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COMMON SENSE HERALD SPACE REPORT

Imagine a re-usable rocket - space plane taking off from the Lehigh Valley International Airport destined for an orbiting space hotel or a shuttle destined to the Moon or Mars or a space taxi to some far off earth destination ... It is far more possible now that Elon Musk's

private company SpaceX has successfully re-landed the 1st stage of its Falcon 9 rocket. Meanwhile the remaining stages of the rocket delivered communication satellites into orbit.

Grasshopper and the Falcon 9 Reusable Development Vehicles (F9R Dev) were experimental technology-demonstrator, suborbital reusable rockets that make vertical takeoffs and vertical landings. The project was privately funded by Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX), with no funds provided by the government. Two prototypes were built, and both were launched from the ground.

Grasshopper was announced in 2011 and began low-altitude, low-velocity hover/landing testing in 2012. The initial Grasshopper test vehicle was 106 ft (32 m) tall and made eight successful test flights in 2012 and 2013 before being retired. A second Grasshopper-class prototype was the larger and more capable Falcon 9 Reusable Development Vehicle (F9R Dev, also known as F9R Dev1) based on the Falcon 9 v1.1 launch vehicle. It was tested at higher altitudes and supersonic speeds as well as providing additional low-altitude tests. The F9R Dev1 vehicle was built in 2013–2014 and made its first low-altitude flight test on 17 April 2014; it was lost during a three-engine test at the McGregor test site on 22 August 2014.

The Grasshopper and F9R Dev tests were fundamental to the development of the reusable Falcon 9 and reusable Falcon Heavy rockets, which are planned to require vertical landings of the near-empty Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy first-stage booster tanks and engine assemblies. The Grasshopper and the F9R Dev tests led into a series of high-altitude, high-speed controlled-descent tests of post-mission (spent) Falcon 9 booster stages that accompanied the commercial Falcon 9 missions since September 2013. The latter eventually resulted in the first successful booster landing on 21 December 2015.



COMMON SENSE HERALD SPACE NEAR TERM FICTION REPORT

A Honeymoon Cruise to the Moon
by Ronnie Lajoie,
edited and expanded by Dennis L. Pearson



Picture this ... You have just gotten married and you and your new spouse begin your honeymoon by boarding a commercial space shuttle owned and operated by Virgin Galactic to take them into Low Earth Orbit.

Virgin Galactic started as company within Richard Branson's Virgin Group which planned to provide suborbital spaceflights to space tourists, suborbital launches for space science missions, and orbital launches of small satellites. And further in the future, Virgin Galactic hoped to offer orbital human spaceflights as well. The future being the present for our young honey moon couple.

For many years Virgin Galactic's spacecraft was launched from a large aeroplane, giving the spacecraft more initial

speed and altitude than if it were launched from the ground. But for this orbital trip Virgin Galactic utilizes a single stage to orbit vehicle with vertical take-off and horizontal landing.

The US Federal Aviation Administration had given the green light for the world's first commercial spaceport in New Mexico in December 2008. And since then, a number of other commercial spaceports developed as the industry became viable and prosperous.

The present year is 2031 and the following non-federal FIAA licensed Launch Sites operate in the United States:

- 1) Spaceport America in New Mexico
 - 2) Cape Canaveral Spaceport in Florida
 - 3) Cecil Field Spaceport in Florida
 - 4) Oklahoma Spaceport on Oklahoma
 - 5) Mojave Air and Spaceport in California
 - 6) California Spaceport in California
 - 7) Kodiak Launch Complex in Alaska
 - and 8) Mid Atlantic Regional Spaceport (Mars) Virginia
- but other spaceports or either in the process of construction or debate in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Texas (multiple locations) Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

Then too, In 2031 the U.S. Government still operates launch sites at Edward's Air Force Base in California, Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, Kennedy Space Center and

Cape Canaveral Air Force station in Florida and finally, Wallops' Island in Virginia.

Uniquely, the Blue Origin Launch Site in Texas is operated by one provider

And the Poker Flat Research Range is owned by the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute

Penn State University too is in the suborbital, orbital and trans orbital business as its successful Lunar Lion X team reached the Moon in 2020 and stayed in business with the prestige it won as a Lunar X Prize winner.

Located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) is situated on the NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility and enjoys an idea location. Nearby Chincoteague Island and neighboring Assateague Island offer resented amenities, including the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and the Assateague Island National Seashore.

