules or quorum requirements.

Answer 279 - We approve the use of partial (sometimes known as 'line-item') veto, in order to allow good measures to get enacted without bad amendments.

Answer 280 - 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 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, with any further amendments requiring a 3/5 majority, and veto cycle starts over if the bill survives to again reach the Chief Executive's desk. In consideration of our model expansion to allow items of business to be allocated to different Houses by category, we now also allow the option of a Legislative veto, by which any unilateral action

approved by one House may be overridden within 30 days if it is vetoed either by a 3/5 majority of each of the other two Houses, or by a 2/3 majority of any one House.

### **Subsection I-E-7: Miscellaneous**

Answer 281 - 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. We call this a "popular reverse veto". Any referendum or initiative shall require a 3/5 popular majority for approval. Make sure that no ballot proposition (whether referendum or initiative) is contingent upon the passage of some other measure.

Answer 281.6 - Most provisions in this Section ought to be in the U.S. Constitution.

Answer 281.8 - 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 2/3 majority, as a reduction from our earlier 3/4 requirement.

Answer 282 - We may continue to have certain agencies under the direct authority of Congress.

Answer 283 - All such agencies reporting to Congress -- including the future equivalents of the current Congressional Budget Office and Library of Congress -- shall be under the management authority of the 'Custodian of Congress'. This appointive position will also open sessions of Congressional houses and committees, receive and manage the records of disbanded Congressional committees, and supervise all staff who work either directly for Congress or for an agency which reports to Congress.

Answer 283.2 - Disqualification of a delegate from his/her membership in a particular house without a recall vote from that delegate's constituency must be grounded upon some alleged gross misconduct, so the Motion to Expel must state one or more causes for the proposed dismissal. Conviction should require impartial adjudication by an outside body, in order to mitigate cabalism. House can vote by simple majority to request/direct a trial to be conducted by a tribunal of the Supreme Court, the justices determining which three among their own membership shall preside, their approval being necessary to complete the termination.

Answer 283.4 - 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". However, we are discouraging such designations, partly because their superproliferation has become inordinately confusing, but largely because the very concept has been creating more problems with Congressional prioritization than it has been solving.

Answer 283.6 - Not all lobbyists are bribers. For those who are, we need vigorous action to counteract their influence wherever we can, including through citizen-



watchdog groups, sting operations from law-enforcement agencies, aggressive enforcement from a judiciary with the motivation to pursue it, and elimination of the authorized position of lobbyist. Legislators who support or oppose a particular piece of legislation should arrange for scientific experts and citizen-group representatives to testify during committee evaluation, and of course individual constituents may now express themselves to their own elected representatives through any practical means available, but any other means utilized to attempt to influence the outcome of legislation should be deemed suspect and open to investigation.

Answer 283.7 - 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. Legislators always have the option of designating a shorter expiration period for particular items of legislation, but never longer. Considered establishing different timeframes for different government levels, but our current feeling is that this probably would just complicate things needlessly.

Answer 283.8 - We should no longer conduct group prayers or invocations before or during any legislative session anywhere within America.

## **SECTION I-F: JUDICIAL REFORM**

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

Answer 284 - 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.

Answer 285 - There is no way that we can realistically expect all members of a civil society to refrain from deliberately infringing upon other people's rights.

Answer 286 - There is no way that we can realistically expect all potential questions as to rights boundaries to be fairly and amicably resolved, without the necessity for third-party referees.

Answer 287 - If anyone's rights are found to have been violated, then it may sometimes be appropriate for society to take some punitive action against the perpetrator.

Answer 288.5

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

- 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 he/she would otherwise be physically and legally and financially 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**

Answer 289 - Each governmental jurisdiction from international to municipal should have its own judiciary to adjudicate and enforce the laws of that jurisdiction.

Answer 289.5 - Having previously established that each jurisdiction at each level of government from international to municipal is to have its own judiciary, since each jurisdiction is generally going to be most familiar with its own laws, we allow for the possibility that some situations may yet warrant the interaction of multiple judiciaries, either laterally or vertically or both.

Answer 290

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 Nations 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.

Answer 291

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

- 1) Environmental disasters confined within the Nation, 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; and,
- 5) Crossing a National border without going through all internal requirements.

Answer 292

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.

Answer 293 - Bad acts to be initially overseen by County judiciaries should include anything not specifically assigned to any other level, and anything involving multiple Cities within the same County.

Answer 294 - Bad acts to be initially overseen by municipal judiciaries should include only violations of any laws/ordinances passed by the Cities themselves.

Answer 295 - Better to combine criminal judiciaries and civil judiciaries into one single structure, in order to allow judges and lawyers to switch off who can.

Answer 295.5 - New cases should come to trial within 6 months after initial filing, or else adjust judiciary staffing levels accordingly.

Answer 296 - OK to appeal cases to higher jurisdictions when judicial misconduct or honest procedural error is suspected.

Answer 297 - Appeal may be initiated by either party, even in a criminal proceeding, but the appellant must show good cause before any further action is actually taken on the case.

Answer 298 - There apparently being no compelling reason to require separate administrative structures, the same judiciary structure within each jurisdiction above Municipal shall treat both original and appellate cases.

Answer 298.5 - Appeal request should be filed within 30 days of the original decision. The applicable appellate court shall try to respond within 45 days, although the case shall remain open if the appellate court is late in its response. Appellant may take a case to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-higher level, either if the primary-level appellate court refuses to hear it, or if the case loses at trial in the appellate court; however, the appellant must file an additional brief to the secondary-level appellate court showing why the primary-level appellate court was either corrupt or honestly erroneous in its treatment of the case, and the brief must show a 'probable cause' stronger than the simple fact that the appellate court disagreed with the appellant, with some affirmative evidence of such allegation. If appellate court upholds an appeal, then the case generally is re-tried in the original jurisdiction but with a new judge, with investigation of the original judge as applicable, although there may be exceptions where the case is re-

tried at the appellate level. No limit on how high you can go with your appeals, but each appeal will require a filing/processing fee which you must forfeit if the appeal is rejected, or if the case loses in re-trial, but which is returned to you if you ultimately prevail, in which case the corresponding fee is levied upon the losing party for a fine. Appeal cases should come to trial within 3-6 months after initial filing, or else adjust judiciary staffing levels accordingly.

Answer 299 - Solitary judges are usually sufficient for ordinary original cases and first appeals. At some point in the appeal process, you want to graduate to three-judge panels in order to improve chances of lasting resolution. Eventually, may be necessary to go to a nine-person 'tribunal of tribunals', similar to current Supreme Court. Military courts may also want to graduate panel sizes upward according to the rank of the defendant and/or the number of trials already attempted in the case.

Answer 300 - Judicial nominations and appointments should come from the Legislative Branch, with no involvement from the Executive. We previously felt that both nomination and voting should happen within the House, but now are okay with holding the vote in the Senate, so that we still get the benefit of two constituencies even with our proposed specialization. We recommend a 12-year term for incoming members of the U.S. Supreme Court; tenure of any sitting Justice can be extended in 6-year terms upon 3/5 vote of the U.S. Senate.

Answer 301 - We always should be able to suspend or dismiss any judges prior to the end of their projected terms, if by sufficient majority of the applicable Legislatures (probably 2/3) we can establish that they are corrupt or inept or lazy or otherwise inadequate. Public website can track how often cases adjudicated by a particular judge are accepted for appeal, and how often they are overturned on appeal, to give us an idea of how good the judge is, which can be useful for either the decision of keeping the judge in place or possibly modifying his/her salary.

Answer 302 - Generally, judiciaries shall be funded by a mix of civic support and fines paid by the losers. Losing party shall also provide compensation to offset the prevailing party's legal costs, generally according to a standard formula derived from a graph of what prevailing attorneys have historically billed as a function of hours expended by the court, but in any case subject to modification by the judge/court. Losing parties may also be called upon to compensate the prevailing parties for their time and trouble in dealing with court proceedings which should not have been needed. We realize that this model contradicts the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, whose proposal we found to be flawed in a number of dimensions. More generally, we find that any formula based on either of the attorneys' actual fees is fatally flawed on its face, because all such figures are unreliable, since it is so easy for lawyers to pad their bills in legit-looking ways. Rather, we find that a much more reliable indicator of how complex a particular case actually was is how much of the court's time it required, since judges have multiple motivations to hurry cases along whenever they can. We therefore propose that a graph be prepared of hours actually billed by winning and losing attorneys as functions of hours logged by the court, and that a formula be constructed to show the average/reasonable number of billable hours for each case requiring a given number of court hours, possibly with a deduction factor to allow for assumed padding in the sampled bills, and then charge to the losing party on that basis.

Answer 302.3 - We define a 'lawyer' as "Someone who represents a second party in a legal proceeding, and who charges somebody for such services". We possibly

could do without lawyers, but we probably should not try to, unless we can somehow construct a system where laws are all so simple that anyone without a law degree can represent himself or act as an advocate for someone else, which is looking like a pretty unlikely scenario, although we allow for the possibility that at least some legislators (many of whom are lawyers themselves) deliberately seek to make laws as complicated as they can, in order to make lawyers seem more necessary. Yet, while theoretically we might be able to have a world without lawyers, and as cathartic or otherwise appealing as the concept may appear to some, it does not appear to be in our practical interests, especially given the increasing complexity of our global society.

Answer 302.4 - 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. 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'. Under this system, prosecutors should be accountable for only those cases where the preliminary panel has found enough evidence to warrant trial. Even then, neither attorney should be held accountable for a loss, as long as justice is done, which we measure by the verdict not being 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. With the above-noted exception of preliminary criminal investigations, 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.

Answer 302.5 - Another way to make lawyers more accountable is to require them to submit their bills to the court for approval, along with justifications for hours billed significantly in excess of the calculated standard, with the amount actually billed to the client subject to modification by the court. Also, in order to encourage lawyers to bill below the calculated standard when they can, we recommend a rule requiring that the judges convey the bills as submitted (not as ultimately approved), and the corresponding numbers of hours of court time in all those cases, to some public and/or private agency(ies), who would maintain online databases of how many hours different attorneys tend to bill as a function of court time required, so that individuals shopping for lawyers have not only hourly rates but also efficiency ratings to consider. Litigants should expect their lawyers to provide them -- at the time that the retainer is paid -- with a 'letter of engagement', stating as much as the lawyer may happen to know at that preliminary stage about what strategy is expected to be followed, and how much and what work is expected to be achieved for the amount of the retainer. Also recommending a market expectation of periodic statements to clients, showing the amount of retainer used so far, and what work was done for that amount. Amended agreements can be executed during the progress of the case, as the lawyer learns more about the available options. 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**

Answer 303 - Legislature and Judiciary should be separate Branches which should be doing separate things, but it is appropriate for them to have some interaction. In principle, the Judiciary is subordinate and accountable to the Legislature, which in turn is accountable directly to the People. 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. If a Judge interprets, modifies, or expels a certain law, then the Legislature should have an opportunity to overrule such judgment. Such overruling should happen only when it's really obvious, so requiring a 4/5 majority of the judicial panel as a condition (which would mean 8 out of the 9 members of the current U.S. Supreme Court), allowing for the occasional crackpot or political lackey trying to mess things up unjustly. Even then, the Legislature (usually a larger body, and frequently comprising many legal professionals) 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.

Answer 304a - 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. Overturning an existing extra-constitutional law by initiative or referendum shall require a 3/5 majority of popular vote; changing an actual constitutional provision shall require 2/3. 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.

Answer 304b - No one gets to invalidate an initiative or referendum simply for being morally bad.

Answer 305 - 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.

Answer 306 - Any new relaxation of an old law should apply retroactively, but any increased strictness should not. Any individual who has had to pay fines based on a now-relaxed law should have those fines refunded with interest. Any individual who ever faced incarceration based on a non-relaxed 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**

Answer 307 - 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. This may require convincing the religious organizations to which the lawmakers belong.

Answer 308 - We retain the traditional American prohibition against 'double jeopardy', even though Congress has recently considered overturning it. If a given alleged 'bad act' has impact within only one jurisdiction, then it generally should be

tried only once, unless new compelling evidence emerges after initial acquittal but within the applicable statute of limitations.

Answer 309 - 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.

Answer 310 - If a given alleged 'bad act' affects more than one jurisdiction at different civic levels, then it still should be tried only once, by the lowest jurisdiction which encompasses all those allegedly affected.

Answer 311 - For the 'Nuremberg question', if a military officer (either 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**

Answer 312 - 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.

Answer 313 - Probable cause should be duly established -- and openly stated to the accused -- before anyone gets arrested for anything.

Answer 313.5 - 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.

Answer 313.6 - Nations may 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.

Answer 313.7 - If a solitary 'bad act' simultaneously affects multiple jurisdictions at the same level, then the case shall be adjudicated on a one-time basis by the lowest jurisdiction which comprises all those allegedly affected.

Answer 314 - 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'. Raising any accusation after expiration of an applicable 'statute of limitations' may under certain conditions be deemed by the court as constituting 'slander', in which case the accuser may be criminally and/or civilly liable.

### **Subsection I-F-6: Investigation**

Answer 315 - Standards shall continue to be maintained for the gathering of evidence. Specific examples enumerated in the Final Report include warranted searches, elimination of torture, preservation of physical and chemical integrity, and an end to 'racial profiling'.

Answer 316 - 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**

Answer 317 - 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.

Answer 318 - An additional penalty shall be imposed on any defendant who pleads 'not guilty' and then is later found to be guilty.

Answer 319 - 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.

Answer 320

For the present, standard jury sizes shall be gradated between 6-12, depending on the relative severity of the alleged offense, with 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 tends to minimize between the judge's non-



binding opinions and the jury's actual verdicts, 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.

Answer 321 - 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.

Answer 322 - 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.

Answer 323 - 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, and not compulsory.

Answer 326 - Several suggestions offered in the Final Report for making jury service more interesting and less obnoxious.

Answer 327 - 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.

Answer 328 - 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.

Answer 328.2 - Cameras may be allowed to broadcast court trials on local public-service channels, provided that juror faces and identities are always concealed. We should no longer require witnesses to swear to tell "the whole truth".

### **Subsection I-F-8: Punishment**

Answer 329 - 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.

Answer 330 - 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.

Answer 331 - 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 also be found to be 'non-guilty', as opposed to either 'not guilty' or 'innocent'.

Answer 332 - 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.

Answer 333 - 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.

Answer 334 - 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.

Answer 335 - 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.

Answer 336 - 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' from being excessive.

Answer 337 - Where applicable, punitive damages may need to take some form other than monetary.

Answer 338 - 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.

Answer 339 - 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.

Answer 340 - 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.

Answer 341 - 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.

Answer 342 - 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.

Answer 343 - 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.

Answer 344 - 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, and/or among different sections of a single prison, 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/sections during the course of their terms according to the behavior which they exhibit while incarcerated. Any prisoner who refuses promotion to a higher level should be demoted at earliest opportunity.

Answer 344.2 - Both public and private entities may have motivations to manage prisons adequately, or to mismanage them. There is no *per se* advantage to doing it one way or the other. Rather, we should continually monitor whoever is doing it at any given time, and either threaten to take the job away or actually do so if we ever once perceive that they are doing their jobs unsatisfactorily.

Answer 345 - Considering by what criteria a particular jurisdiction shall determine the appropriate number of years of imprisonment, we are satisfied with the general approach taken by the United States Sentencing Commission, to maintain a single set of standard prison terms to be applied on a nationwide basis, allowing different 'offense levels' for different types of crimes and different criminal histories, and receiving continual feedback from the Judicial and Legislative communities within our country as to what specific ranges for imprisonment appear to be more appropriate or less appropriate for different types of situations. We see possible opportunities for specific improvement, but we are content to allow the process to continue producing

tactical improvements to the system on an ongoing basis, subject to the specific suggestions which we offered in the course of Answer 342. Criminal penalty can reduce according to time elapsed between the alleged occurrence and reporting it to proper authority.

Answer 345.1 - We previously opposed the 'three strikes' rule, but have since warmed up to it.

