



Self-Reliance Institute Newsletter

June 2014 Volume 2, Issue 6

Are You Headed Up, Down or Sideways?

I'm a news junkie.

And I'm willing to bet that many members of the Self-Reliance Institute are also news junkies.

The problem these days is that the news media is filled with bias – mostly to the left – that makes it almost impossible to determine fact from fiction.

Frankly, many news reports and political statements are nothing but lies.

For example, if you listen to the steady drumbeat of economic news emanating from the Main Stream Media, you'd think we should all be singing "Happy Days Are Here Again!"

But is that your reality? It's certainly not mine!

Has your economic situation improved dramatically since the Great Recession, or do you feel like the country – other than the Wall Street insiders – is still suffering from a recession?

If we are to be self-reliant and

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The Price Of Freedom

My friends, this Memorial Day I would like to share with you a beautiful and meaningful arrangement of the words spoken by President Ronald Reagan at his first inaugural, January 20, 1981.

The words have been fashioned into a video that I am embedding toward the end of this message.

I found this arrangement of President Reagan's words quite moving and appropriate for Memorial Day – the one day each year that we honor the men and women who've died while serving in our nation's armed forces.

Here are President Reagan's words as arranged to highlight the sacrifice of so many brave Americans.

If we look to the answer as to why for so many years we achieved so much, prospered as no other people on Earth, it was because here in this land we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price.

Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look...the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery, with its row upon row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David.

[Price Of Freedom continued page 3](#)

George Will: Global Warming and Socialism

As I am writing this weekly advisory for the Self-Reliance Institute, it is snowing outside my home. Granted, because I live at an altitude of 8,000 feet in the Rockies, the weather is always unpredictable.

But even Denver and other lower-altitude areas in the West are getting snow this second weekend of May. And this burst of snow is coming on the heels of a very cold winter for much of the United States.

So cold, in fact, that many economists claim the unusually harsh winter is one of the reasons the

economy was so poor in the first quarter of this year.

Ironically, the historically cold winter is still impacting many regions of the country right as we're being told by the Obama administration that we're all doomed because the earth is overheating because of man-made climate change.

Perhaps we need a dose of common sense.

Perhaps we need a dose of George Will.

[As a quick aside, before I discuss why I'd like you to listen to George Will when it comes to the controversial subject of global warming, here

[Global Warming? Continued page 6](#)

They Are Listening and Watching

For many years, there were always rumors and educated guesses about what the National Security Agency (NSA) might or might not be doing when it came to monitoring foreign and domestic communications.

For those of us who were paying close attention, the first big breakthrough came with the 1982 publication of James Bamford's first book about the NSA, "The Puzzle Palace: A Report On America's Most Secret Agency."

Bamford went on to publish: "*The Puzzle Palace: Inside the National Security Agency, America's Most Secret Intelligence Organization*" (2001); "*Body of Secrets: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency*" (2002); "*A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies*" (2005); and, "*The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America*" (2008).

These are all excellent books and I highly recommend them.

For me, having the government monitor my life and communications became personal in September 1987 when I was appointed by a federal judge in Washington, D.C., to be the criminal defense investigator for Fawaz Younis.

Younis was the first ever international terrorist captured overseas and brought back to the United States where he was convicted by a trial

jury of air piracy and hostage-taking for an attack against U.S. citizens on foreign soil. As the Associated Press reported:

"Fawaz Younis, a member of the Amal Militia in Lebanon, led the 1985 hijacking of Royal Jordanian Airlines Flight 402 in Beirut. Younis and four gunmen unsuccessfully tried to fly to Cyprus before returning to Beirut, where they blew up the plane after releasing the passengers unharmed. Two of the hostages were U.S. citizens."

At the first court hearing after my appointment, U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker called the defense attorney and me up to the bench for an off-the-record discussion about a number of procedural matters.

At the end of that discussion, Judge Parker leaned in especially close and whispered, "I can't officially tell you this, but I hope you realize you will be under constant physical and electronic surveillance for as long as this case lasts."