Our newly married couple for convenience has chosen the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport which is operated under the auspices of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority to be the launch point of their journey. The couple were born and raised and still live in the Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania; and have a relatively short airplane flight or train trip or automobile ride to get to the MARS Launch site.

Wouldn't it be something if their Single Launch to Orbit Rocket could land at either the Queen City or Lehigh Valley International Airports'

Let it be understood that the launch of a spacecraft comprises a period of powered flight during which the vehicle rises above the Earth's atmosphere and accelerates at least to orbit velocity. Powered flight ends when the rocket's last stage burns out , and the spacecraft separates and continues free fall. If the spacecraft achieved escape from Earth's gravitation, rather than entering Earth Orbit, its flight path then will be a solar orbit of some description (since the launch pad was also in solar orbit)

In this case, the total mass of the single launch to total rocket will comprise a period of powered flight during which the vehicle rises above the Earth's atmosphere and after performing a maneuver or two, the couple's shuttle accelerates to rendezvous with a passing space cruise liner accelerates to a destination point in Earth Orbit to achieve rendezvous with a passing space cruise liner. a giant rotating space hotel with all the luxury accommodations of the best hotels and Casinos on Earth.. The Space Cruise liner a joint venture between Bigelow Aerospace, Virgin Galactic, Hilton Hotels and the Walt Disney Company.

The next step would be for the shuttle to dock with and join the space cruise liner (this one named the Burt Ratan)

on its week-long journey to the Moon and back ... This journey in a more basic way was taken by U.S. Government employees at least 8 times between 1968 and 1972. Six of these trips resulted in 12 U.S Citizens setting foot on the Moon and 6 others sightseeing above in Low Moon Orbit , Two of these trips involving six other individuals were Moonswing-rounds - one intentional and one unintended.

Concerning the intentional swing-round, our most seasoned citizens remember the inspirational Christmas reading of the Genesis Story while on board cameras transmitted lunar and earth pictures back to Earth . Concerning the unintentional swing-round, a trip that should had landed 2 additional Americans on the Moon, but instead held Americans and the world in suspense as an on board explosion canceled the Moon landing and made those fellow human beings on planet Earth wonder whether the Apollo 13 astronauts would get home safely.

The married couple (husband and wife , spouse and spouse) disembarks the Shuttle and immediately follow other passengers to the nearest observation window to watch their home planet Earth slowly recede. After several hours of planet-gazing and cuddling, the two of them finally pull themselves away from the window long enough today to check into their room. An unique room that can automatically expand from its original dimensions and detract to its original dimensions to accommodate the amount of people that enter it or leave it.

The Reservation Clerk told the Couple that they had a reservation for a room on the "Sands of Mars Level," where centripetal acceleration from the rotating ship equaled the gravity of the planet Mars -- and where there was a beach party held there every other night! Then the Clerk added that the Couple (Mr. & Mrs. (What name do you want to put here?) still had not decided on what level to consummate their marriage: "Earth," "Mars," "Moon," or "Zero-G" --- Perhaps all four! Why not, the Couple had all week to enjoy these experiences or sensations.

Of course, being adventurous, the couple decided to have their first dinner on the "Zero-G-Level... What a big mistake that was ... Oh well! ... At least the folks at the other table forgave them and laughed about it.... And the staff assured them that the wine stain could be removed.... Has anyone seen how the waiters and waitresses working for the 1950's style Sonic restaurant serve their orders while skating on roller skates, well up here in the Zero-G-Level it was fun to see the waiters literally swim in a waterless environment to and from each table. But of course, by the end of the trip, the couple is really glad that they can have a nice "normal" morning cup of coffee on the good old "Earth Level".

That's just the way it is ... Even on Earth a group of American and Canadian Tourists visiting China welcomed the menu choice of a genuine hamburger after eating for days on end the same Chinese Menu choice. The inflexible Chinese Tour Guide had planned yet another

repetitive Chinese Menu choice when faced with a mini-revolt, suddenly had to become flexible to avoid losing control of their clients. But at the same time warned his clients to be back on the bus at the planned time or else.

What next for the couple on the Cruise liner? Why not give a go at bowling on the "Lunar Level." In 1/6th Gravity how wacky can these games be? And boy, You should see how far these pins fly! Perhaps not as far as Alan Shepard's unauthorized Golf Shot on the Moon. But what is obvious they split and fly much further than what they would do on Earth. Then afterwards, the Couple will find an observation window pointing at the Moon to do more gazing and of course, more cuddling.