Answer 346 - If the Judiciary of a given jurisdiction feels that the Legislature's setting of imprisonment ranges/rates is inappropriate, then it should not be able to strike them down, since it does not represent society. However, it may call for a referendum, so that a popular vote may ratify the Legislature's action.

Answer 347 - 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 upon other prisoners.

Answer 348 - 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.

Answer 349 - If an individual has waived his right to live, including by the commission of multiple serious anti-social acts, then it is not in the interest of society to continue to keep him alive.

Answer 350 - 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.

Answer 351 - 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.

Answer 352 - If the sum of the current age for a given individual plus the minima of all remaining death-related 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.

Answer 353 - 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.

Answer 353.1 - Prisoners and parolees guilty of less-severe crimes may still be allowed to vote, perhaps after a suspension period to be determined by the court, while the harder criminals can be permanently disenfranchised for having made a permanent enemy of society.

## **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 - The principle of Answer 355 also applies at the international level: If you don't want another nation 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 nations 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.

Corollary to these factors are the nine reasons which we have identified (so far) for why a 'border wall' between America and Mexico would be dumb.

Answer 358.1 - A supplemental factor of an ideal economy is to keep per-capita production growing at a slow-but-steady rate, regardless of population vector.

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 Final Report) attend both full Individual control and full 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.

Answer 361a - 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 may 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 may 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 may 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'. We previously assumed an ongoing periodic payment by each lower level to each higher level, but upon further reflection we lean away from it, because the higher level is already saving money and trouble by not needing to deal with the administration of the territory in question.

Answer 361b - Any person or group of people may 'own' a commodity only if they have created it, or if they have acquired ownership of it in exchange for an appropriate amount of valuable consideration, *i.e.*, if they have 'purchased' it.

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 362.5 - Eminent Domain is not a built-in factor of any society. It is up to each society to determine the extent to which government should have the ability to regulate activity on ostensibly-private property.

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 resources 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 (as explored in Question 377), 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 help 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 help 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. Individual credit comes generally from having previously produced some commodity or provided some service, although we allow for the possibility of some supplemental credit deriving from public aid.

Answer 368 - Credit should not get created arbitrarily by growers and other employers. Instead, the aggregate credit supply should be 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 necessarily involve consumption of physical resources (although we found in the Third Pass that Rent can be used for the limited set of tenants who have remained in their current dwellings for at least a year). 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. Recession and depression are typical phases of an ongoing and inevitable series of business cycles, where forces at either end step into play to reverse the pendulum, although the waves tend around a straight trendline. We do get to "print or otherwise issue more dollars whenever we need to cover our uncontrolled expenses", PROVIDED THAT such action does not cause the purchasing power of the Dollar to adjust in an undesired manner.

Answer 368.5 - We currently feel that our system of fluctuating national currencies is too complex and volatile as it is, and argue for more stability, so are not big fans of digital currencies.

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 372 - Best to have a finite-but-flexible supply of credit, so that both individuals and governments are motivated to conserve, and so that the price of that most basic of economic necessities (i.e., feeding an individual human for a day) remains relatively stable, and so that the evolving values of all other goods and services can find their true values relative to that standard.

Answer 373 - It is not important that we try to maintain a money supply of exactly 1 Trillion Dollars, or exactly 5 Trillion Dollars, or exactly 100 Dollars per person, or any other exact figure. What is important is that the nominal purchasing power of our base currency unit remains relatively stable and predictable over time, so we generally prefer an environment of No Inflation, notwithstanding the contrary opinion



of some economists. We can issue 'passing GO'-type dividends to workers (i.e., "universal basic income"), even in a zero-inflation environment, if and only if we are in a growth phase in our economy at the time, such that we are in a position to issue more dollars to go with our more goods, and keep the purchasing power of our base currency unit stable. We could issue the dividend to banks and let it 'trickle down', but better to give it directly to workers as a bonus for the good production which they generated during the previous year.

Answer 374

Prior to our reading Kelton's "The Deficit Myth", we had concluded the following:

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, and insofar as we need to take credit from certain other entities in order to maintain currency stability, 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.

These findings still hold up, but we found that we needed to expand them a bit in light of the 'Modern Monetary Theory' (or 'MMT'). Specifically, although a taxless society might be possible in theory, as a practical matter we may need either a higher or lower amount of credit in circulation in order to keep prices stable, and the rates of 'taxation' or 'anti-taxation' may need to change over time according to evolving economic conditions. Because we are the creators of our own currency in America, we do not need to balance public revenues with public expenses, nor 'borrow' from any source if expenses ever exceed revenues.

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. In the meantime, drop Jackson from the \$20.

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. However, in order to allow banking to be conducted in our 'help centers' even if private banks prefer not to participate, we

allow a 'national citizens bank' (not to be confused with 'Citizens National Bank') which as a public service will keep electronic track of all cash and liabilities held by any citizen who can't get banking services elsewhere. We are continuing to allow individuals and corporations and governments to carry debt, although we are recommending a general shift away from being a debt-based society. Don't charge us small fees for using a debit card.

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 379.1 - Final Report goes into extensive detail from our research on the history and current operation of the Federal Reserve.

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 may owe some manner of periodic payment to the global collective for the privilege of self-administration, although such payment may be waived by the higher level in consideration of not needing to bother with administering the lower level.

Nations may further parse their lands into 'provinces', 'districts', and other administrative subdivisions as they see fit, which subdivisions similarly may or may not 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 'incorps' collectively) in consideration of a periodic 'property tax'.

#### Production and Distribution

Those 'incorps' 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.

We do get to "print or otherwise issue more dollars whenever we need to cover our uncontrolled expenses", PROVIDED THAT such action does not cause the purchasing power of the Dollar to adjust in an undesired manner.

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 'incorp'.

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 be generated 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 which we envision is for any supplemental taxation to come from those who currently have the greatest net wealth. We also might sometimes need 'anti-taxation' in order to keep prices stable, meaning to allocate more credit shares to lesser-denominated citizens who can spend those units on local businesses.

## **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. Even in an MMT environment, the Fed may still want to aim for a balance of expenses with revenues as a matter of default, in hope of keeping prices stable, but probably will need to adjust either category by different amounts at different times. Subordinate jurisdictions still will generally (if not always) want to aim for balanced or surplus budgets.

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 (assuming that we still have any unemployment at all) 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 (even with the so-called "Jobs Guarantee" which is promoted by Kelton and other MMT economists), 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 its people periodically, to see how much they collectively want to spend on government operations, relative to recent levels. Still recommended even in an MMT environment, because per Answer 381 it would still be useful to balance government spending with government revenues.

Answer 385 - We have envisioned four main phases of procedures and protocols to incentivize effective regulation of Government spending, and they continue to hold up even in an MMT environment (at least in our vision of it). First, only 30% of any excess of Expenses over ordinary Income should be funded by direct taxation of the wealth of the super-rich (#WealthTax), 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, and also to avoid the perception or reality of the super-rich having a majority or plurality interest in setting public policy. 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. Fourth, if we once get to a balanced-budget environment, the proponents of any new spending program (whether for finite-term construction or for permanent administration) must specify where the funding for the new program is to come from, whether by increasing revenue or by cutting other expenses *or by accepting a larger disparity of expenses over revenues* or by some combination. For, upon reading the Kelton book, we acknowledge that a balanced budget at the Federal level may or may not be as strictly necessary as we originally assumed, since the Fed is the issuer of its own currency, and can create or destroy as many dollars as it wants; more important is that the Fed does with its fiscal budget whatever it needs to such that Inflation does not exceed whatever targets we eventually agree upon.

Answer 386

Prior to our reading Kelton's "The Deficit Myth", we had concluded the following:

We reviewed the Federal financial statements for the 2016 fiscal year, to see whether we had 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 needed 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 needed 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. Final Report 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. Those figures show that the Medicare program was operating at a deficit of (\$1.4173T of outlays minus \$389.3B of receipts equals) \$1.0280T, which was 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.

We now realize that these calculations were largely unnecessary. Because the Fed is the issuer of its own currency, it does not actually need to borrow from anyone, and it does not need to maintain any level of 'debt'. We agree with Kelton that it would be better to pay off all borrowers the present value of their bonds and other debt instruments, and to get the Fed out of the debt business forever. If that sudden influsion of new money causes any undesired increase in consumer prices, then we simply use our 'eminent domain' to take excess dollars away from our wealthiest individuals, until the currency restabilizes.

### **Subsection II-B-1: Operating expenses**

All the Answers in this Subsection were derived before we read Kelton's "The Deficit Myth". We now note in an MMT context that we do not strictly need to either maintain a balanced budget or 'borrow' in order to 'fund' any differential, but that we still might want to aim for a balanced Federal budget as a default target in order to keep our currency stable, so these Answers are based on that assumption:

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 would have gradually decreased to zero over the next 75 years if our model had been implemented when developed in 2017.

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, except that in an MMT context we agree to eliminate all Federal 'debt' immediately, to immediately 'tax the rich' as may be needed to order to keep the currency stable as we do so, and to hire immediately for public-works projects any laborers who may still be unemployed after we implement the 36-hour workweek.

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.

Answer 391.6 - Retired presidents should not be receiving intelligence briefings.

## **Subsection II-B-2: Special projects**

Answer 392 - Even in an MMT context, 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.

Answer 392.1 - Even in an MMT context, we generally should not continue to fund projects at the Federal level which apparently will benefit only single States or lower jurisdictions. Private watchdog groups like Common Cause can bring suits for alleged impropriety, which would be up to the Judicial Branch to evaluate. If we both allow and require any such judgments to come from outside any of the districts directly impacted by the proposed funding, then hopefully we can have a greater amount of independence in the decision, and any Judges agreeing to order such reductions in excessive Federal spending can hopefully enhance their public profiles, which could help their chances for elevation to positions of higher authority.

### **Subsection II-B-3: Reallocations**

Answer 393 - We originally found that "We probably should have consumption-based entitlements in our public sector generally, but [that] for our long-term prosperity [we should] try to keep effective reins on them." In light of "The Deficit Myth" and other modern sources, we are instead recommending to refer to them as 'reallocations', and have retitled Subsection II-B-3 accordingly.

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 turned away. All individuals who need it shall receive care for at least their most urgent medical situations, including 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. We do not like the expression 'Medicare For All', because that program has had too many problems, so we prefer the more generic 'Healthcare For All'.

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 (even under MMT) 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 Final Report as to economic aid for the less-fortunate, in the hope of appeasing those individuals who may feel uncomfortable about being forced to help provide it. 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 living 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 live birth, 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 we have changed our model as to specifics from reading the Kelton book. First, we are keeping the program in the public sector after all. Second, we are no longer recommending that annuity premiums be taken off the top of paychecks as they are now; better to treat the former FICA deductions as 'points earned' for the purpose of receiving supplemental benefits. Third, a certain portion of each year's benefit total should be spread among all eligible elderly equally as a minimum safety net, while the remainder shall be distributed proportionally to actual retirees according to their 'points earned' as a bonus incentive for salaried work performed during their lifetimes; however, unwaged labor such as housework and childcare can be rewarded (on at least an optional basis) by applying the community-property rule of dividing total household income by the number of adults in the household. Benefits may still 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, but each generation should make that decision for itself according to then-current conditions.

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. We previously found that we must therefore continue to extract retirement contributions from all workers on a mandatory basis. In an MMT environment, though, we now figure that workers should not be taxed during their lifetimes to 'pay for' the benefits which they receive in retirement. Rather, if dollars must be extracted from anyone in order to issue retirement benefits without overinflating the economy, then better to extract them from the 'capitalists' who benefitted the most from the work previously performed.

Answer 407 - We previously found that "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", and that "Lump-sum distributions are not to be made available." In an MMT environment, we observe that Social Security should be maintained as a public pension program, and that workers should get credit for any FICA deductions previously extracted, that they should receive lump-sum credit for such payments so that we do not need to track them anymore, that both retroactively and prospectively all workers below a certain means level should receive at least a minimum pension benefit from the Fed, and that middle-class retirees can receive additional benefits in proportion to their aggregate salaries earned, which calculation will again require that dollars maintain a level level of purchasing power over time.

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 did not wish to maintain a national debt even before we heard about Modern Monetary Theory (MMT), and oppose it more vigorously now that we have.

Answer 409.5 - If we must have a national debt, against our recommendation, then we agree with Jefferson's statement that the total national debt should never exceed what the current generation can pay off, for we should not penalize future generations by making them pay for decisions in which they did not participate.

Answer 410 - Also recapping from Answer 386, we do wish to eliminate our current national debt, but we do not wish to 'pay it down' over a period of time as we previously projected. According to MMT, we can pay the whole thing off in a matter of moments by a few keystrokes, and we prefer to do so, because that way the bankers and bondholders and other 'creditors' end up with less of a share of our collective wealth than they would have otherwise, so it should be net-better for the economy. If the extra infusion of cash into the economy causes prices to rise unduly, then tax from the rich as needed to restabilize the currency.

Answer 411 - Also recapping from Answer 386, we originally projected a 75-year timeframe as being net-optimal to pay down the national debt if we had started the process in 2017, and of course we would need to recompute once our new model is adopted, but in the proposed MMT environment we prefer to do it instantaneously.

#### **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 might by treaty pay to their parent governments in exchange for the privilege of self-administration. We previously assumed an ongoing periodic payment by each lower level to each higher level, but upon further reflection we lean away from it (even in an MMT context), because the higher level is already saving money and trouble by not needing to deal with the administration of the territory in question.

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 sub-Federal governments theoretically could raise revenue (Fed doesn't need to worry about according to MMT, since it gets to write checks for any amount on its proprietary fiat currency), 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. Per our decision in Subsection I-D-4, criminal fines can be used at the City level to subsidize capital

improvements and other special projects, and/or to increase Police staffing during high-crime periods, and/or to help families cover the costs of Police funerals.

Answer 415 - Recapping from Answer 368, it is important for numerous reasons to keep our currency unit fairly stable, and that is not likely to 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 sub-Federal governments with the ongoing revenues which they need for funding public operations (better to raise revenue internally than to rely on Federal subsidies), and in order for the Fed to maintain currency stability.

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 - Different tax funds should be dedicated to different kinds of expense, even in an MMT environment. Some public operations (such as military/police protection and parks/libraries) may be funded by taxing all persons equally, though the capitation tax for the poorest citizens might need to be covered by wealthier entities. Others (to include firefighting and garbage collection and building inspection and utility infrastructure) may be funded by taxing those who own property. Sales taxes can pay for education, the Commerce Department, our transportation infrastructure, and any other services which benefit those who participate in and/or benefit from our economic system, with provisions in place to mitigate regressivity. Wealth Tax can help to stabilize currency at the Federal level (according to MMT), and/or to reduce the disparity between rich and poor at more local levels. Estate taxation was to be discontinued in the new sales-tax environment according to our First Pass, but we restored the element in our Second Pass to help cover certain miscellaneous categories. We would rather tax those who buy things than those who work and earn money, and we do not wish to require ordinary workers to become CPA's every April 15, so we favor complete elimination of any Income Tax. We probably should not have an Advertising Tax, but instead we should boycott any company which advertises in the Senate chamber or on the back of a pitcher's mound or over any other 'sacred' space.

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 Final Report lists a few provisions which we want to keep in place in order to make sure that businesses will not now be 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, especially as to churches and charitable contributions and capital losses.

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 selected as a sample the City of Pasadena in the County of Los Angeles in the State of California. We also assumed 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, and hope/presume that this margin will be sufficient to stem inflation (per MMT) as well as balance the operating budget. The net result of all these calculations is that we can expect middle-class taxpayers to save in the vicinity of 13.155% in taxes under our model, even in an MMT environment.

## **SECTION II-D: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION**

Answer 426 - We are recommending 24-hour stock trading, and that a portion of Federal sales-tax intake (not calling it 'revenue' anymore) should come from stock transactions. Even though according to MMT the Fed does not really need those dollars in order to 'fund' its various activities and programs, the dollars yet help to stabilize the currency without overly burdening rich 'indcorps' who do little or no stock trading, and also help to reduce volatility in the stock market

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 a 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. #antitrust

Answer 429.5 - Any patent on any technology should expire immediately and automatically whenever the patentholder declares publicly that they are ceasing to

support that technology, which then becomes part of the 'public domain' and freely available for anyone else to manufacture and sell and service as they like.