I had already been investigated and cleared by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) so that I could see the intelligence the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other assorted alphabet agencies had gathered on Younis in order to track him for years and eventually capture him during a sting operation off the coast of Cy-



prus.

Additionally, I had already signed non-disclosure agreements with the federal government acknowledging that if I ever revealed any of that secret information (agreements I would later repeat numerous times in other cases involving international terrorism and high level public corruption), I would be subjected to prison for many years.

Still, even though I was aware I was being allowed to see a small piece of the intelligence world few ever see, I'll admit Judge Parker's warning sent a cold chill down my spine.

As it turned out, the case lasted almost two years and I got used to taking steps to protect my privacy from constant federal surveillance.

During that time, my family and friends eventually got used to the fact that I wouldn't discuss anything of substance on the phone. They never knew why for sure. But since the case was all over the news and they knew I was involved, I suspect they figured out why I wasn't very conversational on certain topics.

[Someday I'll share the story of the terrorism case where my client was being held at a secret government safe house and how I would be picked up in vehicles with heavily armed escorts and blacked out

[Watching and Listening continued page 5](#)



Price of Freedom

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They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno, and halfway around the world on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under one such marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small town barbershop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We're told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, "My Pledge," he had written these words: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

We must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.

As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever.

We are Americans.



<http://www.bmg.com/images/search?q=Free+pictures+of+President+Ronald+Reagan&q=Free+pictures+of+president+ronald+reagan&q=0-23&g=1&w=714>

ment. If the video does not work in your copy of this message, you can find the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVecpn3DUHc>

As we begin the summer and work each day to become more self-reliant Americans, I hope we will all pause today and reflect on the

more than one million Americans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. And it is my fervent wish that we will all redouble our commitment to creating a stronger, freer nation as we move forward.

The price for freedom has been high.

I am thankful that there have always been Americans willing to pay that price.

I pray that there always will be those who answer the call of duty.

If you would like to share your thoughts with me this Memorial Day, please email me at Rob@SelfRely.com

Be safe and secure,
Rob Douglas



Here is the video of the arrange-

Up, Down, Sideways

working toward our personal betterment and that of our families, we need to be honest about where the nation stands economically so we can evaluate how much we'll need to rely on our own wits and labor if hard economic times are going to be the norm for the foreseeable future.

One of my favorite blogs, [Zero-Hedge](#), posted a piece by [Michael Snyder of the Economic Collapse Blog](#) that puts the national economic picture in context.

The post, "[17 Facts to Show to Anyone That Still Believes That the U.S. Economy Is Just Fine](#)," provides the following data:

1) The homeownership rate in the United States has dropped to the lowest level in 19 years.

2) Consumer spending for durable goods has dropped by 3.23 percent since November. This is a clear sign that an economic slowdown is ahead.

3) Major retailers are closing stores at the fastest pace that we have seen since the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

4) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 20 percent of all families in the United States do not have a single member that is employed. That means that one out of every five families in the entire country is completely unemployed.

5) There are 1.3 million fewer jobs in the U.S. economy than when the last recession began in December 2007. Meanwhile, our population has continued to grow steadily since that time.

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6) According to a new report from the National Employment Law Project, the quality of the jobs that have been "created" since the end of the last recession does not match the quality of the jobs lost during the last recession...Lower-wage industries constituted 22 percent of recession losses, but 44 percent of recovery growth...Mid-wage industries constituted 37 percent of recession losses, but only 26 percent of recovery growth...Higher-wage industries constituted 41 percent of recession losses, and 30 percent of recovery growth.

7) After adjusting for inflation, men who work full-time in America today make less money than men who worked full-time in America 40 years ago.