Then it's on to Beach Party # 1 back on "Mars Level."

On Day 2, the passengers of the Rutan were required to participate in an Evacuation Drill, so that everyone on board would know how to get to the nearest lifeboats in case of a serious emergency. This is no different than what ocean going cruise liners put their passengers through. Except life boats on the space cruise liner must be prepared to deal with issues that are quite different than issues that must be dealt with by ocean liners.

Each lifeboat must have enough fuel and supplies on board to sustain life all the way back to Earth; however, the nominal plan is to dock one at a time with one of the larger Earth return shuttles, like the one that brought the

current passenger including the newly married couple here.

As the days progress, more and more time is spent by all passengers watching the Moon as it grows larger and larger in the observation windows. Then on the day of the closest approach , there is a final briefing on the Close Pass Thrill Ride which includes the usual warning for children and people with weak hearts, The married couple and the other passengers are asked at this briefing whether any of them would change their mind about going. Mr and Mrs _____ say:" No way, We're going for it!"

According to the schedule, Mr & Mrs _____ climb aboard a smaller lunar shuttle - this one would have no wings and would look like two fat sausage links: a passenger compartment and a separate fuel tank and engine section. A second shuttle just like the one being used is on standby in case of an emergency.

Then your shuttle leaves the cruise liner and performs an orbitalmaneuver to head closer to the lunar surface. Meanwhile, the cruise liner passes the Moon at its optimum distance for a free return to Earth as the tiny lunar shuttle descends closer to the Moon and takes the adventure seekers on board on a thrill ride of one's life.

The large, thick lunar glass window, held firm by strong

metal straps, gives the group a wide field of view that only astronauts have while space-walking. Your lunar shuttle pilot identified craters, industrial and educational sites which could be seen on your way towards the surface - including the Gary Larsen Far Side Observatory and the University of Tranquility School of Economics and Technology at Nittany Bay - but eventually becomes quiet to focus on piloting. Since the moon has no atmosphere, your lunar shuttle is going to get Really close with no resistance, and it would be moving so fast that at its closest approach the landscape may become a blur...What does a cowboy say on a bucking horse? ...

Yee-Hah ... That is what _____ said in an very excited voice as his shuttle reached its closest approach to the Lunar surface.

As it happened, the Orbital arc of the lunar shuttle took it back up from the surface, and after another orbital maneuver it makes a rendezvous and docks back with the space cruise liner. Mrs. _____, the daughter of _____ said: "Wow."

Over dinner at the Lunar Lagoon Polynesian restaurant, the _____ meet an elderly couple who stayed on board the cruise liner during the closest approach and who had a lovely view of the far side of the Moon. The couple share experiences and agree to exchange photographs back on Earth ... Oh did I tell you that the _____ had the privilege of speaking to and sitting with former President Barack

Obama and his wife Michelle. As president, Obama had canceled the government's effort to get back to the Moon to stay and then go on to Mars. His new direction for NASA was more robotic, but he later promoted an effort to go to Mars and the Asteroids. As far as the Moon, his attitude was that we did that, done that... Never the less, he hoped that the new Commercial space business would pick up the slack in Low Earth Orbit and beyond...

Eventually the Commercial Space Business developed the capacity to go to Low Earth Orbit and to the Moon. However, this development occurred for other reasons than Obama's approach.

After some Zero-G dancing under some major moonlight, the _____ then venture over to the Crater Copernicus Casino on the Lunar Level where you could have fun with low gravity Craps and Roulette.

With the Moon now receding and the Earth growing every hour, it was time to return to the observation windows frequently. Of course the main reason for people taking this cruise would be to see for themselves what once only the Apollo astronauts saw. Video recordings and virtual reality just cannot compare with the intense feelings that all this is actually happening in real time.

On Departure day, it is time to say good-bye to newly met friends and take one last look out of an observation window at the rapidly approaching blue-green and swirly-white marble called Earth. Then all passengers climb

aboard the same Earth space shuttle that brought them here. The _____ notice that some of the passengers are returning cruise liner staff. One of them tells the _____ that the shuttle is carrying some non-recyclable waste products from the cruise liner that will be jettisoned and burned up in the atmosphere during reentry.