Answer 430 - We should continue with the development of clean and renewable energy sources (including solar, wind, hydroelectric, and hemp), and with encouraging or requiring industries to phase out their uses of coal and petroleum within reasonable timeframes.

Answer 431 - We probably could provide sales-tax exemptions on electric cars and solar panels and certain other products which are intended to reduce our consumption of physical resources.

Answer 432 - We do not believe that it is unfair to oil companies for the Government to subsidize research and products which will effectively put them out of business.

Answer 433 - Generally, our goal should be for 100% of our energy demands to come from solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and other completely clean and safe and renewable sources. Until we are able to make that goal a reality, we require some dependence upon less-desirable sources, and within that class we imagine that we generally should be preferring nuclear energy to either coal or petroleum.

Answer 434 - As decided in Subsubsection I-D-1-c, the Federal government should include an agency which manages a strategic reserve of forest land, both as a backup for our timber needs and to replenish our oxygen supply. Steel and other mineral resources are harder to manage, but we feel that we can do so if we can level off our global population at some still-supportable point, and if we do a satisfactory job of recycling the raw minerals whenever we tear down a stadium or warship or other large construction. We can also help the issue by expending fewer mineral resources in large cars and military buildups, and more in civilian housing.

Answer 435 - Wherever local resources do dry up, communities which previously focused on mining and refinery can retool toward recycling and reconstruction.

Answer 436 - Government should continue to make sure that product and workplace safety are maintained.

Answer 437 - Workplace safety should be managed at the State level. Product safety should be handled at least at the Federal level, and may someday need to escalate to Global, as our economic interaction continues to increase.

Answer 437.5 - American industry can advance certain ideas which we have on a variety of products listed in the Final Report, concerning Accounting Software, Air Conditioning, Automobiles, Beer, Cellphones/Celltowers, Light Bulbs, Mobile Devices, Showers, Smoke Detectors, Spreadsheets, Toys.

## **SECTION II-E: LABOR**

Answer 438 - With some possible exceptions, employers generally shall not be required to hire only Americans, either while we still have the institution of citizenship or if/after we eliminate it.

Answer 439 - An employer should be able to limit her hiring to only Americans, both while we still have the institution of citizenship and if we were ever to eliminate it.

Answer 440 - Motivation of employers to hire aliens who are not subject to minimum-wage restrictions depends on whether we have a minimum wage at all.

Answer 441 - First Pass stated that we should eliminate all requirements for a minimum wage, and allow the free market to determine how much employees should expect to earn for performing a particular type of work. As of the Third Pass, we now would aim on a long-term basis to reinstate the \$5-per-day minimum wage as promulgated by Henry Ford, on the condition that the economy allows \$1 per day to go to food, \$1 for lodging, \$1 for clothing and other personal possessions, \$1 for transportation and other public services, and \$1 for retirement. We recognize that this may take some time if we allow it to happen through natural forces alone.

Answer 442 - In the absence of a fixed minimum, wages would lower until they find their true relative values (or else the budgetarily-convenient \$5-per-day suggested in Answer 441), and then they can remain stable where they belong. However, we considered in the Third Pass (following our reading of several economists discussing the standard business cycle) that an all-natural process of market correction through simple elimination of minimum wage would be likely to result in a prolonged and painful recession from which we might never recover. We therefore are now thinking that the net-best approach is a one-time automatic revaluation of currency to a point where a \$5-per-day minimum wage is both achievable and meaningful, and get it over with, but we are receptive to considering further alternatives.

Answer 443 - We solve the unemployment problem by lowering the number of hours per workweek beyond which an employer shall be required to pay overtime, from the current 40 to around 36, based on continually-updated Federal statistics on how much work is being performed and how many workers are available to perform it. We do not wish to maintain the "full employment" mentioned by Hailstones and Kelton except in brief emergency conditions, and maybe not even then.

Answer 444 - Economic problem of current workers having fewer hours is offset by that all their Dollars will have more purchasing power than they do in today's inflationary environment.

Answer 445 - Workers who get bored with fewer hours still have ample opportunities to perform volunteer service in your communities.

Answer 446 - We generally shall continue to disallow child labor, except for actors or models or selected others, who must have adult representation by duly-licensed professionals in order to prevent any kind of abuse.

Answer 447 - Although provision of employee benefits currently is a broad market expectation, it should not be legally required. Sick leave should be a standard market expectation, insofar as it is not already; sticking for now with our original finding that it should not be a Government mandate, because that way may lie more problems than solutions, although it may need to happen someday if the market fails to do the right thing.

Answer 447.1 - Businesses should not need to file forms for 401k or payroll tax (even while in an income-tax environment) or anything else, but should instead be

allowed to focus on their businesses, while the payroll/401k people manage their specialties, which include any government reporting of salaries and benefits.

Answers 448-449 - We should provide up to three months of full salary to either parent who needs to be out during maternity, but only for the first two healthy births per family.

Answer 450 - Boycotting is an acceptable means of expressing consumer displeasure in a company which avoids providing benefits to its employees, or pays significantly lower wages than its competitors, but employees and consumers are (or should be) allowed to ignore such boycotts.

Answers 451-453 - Striking is an acceptable means of expressing employee displeasure with salary, benefits, or other working conditions. However, the employer shall not be required to pay anything to any employee who is striking, and also shall not be required to take the employee back after he is finished striking.

Answer 454 - Employees should be allowed to gather themselves together into unions, and to present collective demands to employers, but certain restrictions need to be placed on unions so that they do not abuse their privileges and skew the economy.

Answers 455-456 - Certain employers may be required by public statute to hire union personnel if the public safety would otherwise be at risk. Beyond those specific statutory exceptions, though, employers generally should be allowed to hire either union or non-union personnel.

Answer 457 - There is no valid reason to justify the disqualification of a candidate solely because of union membership.

Answer 458 - Workers may be required to join unions in order to be eligible for gainful employment, if the work sought is within an industry which has been mandated by the public for safety reasons to comprise only union personnel. For all other industries, workers should be able to choose whether or not to join a union.

Answer 458.2 - We shall not impose any maximum chronological age for working.

Answer 458.3 - We are currently inclined to disfavor the 'at will' employment contract. Involuntary severance of an employment contract should necessitate some valid reason which may be freely disclosed to the public.

## **SECTION II-F: TRADE**

Answer 458.6 - There appears to be a widespread perception that America has a problem with Trade, even though in theory every trade transaction involves an equal-for-equal exchange of valuable considerations, so we need to assess whether we actually do have a problem needing to be solved.

Answer 458.8 - As of 2018, it was generally accepted that America was operating at a 'trade deficit', in which our imports exceeded our exports, and this was widely perceived as being a bad thing. However, a preponderance of our research has shown that this is actually a good thing, and that we therefore do not have any major Trade problems to be fixed at this time.

Answer 458.9 - Let us have no more international violence, or threats thereof, and let us have no more politically-motivated trade embargoes with other nations.

Answer 459 - We are recommending against the imposition of tariffs or other trade restrictions on goods produced in foreign nations.

Answer 460 - Insofar as other nations choose against the interests of their own people to impose tariffs or other trade restrictions on goods produced within the United States, generally better to isolate them from trade with us entirely than to play their stupid little game.

Answer 460.5 - Although it is broadly alleged that enacting/maintaining tariffs would help protect American jobs, particularly in the automobile industry, we find that the exact opposite is the case. We have misgivings about Kelton's suggestion of a 'jobs guarantee' as a remedy to this issue, because it may imply paying people for doing work which was not considered important enough to merit salary on its own, and/or refraining from assigning work which actually is important.

Answer 460.7 - Based upon our online research, a consensus of economic analysts and industry executives appears to concur with our intuitive assessment, that trade wars tend to do more harm than good for all participants, and that we should generally refrain from imposing/increasing tariffs against other nations.

Answer 461 - Trade generally should be conducted by corporations within a one-world economic structure. However, national governments should exercise continual monitoring over the trade process, in order to make sure that the imported products are safe for their consumers, that they comply with all advertised standards, that there are no other abuses in the process, and that all key commodities are included in the cycle of import and export.

## **SECTION II-G: INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

Answer 462 - In general, although per our Answer 10 certain rights carry with them certain responsibilities, it yet does not logically follow that maximization of individual rights and freedoms generally carries with it maximization of individual responsibilities.

Answer 463 - The responsibility to provide for an Individual's health and safety, and for the health and safety of those to whom he may accidentally cause injury or other damage, should be shared between the Individual and the State, according to whatever proportions or other conditions each Society decides for itself.

Answer 464 - However, we can and should include Insurance as a feature of our economic system, even in an MMT environment.

Answer 465 - Insurance should be managed only within the private sector, but government shall regulate and monitor the industry as appropriate.

Answers 466-468 - Our initial position was that individuals in a supposedly-free society should be allowed to self-insure at will, and to suffer the consequences if they experience losses which outstrip their individual reserves and any individual credit. However, we have rethought our position, and now feel that society has a



legitimate interest in making sure that everyone in the society is contributing as much of their fair share of the society's insurance requirements (including different premium levels for different risk exposures) as they practically can. Exception for Life Insurance, which may continue to be voluntary.

Answer 469 - Counties can administer insurance regulations if desired by their States, but only States should be involved in determining what those regulations should be.

Answer 470 - Problems of the current Health Care system are listed in Answer 394, along with our proposed solutions.

Answers 471-473 - Neither individuals nor heads of families should be permitted to self-insure for Health.

Answer 474 - People have a natural right to commit suicide or retire from work under certain conditions.

Answer 475 - Society does not completely serve the individual, and the individual is not completely beholden to society. Rather, an effective society has individuals and the collective working together in a relationship of interdependency. This should be in Social Basics, and precede any detailed questions on Economics.

Answer 476 - Individuals may exit this 'social contract' by moving out into the wilderness without trespassing, or if they can live within the city without begging or stealing or otherwise constituting a blight upon the society. In all other situations, you must either work in exchange for social benefit, or else be escorted to our 'help centers', where we will still encourage you to work if you are able.

Answers 477-479 - Individuals may also exit the 'social contract' by committing suicide.

Answer 480 - Individuals may also refuse medical treatment.

Answer 481 - Infirm individuals should be permitted to take experimental drugs, and insurers should be expected to cover such claims if no other options are medically available.

Answer 481.3 - We are not presently convinced that either selling a kidney or brokering such a sale should be illegal, especially if no other options are practically available for saving the life of an individual who is willing to pay (either directly and/or with insurance) for the privilege of not dying immediately.

Answers 482-484 - Tipping generally should not be expected at restaurants and other customer-service venues, and generally should not even be requested.

Answer 485 - Individuals in the upper-middle class should monitor their net wealth to see whether they are approaching the threshold for required redistribution to the poor; if they are approaching it, then they should consider donating their excess wealth to individuals and charities of their own selection. Probate can be made easier by standardizing reference notations on all copies of all updates of all wills. Rent control goes away as an issue once we settle on a level value of currency. Heirs shouldn't be held responsible for any debt of deceased ancestors. Foreclosures

may continue to happen, after appropriate 'grace periods', and with understanding that our national network of 'help centers' will provide free temporary housing to anyone who needs it. We claim that saving money is generally a good thing, notwithstanding the Hailstones book.

### **PART III - THE SOCIAL ANSWERS**

#### **SECTION III-A: BASIC PRINCIPLES**

Generally, this Section would eventually have included the basic questions regarding Rights and Responsibilities and other human interactions which we addressed in Section I-A, but it turned out that we will need to jumble all the Questions up in the course of the upcoming Fifth Pass, so the old Sections will be redundant.

In any case, four other points have been added here, in response to Questions not appearing in the original Outline:

Answer 485.6 - We heartily affirm the permanent global prohibition of any kind of slavery, finding that it logically follows from the idea of The Individual not belonging to The State.

Answer 485.7 - We include the basic expectations of Truthfulness, Courtesy, Cooperation, and Compassion as part of an overall 'implied social contract', which all residents of an area are expected to observe (whether written into any local statutory code or not) as a condition of your living in our cities and towns, but we also address elsewhere the fact that some people clearly want to live in the city while behaving like jerks. Better version of the 'Golden Rule' is that we should do unto others as they would have done unto them.

Answer 485.8 - When someone calls you an asshole, let your next words be an offer of peace.

Answer 485.9 - Franklin famously suggested that whoever would sacrifice Liberty for Security deserves neither, but we never really understood or accepted that premise. To the contrary, we find that an optimal Quality of Life contains both elements, as long as we don't go overboard.

#### **SECTION III-B: SEX, MARRIAGE, & FAMILY LIFE**

##### **Subsection III-B-1: Sex and Relationships**

Answer 486 - At least within America, the partners of a marriage contract should be the ones deciding which conditions of sexual interaction are or are not accepted under that particular contract, and unmarried adults generally get to have sex with other consenting adults at will, with certain specific exceptions and circumstances to be noted hereunder.

Answer 487 - One must have gone through the physical process of puberty in order to be allowed to engage in adult sexual acts, but we are not recommending any chronological cutoff after that. We establish through a process of education that all individuals who would ever engage in any flavor of sexual activity must first know at least the basic social and biological potentials of the act, either through a single course from a sufficiently-reputable education outlet, or else from a primary-school

curriculum. We first could not see any practical way of delineating that only certain individuals are emotionally mature enough for sex, but we later figured out that we can repose judgment in the parent or other guardian of a post-pubescent primary-school graduate who feels that he/she is still not ready for any sexual interactions; that older person should (1) shelter the younger person from adult interactions except when properly supervised, and (2) encourage/require the younger person to wear an inexpensive ring or bracelet or other emblem to announce to all would-be suitors that the younger person is presently unavailable.

Answer 488 - Mixed-gender sex should be considered unacceptable if the would-be partners have a common ancestor who is one or two generations above at least one of them. (Thus, first cousins would be ineligible, as well as uncles/aunts with nephews/nieces.) Same-gender sex should be considered unacceptable if it is between any individual and his/her child or grandchild.

Answer 489 - It is generally acceptable for an individual to experience sexual attraction for a person of the same gender.

Answer 490 - It is generally acceptable for an individual to act upon a sexual attraction for a person of the same gender, if all the above conditions are satisfied.

Answer 491 - We should not establish as either socially or legally unacceptable for certain sexual positions to be used.

Answer 492 - Any and all laws prohibiting certain sexual positions should be expunged forthwith.

Answer 493 - It is acceptable for an individual to feel sexual attraction toward multiple individuals concurrently.

Answer 494 - It is acceptable for an individual to have sex with more than one person in his/her lifetime.

Answer 495 - It is acceptable for an individual to have sex with multiple concurrent partners at different actual times, on condition that you disclose to any prospective partner before having sex that you intend to concurrently carry on with one or more other partners, just in case the new prospect wants to make monogamy a condition of any sexual interaction, which sometimes they do.

Answer 496 - It is acceptable for an individual to have sex with multiple partners at once, again as long as everyone is acting responsibly as to birth control and disease mitigation.

Answer 497 - None of these paradigms should be different for males and females, or any other gender identities.

Answer 497.5 - Bestiality is never okay.

Answer 498 - There should not be any legislation at any level of government to prohibit certain inter-human sexual activities which do not create unwanted pregnancies and do not spread disease and do not violate formal or informal covenants and do not involve clearly-unqualified participants.

Answer 499 - To the extent that civil adjudications ever need to be sought as to the relative acceptability of any particular sexual experiences, the County level of government would generally be best.

### **Subsection III-B-2: Marriage**

Answer 500 - We are defining as a 'marriage' any personal partnership where the participants formally agree to live together in a committed emotional or sexual bond.

Answer 501 - There are several different reasons why people might want to marry even if they are not having children, including if they are of the same gender, so it would be foolish to try to deny this reality.

Answer 502 - Several of these functions can be fulfilled in the absence of marriage, but not all, so the institution of marriage does seem in many cases still to be highly helpful, if not necessary.

Answer 503 - It is possible/acceptable for people to be married who agree not to have any children.