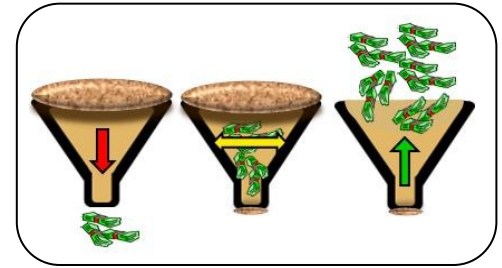
8) It is hard to believe, but 62 percent of all Americans make \$20 or less an hour at this point.

9) Nine of the top ten occupations in the U.S. pay an average wage of less than \$35,000 a year.

10) The middle class in Canada now makes more money than the middle class in the United States does.

11) According to one recent study, 40 percent of all Americans could not come up with \$2000 right now even if there was a major emergency.

12) Less than one out of every four Americans has enough money put away to cover six months of expenses if there was a job loss or



major emergency.

13) An astounding 56 percent of all Americans have subprime credit in 2014.

14) As I wrote about the other day, there are now 49 million Americans that are dealing with food insecurity.

15) Ten years ago, the number of women in the U.S. that had jobs outnumbered the number of women in the U.S. on food stamps by more than a 2 to 1 margin. But now the number of women in the U.S. on food stamps actually exceeds the number of women that have jobs.

16) 69 percent of the federal budget is spent either on entitlements or on welfare programs.

17) The number of Americans receiving benefits from the federal government each month exceeds the number of full-time workers in the private sector by more than 60 million.

If you'd like to see some of the underlying data for each of the above points, go to, "[17 Facts to Show to Anyone That Still Believes That the U.S. Economy Is Just Fine](#)."

When I read that list, I don't believe "Happy Days Are Here Again" when it comes to the U.S. economy. If anything, I think the United States could go over an economic cliff in my lifetime and I want to be prepared when that day comes.

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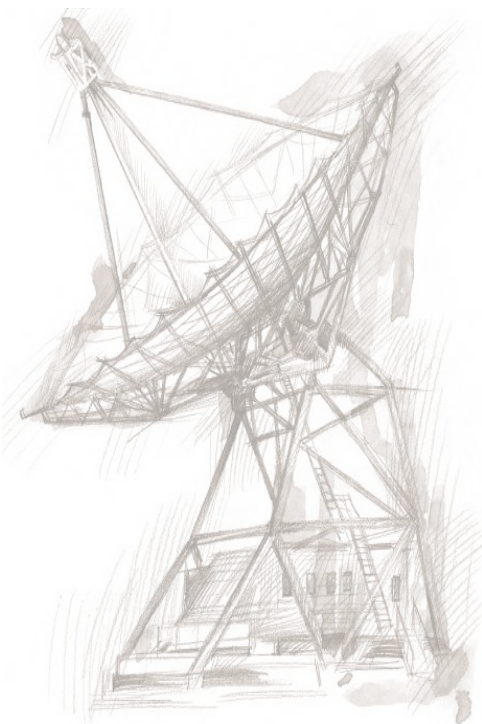
... there are now 49 million Americans that are dealing with food insecurity ...

Watching and Listening

Continued from Page 2

windows (often changing vehicles in underground garages as helicopters monitored our progress overhead) so I wouldn't know where I was meeting with the client.]

Yet, while I've had a taste of how a few of our intelligence agencies work, and the Bamford books were available for the general public to read (few did), it wasn't until the revelations by former NSA employ-contractor Edward Snowden began in 2013 that Americans really sat up and took notice of the fact that they



are under 24/7/365 surveillance by their government.

This week, a trusted business associate pointed out to me that Ars Technica published [“Photos of an NSA ‘upgrade’ factory show Cisco router getting implant.”](#) The subtitle is, [“Servers, routers get ‘beacons’ implanted at secret locations by NSA’s TAO team.”](#)

The piece contains photographs of “NSA techs perform(ing) an unauthorized field upgrade to Cisco hardware.”