Once the shuttle undocks from the cruise liner, all eyes watch as it sails away once again on a journey around the Moon. And then too, all eyes strain to see the space shuttle that is taking the next batch of guests to the space liner, but that won't happen until the cruise liner has rounded the planet. All eyes strain for a glimpse of an orbiting space station, but space is big, even in Low Earth Orbit, and the shuttles return trajectory is designed to stay well away from orbiting satellites and stations.

Certainly, reentry is fun, once one can get over the nervousness of seeing orange plasma engulf the shuttle. The reentry loads are not as high as launch, and since all returning guests had spent their last two hours on the cruise liner on the Earth level, they are less uncomfortable during reentry. Landing is made at a Spaceport (this case, to one's surprise the new Queen City Space Port in Allentown Pennsylvania without incident , and all passengers get a quick check up while waiting for their luggage. Out in the parking, the _____ both seek the car with the just married foam logo still on the windshield. There it is ... No, that's someone else's. After the _____ find their car, they spot more just

married logos on other parked cars. In amazement, the _____ said :Gee, quite a number of newlyweds must be taking the honeymoon cruise to the Moon.... "It may become more popular than going to Niagara Falls, Disney World or Las Vegas."

COMMON SENSE HERALD OPINION REPORT



I We exercise these thoughts to those who may agree with us and to those who may disagree with us. And equally to those who may show respect for us and those who may have disrespect against us and talk against us and direct action against us with or without cause.

“All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only crime is pride.”

— Sophocles, Antigone

As we stand today, the political situation in this City of no limits is a mess That is because a few authorized officials in this City of no limits apparently went beyond their authorized limits to accomplish certain public policy... And in the process have exposed themselves to disclosure, embarrassment and additional repercussions. . .Unfortunately for the public there too will be consequences for the behavior of their political leaders exercising their powers beyond authorized limits

As the public voice on the cutting edge of the future it is not our prime mission to question vigorously the policies or value system of our leaders . However, we do analyze these policies or value systems to get to the truth . It being our intent to show respect for our political leaders until such point they expose themselves as doing evil.

In regard to our political leaders, we are trusting that they as good men would yield when they realize their current course is wrong, and commence repairs to the evil they have apparently have wrought.

Yes indeed, as we stand now, a heavy sword of pending justice hangs over the heads of the political leaders in the this city which once proudly proclaimed itself the All-American City.. This being the case since the day in July when the FBI made a purposeful visit to the Allentown City Hall to gather up documents and data it needed to properly conduct an investigation in

regard to certain improprieties that one or more officials who had offices in that building might be implicated in doing.

Thus far former Assistant Solicitor Dale Wiles and former Finance Director Gary Straiearn have taken the fall with the fall of others expected to come

There is a need, now , for the City of no limits to move on from this crisis, this scandal ... So let it be known to those who seek to replace the fallen and those who are yet to fall, what you seek to do is regarded by the law of the universe and the law of man as a noble task. Therefore, anyone who assumes these task should be above reproach.



**Venturing into the unknown future ---A future that may or may not
come --- Road to Hope, Change or Disappointment**

by Dennis L. Pearson

(Compiled from 2008 to 2014)

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Part 7 --

May we ask, in an ideal world should everyone regardless of trade or profession receive equal pay.?

Some would say yes because to do otherwise could be considered Discrimination. They believe that all jobs are important and should be paid equally --- the CEO as well as the Janitor.

Perhaps in agreement, Ce Ce Gerlach, a teacher at a Children's home and a School Director for the Allentown School District made this observation on Facebook: My mom works her butt off every day, cleaning up messes left behind. She is that unseen person with the mop. The person who wipes down your table and cleans your toilet seat. She is the reason we need good leaders who are willing to fight for the working poor.

Which drew this response of support from a Facebook Friend: "We need to learn that all of us play an important part in the system and that nobody's job is lesser than the other person we all need and depend on each other

With former President Bill Clinton offering this political sound bite: "It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics..." -

That may be true, but is offering everyone equal pay good economics and really good for society?

Might we see a scenario where there will be no CEOs if the pay is equal to a janitor.? There will be no business owners if their pay is equal to their employees. There will be no school superintendents or principals if their pay is equal to the teachers. And what do you think about patients running the asylum.!

And what can we say about these user generated ideals contributed to an Occupy Forum website December 3, 2011 which seek to address the above statement and concern.

."The example you picked, CEO vs. janitor, is actually a confusing one because it raises so many complications. Here's an easier one: janitor vs. janitor.