Answer 503.5 - Monogamy may be considered a default condition for two-person marriages, but couples may agree to create an 'open marriage' inclusive of sexual activity with third parties, or to open up a previously 'closed' marriage.

Answer 504 - No valid reason that we can make out as to why marriage must be between individuals of opposite bio-genders.

Answer 505 - Basically the same limitations which we established in Answer 488 (however that model may possibly be refined later) for the level of 'familial proximity' which would disqualify two prospective partners from being an acceptable sexual couple, should also disqualify prospective spouses, but we are not recommending any additional such restrictions.

Answer 506 - We claim that we should not be abridging the right of individuals to commune in marital relationships involving three or more partners, whether one of the partners is a 'principal' or not.

Answer 507 - If we end up having any laws which restrict or otherwise regulate various types of marriages, then the State level of government should enact and administer such laws.

Answer 508 - Each married partner gets to decide whether to take the last name of the other, and his/her decision not to do so should not be treated as a 'dealbreaker' for prospective married couples.

Answer 508.1 - Parents should be allowed to identify one or more particular marital candidates for the child's consideration, and offer any specific reasons why they think that those candidates ought to make the child's 'short list'. In the end, though, both marriage generally and any specific choice of marital partner(s) should be the child's decision, to be made sometime after he/she reaches majority.

Answer 508.2 - In order to be properly considered as having reached majority/adulthood, an individual must have gone through physical puberty, and

must have acquired whatever primary educational knowledge we may decide as needing to be possessed as a minimal requirement by all adults within our society.

Answer 508.3 - A 'dowry' should not be expected or required as a condition of marriage within our modern environment.

### **Subsection III-B-3: Having and Raising Children**

Answer 509 - As long as we continue to have all-you-can-eat buffets scattered around the country, and as long as people continue to throw away substantial amounts of leftover food, it appears that we may have enough resources to support our still-increasing population, and that we simply need to do a better job with distribution in order to alleviate our societal problems of poverty and hunger.

Answer 510 - Insofar as we may have or ever develop a dissatisfaction with the state of the regional or global population, we can undertake either Persuasion or Incentives or Sterilization in order to make it more to our liking.

Answer 511 - Several reasons identified (and there may be others) why individuals might want to have children.

Answer 512 - These objectives are mostly still relevant even with our large and increasing population, so we expect that many people will still want to achieve them. However, we have plenty enough babies being created every day that we do not need every individual or couple to procreate.

Answer 513 - Society does not intrinsically possess an ultimate responsibility to see that each child is taken care of and brought up properly, but we may yet wish to undertake it voluntarily.

Answer 514 - The standard default expectation is that the two bio-parents will have the primary responsibility of raising the child until majority, but there can be numerous exceptions.

Answer 514.3 - Biological father has to be the one who donated the sperm, however it was done.

Answer 514.6 - When a married woman requests to be inseminated (either naturally or artificially) with sperm from someone other than her husband, or in the case of an unmarried woman specifically requesting an insemination from any man, the sperm donor does not have any measure of responsibility in the raising of the child, provided that the woman is willing and able to assume the full responsibility.

Answer 515 - If a sperm donor wishes to have some presence in the child's life, then this generally should be up to the mother's discretion.

Answer 516 - Sperm donation (either natural or artificial) should always be legal unless there is some individual exception, but the parties to the transaction should be sure to set down the various terms of the agreement in writing.

Answer 517 - In sum, bringing up the child is the primary responsibility of the bio-parents unless they validly agree to some other allocation, or unless they are duly

found by the civil authorities to be unfit either to undertake parental responsibility or to assign it to others.

Answer 518 - The woman donating her genetic material in a case of surrogate motherhood can be called the 'genetic mother'. But, it is the woman who is actually carrying the child to term who must be considered as the 'biological mother', and not just as the 'birth mother'.

Answer 519 - In a case of surrogate motherhood, the genetic mother and the biological mother need to agree in advance -- preferably in writing -- on how to allocate the responsibilities of bringing up the child after birth.

Answer 520 - In a case of surrogate motherhood, in which the genetic mother has primary custody of the child, she and the biological mother also need to agree in advance on how much presence the biological mother gets to have in the child's life. Generally, though, we are recommending a standard expectation in any such egg-implantation agreement that the biological mother (i.e., the woman carrying the child to term) should be allowed some reasonable presence in the child's life if desired.

Answer 521 - Surrogate motherhood should always be legal unless there is some specific reason why certain particular individuals are duly found by competent authority not to be suitable candidates to participate in such a process.

Answer 522 - Modifying our paradigm slightly, if multiple fathers and/or mothers are involved in the bio-genetic process of creating the child, then they should agree very early in the process on how the responsibility for the child's care is to be allocated among the parties.

Answer 523 - When one of the responsible parties in such a multi-parental agreement decides to bail, there are two main levels of enforceability. At one level, the bailer in any contract owes some amount of compensatory and/or punitive damages to the other party. At another level, the bailing party in a child-support agreement owes some additional level of damages to the child and/or to the community.

Answer 524 - Parental responsibility is generally presumed to continue all the way until all those conditions are satisfied which we established in Answer 508.2 for when a child reaches 'majority', unless some other legitimate provision is made in an individual instance, where the qualifier 'legitimate' here implies as a minimum condition that the child's needs are still being adequately satisfied until majority.

Answers 525-526 - There is no set moment -- either at conception or at birth or anywhere in between -- before which the mother always gets to abort and after which she never does. Rather, her authority to terminate her pregnancy begins at near-100% immediately after conception (so she could take an anti-pregnancy pill the morning after unprotected sex in order to recreate the conditions which were in effect before the sex), and only gradually diminishes to 0% at the time of birth. During that transitional period, her moral power to terminate her pregnancy gradually diminishes, such that she would require increasingly-compelling reasons to justify an abortion as her pregnancy becomes more advanced.

Answers 527-528 - The mother generally owns a newly-conceived embryo, and generally gets to decide whether or not to take it to term. If she is deciding unilaterally to carry the baby to term, then she must be prepared to provide for all the child's financial needs between birth and majority. However, if she is expecting the father to provide any level of child support, then he does have a voice in the conversation, and the bigger his voice gets to be as we expect more of a financial investment from him. Generally, though, unless the parties make some other arrangement in advance, or unless a judge of competent authority decides to the contrary, the standard default expectation is that the father should provide the majority (if not the entirety) of the financial support needed to take care of the child.

Answer 529 - State level probably is net-best for enacting and enforcing the completed paradigm as to abortions and births and child support.

Answer 530 - We will agree to provide some funding of abortions among our poorer citizens. However, we will still charge a 'deductible' or 'copayment' to the abortive parents for each procedure. If they can't afford it now, then they will owe it to us (through the central banking system described in Answer 377), to be collected by wage garnishment once their income eventually reaches some particular level to be determined.

Answer 531 - If you are not in a position to establish sufficient financial means for more than a certain number of children, but you insist on having additional children anyway, then at some point we can resort to the third option presented in Answer 510, to sterilize the offending individuals.

Answer 532 - It should be considered socially and legally acceptable for a child to be raised by a single parent.

Answer 533 - It should be considered socially and legally acceptable for a child to be raised by two homosexual parents.

Answer 534 - It should be considered socially and legally acceptable for a child to be raised by more than two parents concurrently. If there is any doubt or disagreement as to who should have authority over whom, then we suggest a default model in which the bio-mother has the highest authority, the bio-father has second-highest, and any other parents are ranked according to their chronological ages, but the parents may agree to any other arrangement if they can.

Answer 535 - Child generally should receive the last name of the mother, unless the family agrees to alternative arrangements.

Answer 536 - Local authorities should determine on an ongoing basis whether existing child-care facilities are sufficient to meet current demand. If they are not, then the network can be expanded as needed by a combination of private enterprise, public assistance at the County level from the Employment Development Department, and large employers caring for the kids of their own staff.

Answer 537 - To summarize our previous findings: Mother has 100% ownership of child at conception, and ownership level gradually diminishes to 0% at birth. As the responsible party by default (unless other arrangements are made which are not net-dangerous to the child), the mother also maintains a level of control over her child's actions, beginning with 100% at birth, and gradually diminishing to 0% at majority.

Answer 538 - Parents and other caregivers generally should refrain from inflicting 'corporal punishment' on the youngsters within their care. If a child is still too young to understand straightforward reasonings and explanations, and when some kind of punishment is still needed in order to 'get the child's attention', probably better in most cases to use more passive and less traumatic forms, such as the denial of allowances or other privileges which the child would ordinarily receive.

Answer 539 - Legal standards for acceptability of different forms or levels of 'corporal punishment' can change over time, and can vary by State.

Answer 540 - Parents who inflict physical abuse on their children should generally be subject to the same criminal remedies recommended for all child abusers in the federal Sentencing Guidelines, but modified to reflect the specifics of whether or not removal of the parent by incarceration is in the child's best overall interests, and also to reflect the fact that the parent betrayed a position of trust.

Answer 541 - Parents and teachers and other caregivers generally should refrain from encouraging or requiring a child to write with the hand which she less prefers.

Answer 542 - Kids should tattle if anyone tries to make them write with uncomfortable hands, and that point should be emphasized in any televised educational programming which we ever make available for our kids, in case the parents and teachers forget to send the right message themselves. Parents and teachers should be given counseling if they are caught committing that bad act.

#### **Subsection III-B-4: Divorce**

Answer 543 - We have mixed feelings about the divorce rate in this country. Happy that it's still less than 50%, but it's still too close to 50% for our liking.

Answer 544 - Lowering the divorce rate may not be within our province. Judges can generally aim for fewer divorce grantings and more marriage re-tries, but in the end each case needs to be adjudicated according to the best interests of all the individuals involved, particularly including any kids.

Answer 545 - Divorce is a premature termination of the marriage contract, and so it attempts to recreate the conditions which existed before the marriage, which is not always easy.

Answer 546 - We do not want to establish a standard mechanism whereby a party who abrogates the marriage contract -- either by filing for divorce or by committing some act which violates the terms of the contract -- is liable for civil and/or criminal penalty, because the expectations and legal precedents seem largely to be in place already. Any civil complaints in this area can be adjudicated by judges or juries as normal, according to the specific facts of each individual case.

Answer 547 - If the parties decide to protect themselves by executing a prenuptial agreement, then that does not make the whole experience unromantic, any more than the prospect of divorce made it unromantic to start with.

Answer 548 - We are not happy with most/all of the community-property laws currently in existence. We feel that they are okay to apply to families with children,



but that childless couples should not be required to abide by those standards if they prefer to track their incomes and community contributions separately. In our opinion, any community-property laws currently in existence should be rewritten as needed in order to reflect this option.

Answer 549 - When a unilateral divorce happens to a couple with one or more children, the mother normally should get custody, unless she is the one who filed for divorce or otherwise violated the marriage contract, or unless the father could establish before a court of competent jurisdiction that the mother is somehow unfit to maintain primary custody.

Answer 550 - In the case of unilateral divorce involving children, a parent duly found to be unfit is liable for child support, but may not be able to satisfy the judgment. If neither parent has been duly found to be unfit, then the party filing for divorce is liable for child support to the parent who will be retaining custody.

Answer 551 - The parent retaining custody generally gets to decide how much visitation access (if any) is to be granted to the other parent, except that the other parent may at least ask an objective judge of competent jurisdiction whether any visitation rights should be granted notwithstanding the wishes of the parent with custody.

Answer 552 - In the case of bilateral divorce involving children, with nobody shown to be unfit in any way, the mother should have primary custody by default, although the father can try his luck convincing a judge of competent authority to override the mother's wishes.

Answer 553 - Couples generally get to agree to any special conditions which they can regarding custody and child support, and should not be legally prohibited from doing so, provided only that the arrangement allows for all the child's financial needs to be satisfied until majority. Those terms should be written into the divorce agreement, to be affirmed as applicable by the divorce judge, who is to check only that adequate provisions are being made for the child's ongoing care, not for any legal compliance.

Answer 554 - The judges tasked with considering divorce applications and custody petitions probably should be organized at the County level. The judiciary of each County should have an office designated and duly advertised to receive all divorce applications and custody petitions, from which office the cases can be assigned to their judicial personnel according to their own internal standards and preferences, with the decisions always subject to appeal according to the provisions established in Section I-F. As each divorce is granted, the Clerk of the Court should communicate the decision to the County's Department of Records, which should promptly update their databases as applicable.

### **SECTION III-C: EDUCATION**

Answer 555 - We all seem to want our kids to receive some level of education.

Answer 556 - Generally, such education should take place both in the home and in schools. Parents should make a checklist of the specific lessons which they want to have eventually communicated to their kids, question the kids over time as to what they are learning and doing in school, and provide supplemental teaching as needed in any areas not (yet) covered by the school. A complete Home Schooling should be

permitted only on the conditions that the kids are periodically tested as to the facts and skills and values which are expected of all children at their respective grade levels, and that they should be allowed to remain in the Home School only if the test scores are sufficiently high.

Answer 557 - Education should continue to be supervised by government, with voters able to de-elect our Superintendents of Education if they are not delivering.

Answer 558 - Education should be supervised at the State level of government.

Answer 559 - We have a strong motivation to fund education liberally, although still responsibly.

Answer 560 - Education should be funded at the State level of government.

Answer 561 - We are resting with the general funding level for Education established in our Answer 425, although the State Legislatures should be monitoring the local Education Departments on an ongoing basis, and determining at each budget cycle whether the current actual funding should be modified at all.

Answer 562 - Another way in which we can make sure that teachers are adequately compensated is by evaluating teacher performance more critically than we currently are, and adjusting teacher compensation according to student performance.

Answer 563 - We shall also continue to allow private organizations to create and maintain schools, for both children and adults, on condition that we make sure on a periodic basis that the private schools are teaching everything that we want to have taught, and are not teaching any disapproved material.

Answer 564 - Details are presented in the Final Report on the accreditation process which should be required of private schools.

Answer 565 - We suggest as a starting point for consideration that the State should supply the private school with exactly one-half of the per-student funding which it would have provided had the child gone to public school. The specific proportion observed within each State can be negotiated among the various stakeholders according to evolving local conditions.

Answer 566 - There should be a combination of compulsory and optional education. There should be a compulsory 'basic' or 'primary' level of education, comprising certain facts and skills and values which we want and expect all citizens to possess. There also should be an optional 'secondary' level (equivalent of our current 'high school') which teaches additional facts and skills on top of the minimum standards, and which should give students a small taste of a wide variety of different subjects. The optional third level (equivalent to what we customarily call 'trade school' or 'college') should be for only those people who have the time and resources and desire to undertake further specialized study in one or more subjects in which they have demonstrated a special aptitude.

Answer 567 - While there are some good things happening in Education, we yet are basically unhappy with current educational conditions in America, and feel that it's one of our most urgent priorities to begin to get right. Several specific issues are discussed in the Final Report.

Answer 568 - There are two main sets of goals for Education, the first being for the sponsoring organization to communicate its 'group narrative' to our trusting young minds, and the second being for parents to watchdog the sponsoring organization to make sure that their kids are being educated in accordance with their expectations.

Answer 569 - Reasons that not all children who are sent to school are able/willing to give their full concentration to the matters at hand include, but are not limited to: (1) The subject matter itself is simply too boring. (2) The teacher is a poor presenter. (3) Didactic methods need to be improved. (4) Physical facilities at school reduce concentration. (5) Some kids may be distracted by external personal problems. Specific measures are recommended to address all these concerns.

Answer 570 - Standard school year should begin near the Autumnal Equinox, and comprise 12 weeks of Fall term, 2 weeks of Winter break, 12 weeks of Winter term, 1 week of Spring break, 12 weeks of Spring term, and 13 weeks of Summer vacation. We advocate for getting rid of 'summer school'.

Answer 570.9 - We should not be restricting education access according to gender.

Answer 571 - We see little benefit to segregating students by gender, except when it comes to certain lessons in Health and Physical Education.

Answer 572 - We see little benefit to segregating students by chronological age.

Answer 573 - We shall allow and require flunking as needed in order to make sure that each child learns the entire Basic Curriculum, but we shall do so only for specific subjects in which extra time is needed.