The article states:

“A document included in the trove of National Security Agency files released with Glenn Greenwald’s book “No Place to Hide” details how the agency’s Tailored Access Operations (TAO) unit and other NSA employees intercept servers, routers, and other network gear being shipped to organizations targeted for surveillance and install covert implant firmware onto them before they’re delivered.”

“These Trojan horse systems were described by an NSA manager as being ‘some of the most productive operations in TAO because they pre-position access points into hard target networks around the world.’”

The article quotes an NSA manager as saying:

*“Here’s how it works: shipments of computer network devices (servers, routers, etc.) being delivered to our targets throughout the world are **intercepted**. Next, they are **redirected to a secret location** where Tailored Access Operations/Access Operations (AO-S326) employees, with the support of the Remote Operations Center (S321), enable the **installation of beacon implants** directly into our targets’ electronic devices. These devices are then re-packaged and placed back into transit to the original destination. All of this happens with the support of Intelligence Community*



partners and the technical wizards in TAO.”

I encourage you to read the entire article by clicking →[HERE](#).

So yes my friends, in the post 9/11 world we are all under surveillance in ways many Americans would have never imagined and, I suspect, many find unconstitutional and horrifying.

I'll close by letting you know I am currently reading Glenn Greenwald's "No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Surveillance State." It's a book that every American should read along with "Top Secret America" by Dana Priest and William Arkin.

In the coming weeks, I'll share some of the insights from "No Place to Hide" and put them in the context of a number of the investigations I was involved in over the years as a Washington, D.C., private detective.

I'll also share more of my updated thoughts on what you can do to protect your privacy and security from an increasingly oppressive government.

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas



Up, Down, Sideways

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How about you?

Is your personal economic outlook headed up, down or sideways?

Are you taking steps to prepare in case there is an economic collapse even larger than the Great Recession?

Email me at Rob@SelfRely.com and tell me your assessment of the current economic situation in the U.S. and whether you think our fellow Americans are prepared if the worst happens.

In coming advisories, I'll draw on the expertise of my business associate Chris Peterson to discuss specific steps every American should be taking right now to be prepared in case economic collapse leads to – and you know it will – social unrest and potentially violence.

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas



Global Warming

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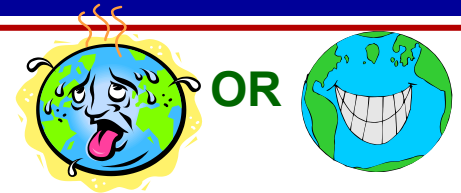
is your free copy of the [May edition of the Self-Reliance Newsletter.](#)]

OK, back to George Will and so-called global warming / climate change / climate disruption / or whatever it's being called this week.

As members of the Self-Reliance Institute, it's important that we understand what problems are real and, therefore, we need to be prepared to combat.

It's also important that we recognize there are individuals and organizations with phony agendas who constantly attempt to deceive the American people for their own ideological gains.

For example, this is often true when we discuss individuals and organizations who want to take away our Second Amendment rights. They intentionally distort the meaning of the Second Amendment and characterize law-abiding citizens who believe in the Second Amendment as "gun nuts" as a means toward the end of taking away guns from Americans.



I believe this is also true when it comes to the increasing hysteria about "global warming." There are those who want to use false and unknowable predictions about global warming as a means to the end of centralizing even more power in the hands of the federal government in Washington, D.C.

But don't take my word for it. Instead, watch this interview by The Daily Caller of Washington Post columnist and Fox News contributor George Will as he argues that "global warming is socialism by the back door."

What do you think?

Is George Will correct?

Or, do you believe that we are all in imminent danger from global warming?

Please email me at Rob@SelfRely.com with your thoughts.

Be safe and secure,

Rob Douglas



Self-Reliance Institute Newsletter

Privacy:

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE: WE WILL NOT EVER GIVE, SELL, OR RENT YOUR INFORMATION TO ANYONE – EVER.

Questions or comments?

Please email me at Chris@SelfRely.com or call me at my Freedom Writer's Publishing office at 970-367-7624.



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