Answer 574 - If it is impractical within a given school for students to simply switch classrooms during the day in order to make up certain courses, then other options are available to allow the student to catch up where needed.

Answer 574.4 - For those teachers who don't do it already, you might consider devoting at least the first portion of each lesson reviewing what was presented in recent days.

Answer 574.5 - Some portion of each standard test should include material covered in previous courses. Specifically, we recommend a starting point of half of the test covering the current course, 1/4 covering material from the previous year, 1/8 covering material from two years earlier, 1/16 covering material from three years earlier, and so on as applicable.

Answer 574.6 - Vocabulary tests should emphasize presenting a definition and asking for a word which fits. Other tests should emphasize 'open book' rather than 'closed book' format. Students should be encouraged to indicate openly if they don't know the answer to any given test question, so that we know which elements we need to emphasize more clearly, and which teachers need more developmental help.

Answer 575 - Except where special circumstances may apply, we generally recommend that each child should begin Primary School at Age 5, and aim to complete it by Age 13.

Answer 576 - Students should be allowed to graduate early if they academically can, and they should be allowed/required to remain in Primary School past Age 13 if needed.

Answer 577 - We should continue to keep 'grammar school' separate from 'high school'.

Answer 578 - What we currently call 'grammar school' should generally be called 'primary school', which if desired may comprise the shorter periods of 'elementary school' and 'middle school'. We may continue to refer to 'secondary school' as 'high school' if desired.

Answer 579 - People generally may begin working when they have reached physical adulthood, and when they also have earned their primary-school diploma, but exemptions can be granted to selected children under certain conditions.

Answer 580 - A primary-school diploma should be both necessary and sufficient for Voting. Sex is far trickier, but we are relying on the minimum conditions of physical puberty and primary-school graduation established in Answer 487, with the understanding that parents/guardians may and should exercise their individual judgments to assess how much additional living and learning their charges may require before they can begin their sexual lives safely, including by the use of an inexpensive ring or bracelet with a distinctive design to indicate clearly that this individual is still 'off limits' for any kind of unsupervised social interaction with a potential suitor. The relative appropriateness for a non-sexual Social Friendship depends upon the chronological ages and gender identities of the potential friends, and can be evaluated through use of a public polling site which captures people's feelings on all gender/age combinations. Physical puberty and a primary-school diploma should be minimum conditions for Driving, along with having passed qualifying courses in Driver's Ed and Driver's Training; States and Localities might also wish to establish minimum height requirements. A secondary-school diploma should be considered both necessary and sufficient for Drinking alcohol legally. A secondary-school diploma should be considered a minimum requirement for Military Service. Generally, physical puberty and a primary-school diploma should be minimum requirements for any action which is commonly associated with being an 'adult', but parents or local governments or other authorities may want to establish additional requirements for certain activities.

Answer 580.1 - We generally should be paying attention to our young people a lot more than we currently are, even if (or especially because if) they have not yet completed our entire educational programs.

Answer 581 - We are generally discouraging a major to be selected at any time prior to the completion of secondary school, but we should allow such selection when it really wants to happen.

Answer 582 - It would be inappropriate in our model for a 'general ed' major to be declared in college. However, we can allow students to postpone the declaration of a college major, although we are recommending that any particular course which for any reason has limited enrollment should give priority consideration to those students who have formally committed to a major in that subject area.

Answer 583 - A college student majoring in one subject should be allowed to 'minor' in some secondary subject, and also to take advanced courses in subjects which are not directly related to either her major or her minor. However, in case of limited enrollment, the highest priority should go to students who are formally majoring in that subject, secondary priority should go to students who are formally minoring in that subject, tertiary priority should go to students who are seeking greater exposure to different subjects before selecting a major or minor, and students who are both majoring and minoring in other subjects should be allowed to enroll only on a space-available basis. College students who have selected particular majors should not be required to take courses in any other subject tracks as a condition of graduation.

Answer 583.5 - We should allow Athletics to be taught as a subject in college, and we should allow students to declare majors or minors in that subject, same as any other. We recommend against the payment of salaries or endorsements to college athletes, but we should not seek to prohibit it.

Answer 584 - Whether we end up presenting 6 or 7 subject tracks per schoolday, we are generally looking at a schoolday lasting from 8:30 in the morning to 3:30 in the afternoon. Specific default class lengths and break lengths have been established within this general framework for both the 6-period and 7-period scenarios, all designed to surround Noontime symmetrically. Because we ended up with a 6-track primary curriculum, our default schoolday comprises 8:40-9:30 for Period 1, 9:30-9:40 for break, 9:40-10:30 for Period 2, 10:30-10:40 for break, 10:40-11:30 for Period 3, 11:30-12:30 for Lunch, 12:30-1:20 for Period 4, 1:20-1:30 for break, 1:30-2:20 for Period 5, 2:20-2:30 for break, and 2:30-3:20 for Period 6.

Answer 585 - Although we are not required to devote an equal amount of overall class time to each of the six subject tracks, we recommend to do so anyway. We can conveniently divide the standard primary-school curriculum into 6 main tracks, comprising Math and Science and Art and Language and Civics and Health. We have listed out in the Final Report several specific subjects to be taught within each track, and that listing is subject to amendment.

Answer 586 - We should not be waiting until students ask before we explain why different lessons are important. Rather, we should be proactively telling the students during each lesson why that lesson is being taught. Some specific arguments and examples are presented within the Final Report.

Answer 587 - Older literature, or literature written in a non-English language, often deals with universal themes which are important for all places and all times. Discussing the lessons which can be learned from each piece can make the reading more relevant and therefore more interesting.

Answer 588 - When teaching Sex Ed in either primary or secondary school, do not proactively give away free condoms, but do make them easily available for pickup at school offices whenever the students decide that they are ready to begin experiencing sexual activity.

Answer 589 - A complete breakdown of all the facts and skills and values to be taught in the primary-school curriculum probably would be beyond the scope of this Project, and probably should not even be decided at the Federal level at all. Instead, while we feel that States and Localities should be able to exercise some flexibility as

to which other lessons should or should not be included in the basic program, we have collected some key points which ideally should be taught everywhere, viz.:

- Civics - Economics - meaning of the 'Laffer Curve', the 'Federal Reserve System' is neither Federal nor a Reserve but instead a private banking cartel
- Civics - Geography - jigsaw puzzles to teach location of States and Nations, history of how they got those shapes
- Civics - Government - concept of Subsidiarity, branches of government, election process, understanding the ballot, don't vote unless you have a definite opinion, discuss and predict each election in class as it happens
- Civics - History - American - imperialists get to keep their colonies for only certain limited periods of time, European immigrants inflicted extensive evil upon the Native Americans in their westward expansion, we did well to defend against military aggression but poorly to inflict it upon non-belligerent nations, the Mexicans occupied Texas before the Europeans did
- Civics - History - World - humans have not been here long enough to 'own' the Earth but we must take care of it, physical characteristics developed by different branches of humanity are not fit subjects for any bad behavior, we are no longer recognizing military warfare as an acceptable means of acquiring wealth or advancing your philosophy
- Civics - Religion - good to be familiar with different religions and to respect their adherents, Bible is not completely reliable
- Civics - Social Interaction - no bullying or screaming or assault or shaming, report issues promptly
- Civics - Traffic - come to full stops at intersections, signal when minimally changing lanes, don't pass on the right
- Health - Athletics - rules and skills of major sports
- Health - Hygiene - wash hands, brush teeth and gums, cover up when coughing/sneezing
- Health - Sex - all the biological and emotional consequences of the act, always okay to decline, don't pester or harass, report promptly if pestered or harassed
- Language - Vocabulary - must be able to understand all words and expressions in our Final Report
- Math - Arithmetic - any method is valid if it always produces the same correct answer as the method in the textbook
- Math - Counting - all numbers up to the trillions at least, major prefixes designating large and small quantities
- Math - Finance - Personal - balance checkbook, minimize debt, maintain budget
- Math - Gambling - gambling odds will tend to favor the 'house' and generally disfavor the individual gambler
- Math - Geometry - basic shapes that people normally need to deal with
- Math - Logic - games and puzzles to develop thinking skills
- Math - Statistics - enough about graphing functions to understand the 'Laffer Curve'
- Science - Biology - bacteria exist naturally inside everyone's mouth
- Science - Chemistry - destructive acids can form by the interaction within the mouth of natural bacteria plus external food sugars

Answer 589.1 - Secondary school should include at least one elective in the Language track for languages outside of those in common use within one's own community, and particularly should include American Sign Language (ASL) wherever qualified instructors are available.

Answer 589.2 - We are not requiring each student to pass -- or even take -- every course in the secondary-school curriculum in order to graduate. It may not be necessary for the student to have displayed competence in a given secondary-school course in order to pass it. A given course may not need to take up an entire trimester or semester or school year. Different courses may deserve different credit amounts, so school districts should decide whether to graduate any student who earns some portion (we like 60%) of the total credits available in each school, or to require a set number of credits to be earned by any student in any secondary school within that district. Here is a freeform alpha listing of 130 possible secondary-school courses which we came up with during the Third Pass, to be supplemented as needed over time:

Accounting, Acting, Aeronautics, Agriculture, Algebra, American History, American Literature, Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Astronomy, Auditing, Auto Mechanics, Band, Baseball, Basketball, Biology, Business, Calculus, Calligraphy, Carpentry, Chemistry, Child Care, Chinese, Chorus, Cinematography, Climatology, Computer Science, Cooking, Cosmetology, Counseling, Criminology, Cryptography, Culture, Current Events, Customer Service, Dancing, Dentistry, Designing, Drafting, Drawing, Drivers Ed, Drivers Training, Economics, Education, Electronics, Engineering, English Lit, Environmental Science, Ethics, Farsi, Fencing, Firefighting, Fishing, Football, French, Gaming, Geography, Geology, Geometry, German, Golf, Government, Grammar, Greek, Gymnastics, Hebrew, Horticulture, Hospitality, Insurance, Italian, Japanese, Journalism, Law, Literary Composition, Machinery, Management, Marketing, Masonry, Medicine, Metallurgy, Meteorology, Military Science, Musical Composition, Musical Performance, Navigation, Nursing, Oceanography, Painting, Paleontology, Parenting, Personal Defense, Personal Finance, Philosophy, Photography, Physics, Piano, Poetry, Political Science, Pottery, Psychology, Public Relations, Real Estate, Relationships, Religion, Russian, Sailing, Sculpting, Sign Language, Singing, Soccer, Sociology, Spanish, Speech, Stagecraft, Statistics, Stenography, Swimming, Telecommunications, Tennis, Textiles, Track & Field, Trigonometry, Typing, Vocabulary, Welding, Woodworking, World History, Wrestling, Zoology

Answer 589.5 - Whatever lessons you might want to teach in Kindergarten, and/or whatever group activities you might wish to conduct, probably better to simply call that Grade 1, still begin it at Age 5 for most kids, and then make everybody do it. Earlier forms of 'pre-school' probably should be decided by parents on a case-by-case basis.

Answer 590 - Physical violence should not be used as a means of behavior modification of children, not by parents and not by teachers. There are other responses available to change a child's actions without causing such intense physical and psychological discomfort, a few of which are mentioned in the Final Report. We should avoid giving extra homework as a means of punishment.

Answer 591 - We probably do not ever want to conduct group prayer exercises in public school. If any child feels that she does not get enough prayer time before and

after school hours, and that she therefore needs some extra time for prayer during the schoolday, then we have plenty of break periods built into our standard school schedule, allowing the child to pray silently where she sits, or to leave the classroom for a couple of minutes if she needs more privacy, in which case still please keep it quiet so as not to disturb your schoolmates.

Answer 591.5 - Each school shall be permitted to decide for itself whether to have its students recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day.

Answer 591.6 - Recommending a couple of adjustments to our national Pledge of Allegiance, namely to remove the expressions 'under God' (except okay in private schools) and 'Indivisible'. Other elements of the verse may remain, on the condition that we try much harder on an ongoing basis to promote Liberty and Justice for all, where 'all' means all participants in our global ecosystem.

Answer 592 - Computers can (and should) be a supplemental delivery system for certain lessons which may be problematic for either teachers or textbooks to describe alone, especially lessons related to the computers themselves, provided that any classroom equipment does not need to be replaced frequently as a result of 'planned obsolescence', that we work on an ongoing basis to mitigate harmful radiation, and that we provide enough non-computer activities throughout the day to mitigate addiction.

Answer 593 - Calculators may be used in classrooms, provided that students still learn the basics of Arithmetic, and that they are taught the different arithmetical processes which are required for approaching different kinds of problems.

Answer 594 - Some basic foods (sandwiches, salads, fresh fruit, etc.) should be provided to schoolchildren entirely at the public expense, whereas the costlier delicacies (hamburgers, burritos, pizza, etc.) could be available within larger schools for an appropriate price. Pricing for the premium items can float in such a way as to keep the lines for basic and premium items at approximately the same length.

Answer 595 - Whatever types of food students may bring from home, we must make sure that all foods available on our campuses are sufficiently nutritious for our community standards, which may evolve over time as we continue to learn more about the effects of different kinds of foods and beverages on our children's health.

Answer 595.1 - Homework should be an optional exercise for those who feel like it and would benefit from it. Those who already knew the material going in, or who have absorbed and retained it from the classroom sessions alone, should not be required to do Homework.

### **SECTION III-D: PERSONAL BEHAVIORS**

Answer 596 - We should consider whether some or all of the laws currently on the books which prohibit unarmful behavior are appropriate in today's society.

Answer 597 - Freedoms granted to Americans under the Bill of Rights are theoretically open to question as part of this Project, but as a practical matter are generally pretty safe from attack, with the possible exception of the Second Amendment. The second phrase of the Second Amendment, that the people get "to keep and bear Arms", should be assessed and evaluated within the context of the



first phrase, that "A well regulated Militia [is] necessary to the security of a free State". The combined phrasing implies that, in case of emergency, any armed civilians must be willing to place themselves under the command of officers who have been duly designated and empowered by the applicable governmental entities. It also means that the applicable governments get to establish regulations on who specifically gets "to keep and bear Arms", and under what conditions. One condition of Gun Control should be a periodic recertification of personal eligibility, which includes not only physical capability but also psychological fitness. We also should try to keep track of every weapon which is produced within this Nation or imported into it, and we should continue to hold it as a separate punishable offense if anyone ever gets caught with an unregistered weapon; as for registered weapons, we should be able and prepared to take them away from any person previously licensed who is later found to be no longer fit to keep Arms.

Answer 598 - Expression is not (or should not be) protected under the First Amendment if it violates our Basic Social Rule of not inflicting or threatening any injury to others, even if you believe that the allegedly-expressive actions were religious in nature, or if you don't believe it but you are trying to pretend in order to escape penalty.

Answer 599 - 'Freedom of Speech' does not imply freedom of all expression. We do not and should not actually possess an all-encompassing 'freedom of expression'.

Answer 600 - Limits on 'free speech' may include dangerous utterances such as yelling 'Fire' in a crowded theatre, and the Slander rule.

Answer 601 - We generally feel that individuals and regulatory bodies should generally get over any hangups which they may have regarding so-called 'profanity', with one exception that racial slurs may be officially prohibited as appropriate, and with another exception that insincere references to God are unofficially discouraged.

Answer 601.5 - Nations generally may set their own boundaries as to an individual's 'right to privacy' versus a society's 'need to know'. At least for America, we generally should respect people's privacy, even if it is occasionally contrary to the public interest, because it would be a pretty lousy place if we did not.

Answer 602 - As derived in Answer 591.6, you can do what you want with the American Flag when you are permanently outside the geographic boundaries of our Nation, but burning a Flag on American soil is essentially making a public statement that you are an enemy of our Nation, and a threat to our security, so we have every valid reason to lock you up, not for burning a Flag but rather for being a publicly-admitted security threat.

Answer 603 - We should no longer consider prostitution to be socially or legally unacceptable, provided that all sex workers are consenting adults.

Answer 604 - If one of the parties in a sex-for-money 'specific performance' contract is bound under a pre-existing marriage contract prohibiting such activity with a third party, then he/she may bear a civil liability to the other party of the previous contract, but it should be clear to all parties what actions are or are not permitted under the previous contract.

Answer 605 - In the above case, the third party (that is, the sex worker) does not bear any civil liability to the spouse who was cheated on.

Answer 605.3 - Cities may decide whether or not to allow prostitution houses to operate within their borders, and if they decide against them then the houses should still be allowed to operate outside the city limits.

Answer 605.5 - Cities may decide whether or not to allow 'strip clubs' to operate within their borders, but we generally recommend that they do so allow, especially if their populations are large or diverse.

Answer 606 - Gambling of all kinds generally should be permitted everywhere, with the one restriction being that minors should not be allowed to play at a casino or racetrack or other fixed gambling establishment.

Answer 607 - A primary-school diploma should be sufficient to allow gambling at a professional establishment, provided that the standard primary-school curriculum includes a lesson within the Mathematics track as to the fact that many gambling arrangements will tend to favor the 'house', meaning that the odds will generally tend to disfavor the individual gambler. We should make sure that any casinos or other fixed gambling establishments should be 'zoned' to different areas of town from where all the schools are.

Answer 608 - We should allow ticket scalping.

Answer 609 - Venues do not have a right to declare privately that their tickets may not be assigned or transferred, nor the power to enforce such right, except possibly to certain problem individuals when the technology exists to enforce such a ban.

Answer 609.9 - Tattoos should be a matter of personal choice.

Answer 610 - There generally should not continue to be such a thing as 'indecent exposure', either in person or over photographic media or in art. However, in-person nudity may be regulated in circumstances where its appearance could cause some weaker citizens to feel threatened, although it should be allowed and even encouraged in other circumstances. In any case, women should be allowed to go topless in any circumstance where it is also acceptable for men. Also, we do agree that we need to prohibit unsolicited electronic transmission of prurient materials, because the action constitutes 'sexual harassment', a 'bad act'; this does not include posting to one's own social-media account.

Answer 610.5 - We see no valid reason to prohibit women from breastfeeding at any time in any public place, nor to require them to cover up with towel or blanket while doing so.

Answer 611 - Even if some individuals in some of our more 'uptight' cultures experience a reduced sex drive as a result of the deregulation of nudity within their communities, and even if they end up producing fewer offspring as a result, then maybe that actually helps us a little, but we would be extremely surprised if the reduction were ever great enough to threaten the survival of our species.

Answer 612 - We do not want to expose our kids to images (either still or moving) of adult sex activity, until they possess the necessary education and maturity to

understand what is going on and how such activity should be properly managed, and we should maintain rules to prevent the casting of minors in any photographic or cinematic productions oriented toward adult sex.

Answer 612.5 - We need a sort of 'limited hedonism', in which the adult humans who wish to do so may indulge in Love and Joy and Happiness and Celebration, without unintentionally encouraging underage individuals to experiment with sexual interaction before they are ready. This means that we need to designate some combinations of time and place in which such activity is permitted, and others in which it is not.

Answer 613 - We apparently do not 'need' separate public bathrooms for men and women, but those communities and businesses which are still willing and able to provide two 'flavors' of bathroom certainly should be permitted to continue to do so. Non-binary attendees at such venues should determine which of the binary models they more closely resemble in the eyes of the general public, and then use the corresponding bathroom in hope of freaking out fewer people. Men should always sit while pissing in a non-urinal public toilet.

Answer 614 - We can allow violent or disgusting acts to be portrayed in TV or film, but we should exercise greater restrictions and advisories than we would otherwise invoke for images of sex and/or nudity.

Answer 615 - We should continue to require anyone driving a car to wear a seat belt.

Answer 616 - Passengers in cars should not be legally required to wear seat belts, but the drivers may (and probably should) insist that they do so.

Answers 617-618 - Every motorcyclist or bicyclist should be required to wear a helmet in heavy traffic, but may be exempted on slower or quieter or more remote roads where collateral damage from a collision is relatively unlikely. Specific regulations should be decided by Localities and not by the Fed.

Answer 619 - Alcohol generally should be permitted, and in more circumstances than it currently is. Bad driving should be punished whether the driver has been drinking alcohol or not.

Answer 620 - Tobacco smoking in indoor public venues should generally be limited to closed-off smoking sections, although States and Localities may decide specific policies for themselves with broad disclosure.

Answer 621 - Outdoor public venues should decide between making your smoking sections much bigger, with the smokers confined as far downwind from the good citizens as possible, or better yet disallowing tobacco smoking in all outdoor areas accessible to the public.

Answer 622 - Tobacco smoking generally is to be discouraged and prohibited as much as local communities may like, and the more the better, but the decisions should rest with the local communities and not with the Fed, except for airports and airplanes and other specific jurisdictions.

Answer 623 - Marijuana is either a Miracle of Nature, or a Gift from God, just like Bacon. It should not only be decriminalized the rest of the way, but be actively

encouraged as a health aid and peace promoter for those individuals who are medically receptive to it, and who are not engaged in public-safety occupations.

Answer 624 - Actual drugs should be allowed whenever and wherever they can be used safely.

Answer 625 - Private outlets may continue to be licensed within duly-designated business districts to dispense marijuana to adult customers. Any herbal or pharmaceutical products sold in retail stores should be subject to requirements for accurate labeling, as determined and enforced by the FDA or other applicable agency.

Answer 626 - Firearm regulations were addressed in Answer 597.

Answer 627 - Gangs will become less attractive as more of their past operations are legalized, and they will have less reason to visit violence upon one another. Gangs should not be punished for the independent crimes of any of their members, but they may and should be punished if enough evidence shows that they gave specific orders for any crime to be committed.

Answer 628 - Graffiti reduces when fewer people join gangs, and when police can spend more time looking for property damage instead of violent crime. Cities might consider establishing 'graffiti walls' as places where kids may express themselves artistically.

Answer 628.1 - We are not recommending or supporting any legislation at any governmental level to ban the production, distribution, possession, or consumption of animal-derived foods, with the exception of particular animal species which are acknowledged as 'endangered' by the area-based house of the Earth Congress. Anything which you hunt or fish should be used for food, and it should be licensed by the applicable authorities as being 'in season' and appropriate for capture. Leather and other non-food products may continue to be derived from animals which are killed primarily for food, but no animal should be killed strictly for fur or other clothing. Using animals for medical experimentation can maybe be allowed to some limited extent, where animal suffering is minimized, and where we require prior approval and on-site supervision of any such experiments by applicable agencies.

Answer 628.2 - It is in the public interest to prohibit human cannibalism, and to maintain actual laws accordingly, but best to assign the issue to national and/or local governments to manage as they see fit.

Answer 629 - Each legislative body which does not already have one should establish and maintain a 'sunset committee' or subcommittee, whose sole mission would be to review all current legislation on a periodic basis, and to identify candidates for possible elimination based on new technologies or shifting civic attitudes or other recent changes, and to report them to the full assembly for formal consideration. If we have a rule that all laws should automatically expire after a certain amount of time, then the 'sunset committee' can still reevaluate those laws before they actually expire, and make recommendations to the full assembly for any laws which the committee feels should be renewed.

Answer 630 - Not recommending any further Constitutional amendments permitting any specific activities, but could go with some clarification in the Constitution about

limits of 'free speech' or 'free religion'. Also could go with a blanket amendment, establishing our general resolution that activities which do not harm or threaten others shall not be abridged by law at either the Federal or State or Local level.

Answer 631 - We should not only release any prisoners who were convicted of now-allowed activities, but if possible compensate them for imprisonment on the basis of unjust laws.

Answer 632 - If we experience a sudden rise in the labor pool as a result of releasing many prisoners who were convicted of now-allowed activities, then we should again average out the total of number of person-hours which are required to keep all of our citizens sheltered and fed, and then adjust our overtime regulations as applicable, in order to get more individual work schedules in line with the national average.

### **SECTION III-E: SPORTS & GAMES**

Answer 633 - Sports and games have an important impact on our social lives and our economic cycles, and therefore should be addressed as part of this effort.

Answer 633.3 - While we are legally allowing individual venues to experiment with different frequencies in order to get a better feel of evolving public sentiment on the matter of rendering the National Anthem before professional sports contests, yet we are generally encouraging venues to continue to perform or have the crowd sing some sort of community anthem before each game.

Answer 633.4 - If you are a professional athlete and if for any reason you are not willing to stand at attention while the anthem is being rendered before the game, then we politely ask and expect that you remain in the locker room until the song is over. If you are a spectator and if for any reason you are not willing to stand at attention while the anthem is being rendered before the game, and if it is inconvenient for you to be away from your designated seat at the time, then we politely ask and expect that you remain seated and silent until the song is over.

Answer 633.5 - Athletes who insist on publicly kneeling during the anthem may be subject to suspension or other job action by their team. Spectators who cause a disruption during the anthem may be subject to ejection, at the discretion of the hosting venue, if the policy is stated in the venue's announced 'code of conduct'.

Answer 633.6 - For the present, until a better candidate comes along, we are recommending 'America the Beautiful' to replace 'The Star-Spangled Banner' as our National Anthem.

#### **Subsection III-E-1: Contracts and Free Agency**

Answer 633.8 - We should not be excluding any sufficiently-gifted athlete from being hired to play on a professional sports team on the grounds of belonging to some particular subset of the population.

Answer 634 - In addition to the standard provisions of contract law, contracts for athletes should contain some special provisions. These may include (1) that bonuses may be payable in the event of exceptional individual performance or exceptional team result or both, (2) that multi-year contracts in the Sports market should require compensation to go down during those years when the athlete is

performing poorly or not playing at all, and (3) that secondary-school graduation should be both necessary and sufficient for being legally able to execute a valid contract.

Answer 635 - We generally prefer for there to be a salary cap which is high enough to allow bigger spenders to gain a competitive edge, but low enough so that the biggest markets don't always generate the same championship teams over and over. We also like the idea that a team is entitled to go over the salary cap on condition of having to pay a 'luxury tax', preferably to a recognized charitable foundation.

Answer 635.5 - We are not concurring that there are any other problems to be solved with Free Agency.

### **Subsection III-E-2: Drafting**

Answer 636 - We want to continue to allow professional teams to somehow take turns designating which collegiate/amateur athletes they may consider for hiring, as opposed to allowing the young players to make their own choices about where they will try out.

Answer 637 - We recommend a lottery-type selection for our athlete drafts, where we draw balls out of a tub to determine who selects next, but we do not have just one ball per team, or any equal number of balls per team. Instead, we use a different number of balls for each team, according to the number of times that they won during the preceding regular season. Variations apply for sports with more or fewer games in their regular seasons.

### **Subsection III-E-3: League and Playoff Structure**

Answer 637.6 - It wouldn't either surprise or upset us if at some point we ended up needing even more league expansions than we have seen already.

Answer 638 - It should be considered grammatically acceptable, and philosophically okay, and economically sensible, for a top-level professional team to name itself for the nearest large city, even if their home stadium is located within a smaller neighbor, with the consent of that city, probably by lease. No team should identify two cities within its name.

Answer 638.3 - Cities should make future team relocations difficult enough in their leases that they will be unlikely to happen before they have at least recovered their investments and generated some amount of net income, but also make them easy enough that they can still happen when they really want to. The leadership of each League should retain the authority to approve or deny any proposed team relocation, and any such approval should require a 2/3 majority of the other League members.

Answer 638.8 - Our definition of a 'League' is a group of teams who play one another at some particular Sport some nonzero number of times over the course of a season. If a particular Sport comprises multiple top-level Leagues with different rules, with the League champions meeting in an overall title game/series, then probably better not to allow inter-league play during the regular season.

Answer 638.9 - Optimum number of Conferences per League, and Divisions per Conference, may need to change over time, provided that we do not allow our

average talent level to become diluted. Generally good for each League to have the same number of teams in each of its Divisions. Generally good if the total number of Divisions in each League is a power of two, and we are specifically recommending a final expansion of Major League Baseball to 32 teams, partly so that we can drop the wild-card game from the playoff schedule. Our rule of selection is to accept the 32 most populous cities with existing franchises at AA level or above, and we have allocated them as follows:

<u>National West</u>	<u>National North</u>	<u>American West</u>	<u>American North</u>
Denver	Chicago	Las Vegas	Boston
Los Angeles	New York S	Sacramento	Detroit
Portland	Philadelphia	San Diego	Milwaukee
San Francisco	Toronto	Seattle	New York N
<u>National Central</u>	<u>National South</u>	<u>American Central</u>	<u>American South</u>
El Paso	Indianapolis	Albuquerque	Baltimore
Houston	Jacksonville	Dallas	Charlotte
Oklahoma City	Memphis	Kansas City	Columbus
Phoenix	Washington	San Antonio	Nashville

Answer 639 - If a particular League comprises two Conferences, with the Conference champions meeting in an overall title game/series, then we recommend a target default of 2/3 of regular-season games being played within your own Conference, and 1/3 against teams from outside.

Answer 639.1 - If a given Conference comprises two or more Divisions, then emphasis on inter-divisional play should be significantly less than on intra-divisional play.

Answer 639.2 - If you have two separate Leagues, then they should never interact during the regular season. If you have two Conferences within a League, then you generally should aim for about 2/3 (or maybe a little more if needed) of the games being within your own Conference and 1/3 with the other. If you have three Divisions within a Conference or League, then you generally should aim for about 1/2 (or maybe a little more if needed) of the games being within your own Division, and 1/4 for each of the other two Divisions. If you have four equal Divisions within a League (at least with four teams in each Division), then the optimal ratio ends up closer to 3/11-2/7-2/7-3/20.

Answer 639.3 - Specific scenarios are presented in the Final Report for each major American sport as to numbers of regular-season games played within a team's own Division and against teams from other Divisions.

Answer 640 - Generally, each League and each Conference and each Division should represent some combination of Rules and/or Geography and/or Longevity and/or League Origin and/or Cultural Tradition which makes it unique within its Sport. Allow only Division winners into the playoffs if the number of Divisions within your Sport is a power of two (as it has recently been in Football), but otherwise adjust with 'byes' or 'wild cards' as needed, but generally do not allow any more Division losers than are really needed in order to reach a power of two in your playoff population, except that we are okay with the recent Baseball change to have a one-game playoff for the top two Division losers in each League.

Answer 641 - As addressed in Answer 637, teams eliminated from playoff contention still have a motivation to play hard during the remaining regular season if their upcoming draft chances are weighted according to their regular-season records.

Answer 641.6 - If a given League uses a 'wild card' in its playoff structure, then we can allow either 0 games or 1 game to determine the 'wild card'.

Answer 642 - Baseball should run from April to October, Football from July to January, Hockey from October to April, and Basketball from January to July. We are recommending to go back to 154 games in the regular Baseball season, partly in order to make this paradigm work better, and largely because today's longer postseason is much harder on modern players.

#### **Subsection III-E-4: Other multi-Sport issues**

Answer 643 - Artificial turf can be permitted only for fixed-dome stadiums, which themselves probably should be discouraged except in those communities which really need them.

Answer 643.1 - We had previously recommended that the Washington Redskins change their team name, and behold they announced in July 2020 that they finally were doing so. Cleveland Indians made a similar announcement in December 2020. See? Change is possible. Adjustments still recommended for the Braves, Chiefs, and Angels. We also like our Cleveland recommendation better.

Answer 643.2 - Performance-enhancing drugs (PED's) should continue to be banned from all Sports, with possible violations aggressively pursued. Violators should continue to be banned from enrollment in their respective Halls of Fame, and should have any records marked with an asterisk or dropped from the books entirely.

Answer 643.3 - Field celebrations become 'unsportsmanlike conduct' only when conducted directly in front of opposing players, but otherwise generally may happen.

Answer 643.4 - Good for different sports to continue to have one All-Star Game per year.

Answer 643.41 - All-Star Break for Baseball should happen closer to the cusp between June and July.

Answer 643.42 - Pro Bowl for Football should occur two weeks after the Super Bowl, even though it may mean playing in February.

Answer 643.5 - Fans should be selecting who shall participate in their All-Star Games, but each voter should be limited to one ballot.

Answer 643.51 - Not particularly pushing it as an official element of our model, but receptive to the idea of limiting each All-Star fan to voting for only league.

Answer 643.6 - Ties/draws shall be allowed in All-Star Games if and only if the managers of the two participating teams agree.

Answer 643.7 - Presidents should not interrupt locker-room celebrations with congratulatory communications.



Answer 643.72 - Question of whether 'trans' athletes be allowed to compete as equals against their 'new' gender depends on whether we generally should continue to segregate sports by gender at all.

### **Subsection III-E-5: Baseball**

Answer 644 - American League may continue to observe the 'designated hitter' rule, and National League should continue to ignore it. However, the 'designated hitter' rule shall be observed in all inter-league games during the postseason and All-Star Game, on the conditions (1) that we never have inter-league play during the regular season, and (2) that everybody everywhere agrees never to suggest or propose again that the NL should ever observe the DH Rule for even one single game or one single moment of its regular season. Any team participating in a preseason inter-league game may use the rules normally observed by its League. If the National League ever does observe the rule during intraleague games in its regular season, as has recently been threatened by MLB, then our SIG recommends that we boycott the National League, and all of Baseball, until they restore conditions to their rightful conditions. #NoDHinNL

Answer 644.1 - We may continue to use 'instant replay' to decide certain close calls which may have been decided incorrectly on the field.

Answer 644.2 - We should extend the width of First Base such that it completely covers the running lane.

Answer 644.3 - We should discourage batters from breaking their bats or throwing any other manner of tantrums when they strike out.

Answer 644.4 - We are opposed to the idea of 'September callups' in Baseball, where they expand the active roster from 26 (was 25) players to 40 during the last few weeks of the regular season. However, as a compromise, we might allow the practice for teams which have already been eliminated from playoff contention.

Answer 645 - The 'infield fly' rule should be extended to situations where there is only a runner on first base.

Answer 645.1 - Fan interference can be mitigated by separating all fans from the field of play by netting, especially a retractable netting at field level, alternatively by constructing a non-paying aisleway in front of the first row all around the field.

Answer 645.2 - The 'pace of play' can be improved by drastically streamlining the process of changing pitchers during innings. Do not start any extra innings with a runner on second base, or with any other variation from normal conditions.

Answer 645.3 - Several additional suggestions offered for maintaining/improving fan interest in Baseball:

First, we suggest eliminating the Home Run Derby from the All-Star schedule.

Second, the game is more interesting when batters try hitting against the shift, including by bunting.

Third, it can get pretty boring when teams 'platoon' their batters.

Fourth, it would be more interesting if Managers more consistently scheduled in their starting lineups whichever players are hottest at the moment.

Fifth, spread your batting power more evenly throughout your lineup.

Sixth, we wish that some bold franchise in the National League would begin experimenting with a model where the batting order is split into two squads, each of which has its own 'clean-up' hitter.

Seventh, apply stars or stripes or other emblems to the players' home uniforms for having been the MVP's of previous wins during those regular seasons.

Eighth, consider scheduling TV coverage of different teams in proportion to the number of games which each team won during the preceding regular season.

Ninth, each visiting team should wear either a gray jersey or gray leggings or both.

Tenth, those teams who are willing/able to display any fireworks at all should do so after the home team wins, and only on those occasions.

Eleventh, locate your higher-level minor-league teams in the largest markets which do not have major-league or other high-level minor-league teams.

Twelfth, consider having a 3-game Division Series (instead of current 5) and 5-game League Series (instead of current 7) as buildup to 7-game World Series.

Answer 645.4 - We should not use automated systems to make the definitive call as to whether a given pitched ball qualifies as a strike.

Answer 645.5 - The corresponding umpire on first or third base should be making the definitive call as to whether or not a batter has swung on a given pitch, if appealed by either the Batter or the Catcher. Such appeals should be invoked sparingly. Batters striking out should not slam or break equipment.

Answer 645.6 - Currently experimenting with a new statistic of Overall Performance Index (OPI), which will reflect a player's overall offensive and defensive production regardless of position. The official definition of a 'no-hitter' should include any game where a pitcher throws nine complete innings without allowing a hit, even if he allows a hit in extra innings, and/or if the team loses; however, okay to add an asterisk for such an exception. At least the On-Base Average, and possibly also the Batting Average, should include when the batter reaches base on a fielding error. Runners should still credit for stolen bases even when there is 'defensive indifference'. Credit for pitching win generally should go to whoever pitched the most innings. Ding for pitching loss generally should go to whoever allowed the most runs, first tie broken by earned runs allowed, second tie broken by who appeared latest in the game.

### **Subsection III-E-6: Football**

Answer 645.7 - We generally should not be using a coin toss to decide who kicks off first and/or defends which goal first. Visiting team should decide which choice they get to make, and then the home team should make the other choice. Possible exception for the Super Bowl, but okay to treat as the visiting team for decision purposes whoever is coming from farther away.

Answer 645.8 - Quarterback should never be allowed without penalty to throw the ball intentionally to a spot on the ground in the field of play instead of toward an eligible Receiver.

Answer 645.9 - We should not permit Quarterbacks to throw the ball out-of-bounds in order to avoid a sack.

Answer 646.0 - Penalty for 'Intentional Grounding' should graduate according to the distance of the landed ball from the nearest eligible Receiver, and should be marked from the spot where the ball was thrown.

Answer 646.1 - Clock should stop on any loss of yardage.

Answer 646.2 - We are recommending that there be at least two possessions in Overtime, except if the Defense produces a score on the first possession (in which case the game ends immediately), and that there should be no further possessions if either Offense scores during that time. If each team scores a Touchdown on its first possession, then the first team may attempt only a regular Extra Point, and if they make it then the second team must complete a Two-Point Conversion or else lose. If each team scores a Field Goal on its first possession, then the game is decided by whichever Field Goal was longer. If neither team has scored during the first two possessions, then play proceeds on a 'sudden death' basis until any team scores anything.

Answer 646.3 - We may continue to use 'instant replay' to decide certain close calls which may have been decided incorrectly on the field.

Answer 646.35 - High school generally should play on Fridays, college on Saturdays, pros on Sunday.

Answer 646.4a - We are opposed to playing on Thursdays except on Thanksgiving.

Answer 646.4b - Quarterback should not receive statistical credit for ground gained by a Receiver after a catch.

### **Subsection III-E-7: Basketball**

Answer 646.5 - One rule change is that a defender may declare an 'Intentional Foul' by meeting the hands over the head, to stop the clock and allow whatever Free Throws would otherwise have been awarded in case of a normal non-flagrant Personal Foul. Another rule change is that players should be penalized for entering the 'key' while someone shooting a Free Throw is still touching the ball, by taking the shot over with the violating players removed from the vicinity of the key without replacement.

Answer 646.6 - New stat recommended for overall player performance, adding up all team points acquired while the player is on the floor, subtracting all team points allowed, and then dividing the difference by the number of minutes played.

### **Subsection III-E-8: Hockey**

Answer 646.7 - Any fistfights arising during the game should be stopped immediately, penalized during the game as appropriate, and considered for possible external prosecution.

### **Subsection III-E-9: Horse Racing**

Answer 646.8 - We should not allow/encourage a rule requiring lighter Jockeys to carry sandbags in order to provide a standard weight for the Horses to carry.

### **Subsection III-E-10: Boxing**

Answer 647 - Boxing should be permitted for adult audiences only, but removed (along with its advertising) from the Olympics and any other broadcasts to the general public. Same for any Mixed Martial Arts.

### **Subsection III-E-11: Olympics**

Answer 647.1 - We shall continue the institution of the Olympics for the foreseeable future.

Answer 647.2 - Most events which involve judging shall be continued, but the Ribbon Twirling is a possible candidate for elimination. Suggestions offered for mitigating outliers in judging.

Answer 647.3 - We should continue to hold the Winter and Summer games in different years.

Answer 647.4 - Professional athletes should continue to be permitted to participate in the Olympics.

Answer 647.5 - Nations may be partly or fully suspended from Olympic participation either for Olympic cheating or for any clear violation of Global Law, but not for any other reason.

Answer 647.6 - Events should be scheduled around the clock, so that everyone around the world can see live coverage at any time of day. Do not begin any Olympic events before the opening ceremony has concluded.

Answer 647.61 - One potentially-interesting new event would be for all runners to start at equally-spaced spots around the track, and for each to run until tagged out from behind, until only one runner remains. Would the event take minutes or days?

### **Subsection III-E-12: Pool/Billiards**

Answer 647.7 - Not seeking to clarify/change any of the basic rules of any pool/billiards game, but newbies should make sure to understand any 'house rules' clearly before playing in an unfamiliar venue.

### **Subsection III-E-13: Chess**

Answer 647.9 - Matches for the World Championship should conclude as scheduled if the score is tied after all the scheduled games have been played, with no tiebreakers, but the Champion should retain the title. Online platforms should penalize more points for a timeout than for a checkmate or resignation. Chess apps should deduct for inactivity. Chess analysts (both human and electronic) should use better piece values, for our experimentation has suggested that P=3 N=8 B=10 R=13 Q=26 is a more accurate reflection of relative piece strengths than the classic 1-3-3-5-9 paradigm still appearing in the Chess.com app.

### **Subsection III-E-14: Monopoly**

Answer 648 - Free Parking should remain as a free resting place, with no 'jackpot' or other event ensuing.

Answer 649 - Recommending a rule change that any player on your first or second roll in Jail should have the option of paying \$50 to get out on a non-Double after you have seen what the roll is.

### **Subsection III-E-15: Scrabble**

Answer 649.2 - Only words should be allowed which have appeared in actual English-language literature without any editorial indicators of being foreign or slang or otherwise non-standard words. We distrust any dictionary which contains the misleading expression "Webster's" in its title. Four suggestions offered for a Best Of All Dictionaries to use as a standard Scrabble source, recommending American Heritage as a default in meantime, not the so-called 'Scrabble Players Dictionary'.

Answer 649.3 - Private lexicographer should someday create a dictionary which contains only actual English words, with all plurals and other inflections having their own separate entries. When that happens, that book should be the default reference source for Scrabble and other word games.

### **SECTION III-F: LANGUAGE**

Answer 650 - We are now leaning away from having an 'Office of Language Services' at the Federal level, but we yet feel that we should have some amount of discussion in this document about the topic of Interpersonal Communication.

Answer 650.5 - Ebonics may be taught by local school districts as a secondary language or dialect, but not as a primary language, and in any case not with any special Federal funding.

### **Subsection III-F-1: Grammar**

Answer 651 - We may now use 'split infinitives' if they are not overly klutzy.

Answer 652 - We may now end clauses with prepositions, again if not too klutzy.

Answer 653 - We may now say "It's me" as an example of the new 'predicate disjunctive' to replace the old 'predicate nominative'. Exception if phrase is followed by a relative clause, such as "It was I who blew the whistle".

### **Subsection III-F-2: Vocabulary**

Answer 654 - Several correct and incorrect examples are listed of the word 'literally'.

Answer 655 - We may now say "ain't" as a contraction for 'am not'.

Answer 656 - For the present, we suggest using feminine pronouns for successful and ethical people, and male pronouns for criminals and other losers.

Answer 657 - We should generalize expressions like 'chairman' and 'congressman', and on a high priority.

Answer 658 - Even if we were not needing to make the expression gender-neutral, and even if we were sticking with only two Houses in our Congress, it still would be inappropriate to use the phrase 'Senators and Congressmen'.

Answer 658.1 - Difference between 'continual' and 'continuous' is described and exemplified.

Answer 658.2 - Difference between 'farther' and 'further' described and exemplified.

Answer 658.3 - Other words/expressions are either modified or at least clarified, including "ASAP", "Champing/chomping at the bit", "Comprise", "Concerted effort", "Different from/than", "Irregardless", "Junior", "Kudos", "Lie, Laid, Lain", "Like, As", "Make head spin/swim", "Only", "Percentage", "Unchartered territory", and "Verbal, Verbally".

### **Subsection III-F-3: Spelling**

Answer 659 - We should now double the final consonant of a verb when adding a suffix only if the final syllable of the infinitive is stressed, or if the first syllable of the suffix is stressed. Otherwise, doubling the final consonant should be avoided.

Answer 659.1 - Effective immediately after the publication of our final work product, the correct spelling of 'judgment' should be 'judgement'. We shall not for the present change the spelling of either 'acknowledge' or 'acknowledgement'.

Answer 659.2 - Not recommending any consolidation of letters at this time.

Answer 659.3 - Sticking with the American spellings of 'honor', 'neighbor', etc.

Answer 659.35 - Sorry gang, but it should be spelled 'theater' not 'theatre'.

Answer 659.4 - Clarifying difference between "Its" and "It's", and between "Lose" and "Loose".

### **Subsection III-F-4: Punctuation**

Answer 660 - We favor the placement of a comma to separate every item in a series (the "Oxford Comma"), whether any conjunctions are also used in the series or not.

Answer 661 - Commas and periods should appear within quotations of written statements only if they appeared within the original written statements.

Answer 661.2 - Further clarification on using quotation marks. Specifically as to titles, we recommend the following protocols, notwithstanding extensive inconsistencies within the long history of our full Final Report: Websites get only straight text. Single quotes go to chapters and episodes and songs, and any other titled components of works which get double quotes. Double quotes go to albums, articles, artworks, books, plays, series/miniseries, and any other titled components of works which get italics. Italics go to court cases, feature films, and periodicals.

Answer 661.4 - Foreign words should be stripped of all diacritical/accent marks before being used in English. We may immediately use such expressions without such marks, to make our typing and reading and electronic transmission easier. The

word *résumé*, meaning a summary listing of your employment qualifications, should be replaced with some different word which unambiguously means the same thing, but which does not require any special marking or special character.

### **Subsection III-F-5: Footnotes**

Answer 662 - Each footnote should appear at the 'foot' of the page containing whatever point the footnote is referring to, not at the end of a chapter or book. Footnotes should be managed in terms of quantity and length such that this practice does not become net-distractive to the reader. Alternative approach could be to stick bare citations at the end, and leave substantive notes at the foot of the text page.

Answer 662.1 - Originally favored traditional use of "op. cit." and "Ibid.", but modified to use "Asimov, see p.37" in place of "op. cit.", and to refer to a single footnote with several of the same superscript numbers instead of using "Ibid.".

### **Subsection III-F-6: Numbers**

Answer 662.3 - We do not see any big reason to vary from using Base 10 for our normal societal operations, and using Bases 2 and 8 and 60 (and possibly others) for certain special uses in special fields.

Answer 662.4 - We prefer the American system of defining a 'billion' to mean  $10^9$  over the British/French system of a 'billion' meaning  $10^{12}$ .

### **Subsection III-F-7: Measurement**

Answer 662.5 - Favoring gradual conversion to the 'metric system' in America. Sports leagues may decide whether to change the dimensions of their playing surfaces to their nearest convenient metric equivalent, or to express the current dimensions in metric terms.

Answer 662.6 - We may continue to say 'weight' instead of 'mass' in ordinary conversation, even if/when we complete conversion to metric.

Answer 662.7 - No adjustments to the 60-second Minute, the 60-minute Hour, and/or the 24-hour Day, except maybe during future space travel.

Answer 662.8 - No adjustments to the 360-degree Circle, or any other Circular measurement.

### **Subsection III-F-8: Pronunciation**

Answer 662.9 - The expression 'short-lived' should rhyme with 'arrived'. The word 'prenuptial' should be pronounced *pre-nup-chel*, not *pre-nup-choo-el*.

## **SECTION III-G: RACES, RELIGIONS, & OTHER GROUPS**

Answer 663 - No element or portion of the foregoing should apply any differently to different races, ethnic groups, religions, gender identities, sexual preferences, hand preferences, political persuasions, areas of the country, or any other groups.

Answer 664 - Final goal is for race or other personal attributes not to matter at all for anything anymore.

Answer 664.5 - It has been hard in America to normalize relations between whites and other races largely because of the heritage of White European-Americans to conquer and control others, going back over 500 years to the invention of the printing press in Germany, and the subsequent exploration and colonization of continents all over the World, with many of their conquest-loving descendants settling in America and claiming superiority over all other races and nationalities.

Answer 664.6 - We feel that it was appropriate for the Europeans to sail over to America and develop the continent, but we wish that the process had been managed better.

Answer 665 - At this stage of our evolution, no special provisions (including admission or employment quotas, busing, housing subsidies, etc.) should be made by Government to force individuals from different racial backgrounds to do stuff together.

Answer 666 - Individuals guilty of unfair discrimination should be required to leave their positions of authority, to attend counseling or standardized courses to deprogram their bigotry, and to cover any legal fees or other defense costs incurred by their victims.

Answer 667 - It is worthwhile to try to relieve bigotry among the populace.

Answer 668 - Suggestions offered for convincing at least some bigots to abandon their positions.

Answer 669 - We should try to ease relations among different religious groups.

Answer 670 - Suggestions offered for easing relations among different religious groups.

Answer 671 - We believe that there is no valid reason to harbor or display any hostility toward participants of alternate lifestyles, particularly those with sexual preferences different from ours.

Answer 671.1 - It is not appropriate to circumcise male children during infancy. However, we should not make a big deal about it, unless and until a groundswell of opposition from 'victims' becomes sufficiently enormous.

Answer 671.2 - Any state or local government should consider very carefully whether it really wants to display any Confederate symbologies in their official government buildings, or on the uniforms of any of its military or paramilitary troops.

Answer 671.5 - The term 'gender' is being used in different ways by different people these days, leading to big differences of opinion as to how many genders there are. Resolution of the debate will depend directly and solely upon resolution of the difference in vocabulary usage, one way or another. We recommend using 'gender' to describe the two basic sets of population which must provide exactly one member each in order to create a child, and the term 'personality' to describe the myriad ways in which an individual may wish to feel or dress or behave.



## **SECTION III-H: THE ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING ELSE**

### **Subsection III-H-1: Dates & Time**

Answer 672 - Recommending that we do not change our current year count, although receptive if there ever is a big enough push from the community.

Answer 673 - Recommending no change to the traditional use of the abbreviations 'B.C.' and 'A.D.'.

Answer 674 - While individuals may privately do what they will, correspondents who deal formally with foreign entities probably should adopt the DD-MMM-YYYY format for written dates in order to minimize confusion.

Answer 675 - We suggest designating the current December 21 as the new January 1 (New Year's Day), and resetting all calendars accordingly.

Answer 675.4 - We should continue to have Time Zones in the world.

Answer 675.5 - We wish that the Time Zone boundaries would follow State boundaries more closely, so that we would know more easily how far ahead or behind any particular American city is from wherever we are.

Answer 675.6 - The 'first' Time Zone of the Western Hemisphere should begin at 7.5° West longitude, and end at 22.5° West.

Answer 675.7 - Specifications offered for exact placement of official Time Zones within the contiguous 48 States, combining our objective to get most major Cities within their natural Time Zones, and to avoid dividing any of the contiguous 48 States among multiple Time Zones. Specifically, the Pacific Zone gets the remainder of Oregon; Mountain gets the remainder of Idaho; on the W side, Central gets the remainder of Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota; on the E side, Central gets the remainder of Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan, and all of Ohio; Eastern gets the remainder of Florida. Principal recommendation for Alaska is for the Eastern Panhandle to be in Zone 9, for the Western Aleutians to be in Zone 12, and to use Mount McKinley as the prime demarcation between Zone 10 and Zone 11, but we have some flexibility if the locals wish to do things differently.

Answer 675.8 - We can now eliminate Daylight Saving Time.

### **Subsection III-H-2: Holidays**

Answer 675.9 - We should continue to observe Holidays in our modern society.

Answer 676 - We are willing to retain the custom of celebrating certain Holidays on the nearest Monday. Birthdays and historical anniversaries should be celebrated on their actual days (with some possible exceptions of celebrating on Monday when the day falls on a weekend), but more generic observances (such as Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.) may happily occupy certain selected Mondays as a matter of routine.

Answer 677 - We are guessing that if Washington and Lincoln had been born in different months, Washington probably would have kept his own birthday instead of getting it converted to a generic 'Presidents Day', and Lincoln would have had a much better shot of getting his own holiday declared at the Federal level.

Answer 678 - 'Presidents Day' should go back to being 'Washington's Birthday', and should be observed on Washington's actual birthday, except when it falls on a weekend, in which case it can be the following Monday. Federal workers not engaged in key public services can be given the day off for it, but not private industry. Lincoln's Birthday should continue for now to be observed optionally at the State level, until all States once approve it, at which time we can finally Federalize it.

Answer 678.1 - Generally give gifts for holidays when recipients are kids, but not for adults, possible exceptions for specific holidays to be noted hereunder.

Answer 678.2 - Help out your Dad for Father's Day, don't give him stuff.

Answer 678.26 - We should continue to have a Labor Day.

Answer 678.27 - We probably should move Labor Day to May 1, in order to be consistent with similar observances in other nations.

Answer 678.3 - We are ready to drop 'Columbus Day' at this time. If you are going to have an 'Indigenous Peoples Day', then do it as far away from mid-October as you practically can. Also ready to change name of the 'District of Columbia'.

Answer 679 - We should slow down on stuffing candy down our kids' throats on Halloween, Christmas, Easter, birthdays, etc.

Answer 680 - Find some way to involve your kids in any family/community ceremonies which you may have to honor your dead, but make it some way which does not involve either watching Horror films or knocking on strangers' doors or eating a wheelbarrowful of candy.

Answer 681 - We acknowledge that reducing candy emphasis will be bad in the short term for candy companies and their employees, but we yet hold that it is in our better long-term interests.

Answer 681.5 - We may continue to observe Thanksgiving, provided that we focus on celebrating the current harvest and giving Thanks for all our current blessings, and not on a commemoration of anything which the Pilgrims allegedly did.

Answer 681.6 - No strenuous objection to continuing to celebrate Thanksgiving on a Thursday, nor to allowing the following Friday to be observed as an additional holiday if we can economically stand it.

Answer 681.7 - Also okay for Americans to continue celebrating Thanksgiving in November, and for Canadians to continue celebrating Thanksgiving in October.

Answer 681.8 - We probably need to de-emphasize Turkey as the default entrée for Thanksgiving, and save it for Christmas or some other feastday.

Answer 682 - We should move Christmas to September 25, whether we change the Calendar or not.

Answer 683 - We should continue/encourage the practice of exchanging gifts on Christmas where the recipients are kids, but reduce it for adult recipients. If continuing for adult recipients at all, then please be advised that gift cards are dumb. We don't really need annual greeting cards, either.

Answer 684 - We should get away from erecting either natural or artificial trees for Christmas, and focus on more environmentally-conscious symbols instead.

Answer 684.5 - Do please continue to feel free to display extra house lights in the vicinity of the Winter Solstice, whether we move Christmas to September or not.

Answer 685 - We should not proactively teach children about the existence of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Great Pumpkin, and other such characters, but neither should we deny them if our kids ask us about them.

### **Subsection III-H-3: Traffic**

Answer 685.9 - We should be addressing traffic improvement as part of this effort.

Answer 686 - Whoever owns and operates each roadway should have the primary authority of establishing speed limits for it. Jurisdictions should reconsider whether some of their speed limits may be unreasonably restrictive, possibly including by survey of affected residents and drivers.

Answer 686.5 - Local police should be allowed to deal with traffic issues on any streets and intersections surrounding a Federal building.

Answer 686.7 - Carpool lanes should not exist.

Answer 687 - If a particular emergency vehicle is not presently engaged in an emergency service, then we expect that its driver will obey all applicable traffic ordinances, same as everybody else.

Answer 688 - Any police officer who can't drive legally and enforce the laws at the same time should be assigned to somebody else as a partner, and tasked with either the driving detail or the policing duties.

Answer 689 - Even though police drive all day and every day, it is yet reasonable to expect drivers of police vehicles to pay attention to all traffic laws all the time.

Answer 690 - If all highway cruisers act as 'pace cars' when not in active pursuit, then nobody will ever pass them without running the risk of being spotted and stopped.

Answer 691 - Police can still see enough of the neighborhood if they drive within the speed limit, and remain stopped at every red light, if not singly then with a partner.

Answer 692 - Police can be exempted from posted parking restrictions if they are on official business at the time, and also if they get out of the way of any fire hydrant before the Fire Department gets there and needs to use it.

Answer 693 - Specifications offered for placing lane arrows on freeway signs.

Answer 693.2 - Our recent American trend in favor of SUV's and other large cars is more of a net-problem than a net-solution.

Answer 693.3 - Some clever person or group should develop a front-end camera which can capture all traffic violations occurring immediately in front of the driver.

Answer 693.4 - Cities and towns perceiving the noise of specific vehicles to be a problem should set up pages on their local civic websites, where residents can register complaints confidentially, including the date and time of each offense. If the noise really is bad enough to warrant correction, then enough complaints will have been generated along a certain path of travel within a particular time window to be able to identify the likely culprit. When enough such violations have occurred, a warning notice can be sent to the perp's home, and actual disciplinary measures can be taken if the offenses continue.

Answer 693.5 - Front-end cameras and civic websites can be combined to cut down on noisy vehicles driving down open highways.

Answer 694 - Speed bumps should be permitted but discouraged.

Answer 694.1 - Multiple further suggestions are offered to Governments for improving traffic conditions within their communities.

Answer 694.2 - Multiple further suggestions are offered to Drivers for improving traffic conditions within their communities.

Answer 694.3 - Multiple further suggestions are offered to Pedestrians for improving traffic conditions within their communities.

#### **Subsection III-H-4: Entertainment & Advertising**

##### **Subsubsection III-H-4-a: Film**

Answers 695-697 - Better from multiple angles if screenwriters continue to conform to the current page-per-minute standard, and then stay off the set and out of the production process except when requested for rewrites or other input.

Answer 698 - Asking for the writer to get credit position next to the director, but not insisting on it if the producers eagerly covet that spot.

Answer 699 - Possessory credits should be discontinued.

Answer 699.7 - Film should adopt a content-based rating system over anything which specifies chronological ages, and should clarify what they mean by 'adult themes' and 'thematic elements'.

##### **Subsubsection III-H-4-b: Television**

Answer 700 - We like the current rating system for TV shows.

Answer 701 - We strongly disfavor the concept of cutting (or 'compressing') feature films for time when broadcasting on TV. This includes running all credit sequences as originally presented, and not zipping through them so fast that no 'reasonable person' can read anything at all, and also not covering up any supplemental footage or sound which may have originally accompanied the credits.

Answer 701.1 - Films originally photographed in black-and-white may be broadcast or otherwise distributed in colorized versions, provided that the original versions are also available for viewing as before.

Answer 701.2 - If you are a cable channel devoted to shows about Science and Science Fiction, then okay to show enhanced versions of classic films and TV shows. Conversely, if you are a channel devoted to running classic TV series or classic films, then please stick with the original theatrical/broadcast release.

Answer 702 - With some exceptions, generally recommending for more commercial breaks of shorter duration, rather than fewer breaks of longer duration.

Answer 703 - Bad for any audio announcements or other messages to obliterate any auditory portion of the film (which includes its credit sequences), or to deny the film's creative artists their just acknowledgements.

Answer 703.5 - Don't order a pretty camera shot at a big sporting event, and then immediately block it with an advertising logo or other graphic.

Answer 704 - We generally prefer a technology and process which will capture the history of millions of willing viewers, not just a couple of thousand. Better if a device permitted by the viewer would track every moment that the viewer is tuned in to each channel, as opposed to a log which only approximates actual viewing time.

Answer 704.2 - Cable subscribers should not be required to pay high prices for hundreds of channels which they never watch, but instead should be allowed to pay for only the channels which they actually want. No cable company should have exclusive control over any geographic area of any size, and each household should have access to at least three competing cable companies.

#### **Subsubsection III-H-4-c: Radio**

Answer 705 - Radio commercials should not have all that legal crap.

Answer 706 - Any factual statement about your own product/service (including the price) should be allowed in radio advertisements, but don't make any opinion-oriented statement about any competitor's brand.

Answer 707 - Individual stations generally should be allowed to decide whether to interrupt their music programs with traffic reports or weather predictions or other news updates, and might consider polling their viewers for their preferences.

Answer 707.1 - Sorry, barbershoppers, but sadly it's time to retire "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and any other songs with lyrics "that make you want to go to war", as well as any songs which reflect racial stereotypes.

#### **Subsubsection III-H-4-d: Advertising - Other**

Answer 707.5 - We should have the option to set our phones to block automatically without any distracting notification all calls coming from anyone except those on our contact lists.

Answer 707.6 - No ugly pix in web advertising, or else we will turn our ad blockers back on for a time. We also will not click on any banner ads until we are confident that we can do so without any kind of pop-ups or viruses or any other such problems on our computers. We hope that advertisers can be 'persuaded' to keep their advertising off of the actual field of play.

Answer 707.7 - Allow all Internet users to decide by standard setting whether or not they wish to allow 'cookies' to track their browsing for purpose of being targeted with relevant advertising. Once they make that decision, website owners and advertisers should respect it, and quit bugging people to consider acceptance of 'cookies', including by the use of banners which don't go away unless you click to accept their 'cookie' policy.

Answer 707.8 - Companies should not be allowed to advertise the price of one element of a package if you must buy the whole package.

#### **Subsection III-H-5: Free Press**

Answer 708 - Any individual or corporation should be allowed to operate a printing press or electronic platform to report on news, and/or to provide opinions on current events. That individual or corporation could lose their license to operate as an approved news/opinion provider if they are shown to have enough violations for asserting supposedly-factual statements which they know -- or should have known -- were actually false. Even publishers promoting an agenda of discrimination, hatred, violence, or some other bad thing should be allowed to operate.

#### **Subsection III-H-6: Genetic Engineering**

Answer 709 - Genetic Engineering should be used to cure diseases, and to make foods either more plentiful and/or more nutritious for our consumption, but not for bizarre experiments to create 'monsters'. OK to use 'stem cells' to cure injuries and illnesses. Not big fans of cloning humans at this time.

#### **Subsection III-H-7: Fashion**

Answer 710 - We should not continue to pressure males to have short hair, and females to have longer hair.

Answer 710.3 - Schoolchildren who are required to wear uniforms may select from either gender style. Those not required to wear uniforms should be both tasteful and non-disruptive in their dress (including by no political slogans), but otherwise may indulge in some individual expression which may not be consistent with any associated gender stereotype.

Answer 710.5 - Aspiring models should not starve themselves to get work, and presumably will no longer feel motivated to do so in our new body-positive environment.

### **Subsection III-H-8: Restaurant Protocols**

Answer 710.9 - Please do not lean chairs against tables in banquet rooms to 'save' them, because it presents a safety hazard.

Answer 711 - Reasons offered for placing napkin in lap while dining.

Answer 712 - Restaurant workers may continue to clear stuff from table before diner is finished.

Answer 712.3 - We previously considered that discarded food at restaurants could at least be released for the sustenance of local animals, but we are concerned about mice even with a big cat population, so we recommend deferring to the guidelines established by your County's Health Department. Absent any official objection, restaurants should dump excess food in sanitary containers, to be picked up nightly by orgs which can feed it to offsite animals or otherwise repurpose it.

Answer 712.4 - We considered requesting all restaurants to open earlier and close later in order to accommodate more customers with different personal schedules, but in the end we recognize that they need to balance customer demand with the cost of labor and utilities.

Answer 712.5 - Discouraging practice to announce order pickups using customer names.

Answer 712.6 - Supermarkets should not place kiosks in the aisle. Shoppers should always look around when they stop their carts to make sure that they're not blocking their fellow shoppers.

### **Subsection III-H-9: Around the House**

Answer 712.7 - New protocol recommended for 'top sheet' usage.

Answer 713 - Tops of toilet paper should roll away from the wall toward the user.

### **CONCLUSION**

Answer 714 - If we missed anything, then send an e-mail to [a2e.reformproject@gmail.com](mailto:a2e.reformproject@gmail.com) or a Direct Message (DM) by Twitter to @a2e\_project sooner rather than later.