What causes the concept of equal compensation for all to fall apart is that it fails to address: A.) human nature, and B.) the complexity of labor needs.

In the case of two janitors doing the same job in the same place, under conditions where there aren't enough janitors to meet the need, what **MOTIVATES** them to work hard? This is what destroyed all the experiments with socialism.

Or, take the case of two companies in the same geography. One is a long way out in the country, requires night shift work, and involves hazardous chemical clean up. The second is downtown, marble floors and great cafeteria, day time, with a library to hide in and gym. Why would anyone take the first job instead of the second?

As for the CEO job, I'd take that in a heartbeat, assign all my work to other people, and spend my afternoons out sailing (with "customers" of course :-) (that's what I meant by complications). On second thought, I'll pass on the CEO spot and just take the sailing instructors job.

Star Trek was first introduced as a television series going back to the mid and late 1960s. With the publication of novels, comics, animated series, toys and feature films, it grew into a full scale media franchise. Prior to that it was simply a television serial and known only as such that lasted only three seasons but had many successful spin-off television serials over many years.

Politically and economically, the prevailing philosophy of Star Trek was that all people should work according to their abilities and receive resources according to their needs. A belief which to us sounds very socialistic. It is also clear in that society that Individual achievement is recognized socially but not rewarded materially. While many of us today still value individual freedom and independence, Individual freedom is not important to that society. To that futuristic society, the economy should be centrally planned by the government, since the prevailing feeling is that they know best who needs what. To them, commerce and competition are necessary evils. The profit motive is evil. Social problems are caused by scarcity and/or unjust distribution of material goods, but their modern technology renders competition for resources obsolete. Federation citizens have access to all the material things they need thanks to the Federation government, so they are free to be truly happy and to maximize their human potential

This philosophy, of course, to us living in the 21st Century seems very unrealistic to achieve considering the vast differences in the wealth of the many nations which claim portions of our blue planet as their exclusive territory to regulate and control. and the same philosophy seems very difficult or unrealistic to achieve considering the vast differences in the wealth of the subjects or citizens inhabiting the recognized territories of these sovereign nations.

To all of us Money is a medium of exchange used to facilitate transactions of goods or services. But Money in the 21st century sense was not used on 24th century Earth. The exact nature of the Federation economy is difficult to describe; while money had not entirely ceased to exist, it did not play the central role in the lives of Federation and Earth citizens that it once did. The descriptions given by various Federation citizens are as follows:

Kirk told Spock about 20th century Earth: "They're still using money. We need to get some." Later on, while Kirk was having dinner with Gillian Taylor and was unable to pay in the restaurant, Gillian asked sarcastically, "Don't tell me they don't use money in the 23rd century," and Kirk told her "Well, we don't." (Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home)

Leonard McCoy responded to Chang's constant quotations of William Shakespeare during the battle of Khitomer that "I'd give real money if he'd shut up." (Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country)

Kirk said to Picard "This is my house, I sold it years ago." inside the Nexus, referring directly to the sale of his former home. (Star Trek Generations)

Picard tries to explain to Ralph Offenhouse from the 20th century that there would be no need for his law firm any longer: "A lot has changed in three hundred years. People are no longer obsessed with the accumulation of 'things'. We have eliminated hunger, want, the need for possessions." (TNG: "The Neutral Zone")

When Lily Sloane asked how much the USS Enterprise-E cost to build, Picard tells her "The economics of the future is somewhat different. You see, money doesn't exist in the 24th century... The acquisition of wealth is no longer the driving force in our lives. We work to better ourselves and the rest of Humanity." (Star Trek: First Contact)

When Nog suggests that Jake should bid for a baseball card in an auction, Jake says "I'm Human, I don't have any money." Nog replies "It's not my fault that your species decided to abandon currency-based economics in favor of some philosophy of self-enhancement." Jake says "Hey, watch it. There's nothing wrong with our philosophy. We work to better ourselves and the rest of humanity." Nog then replies "What does that mean?" Jake responds "It means we

don't need money!" Nog quickly points out, however, that Jake wouldn't be able to bid or borrow. (DS9: "In the Cards")

Observed Gordon Gordonsson: " I saw the movie Gattaca (again) last night and was taken by how close we are to becoming a society that is monitored and identified in almost every way. Blood, fingerprints, eye identification, credit checks, background checks, cameras, microchips, spy ware, etc... etc... etc... No matter how you shake it, we are losing our basic freedoms of privacy and it's happening very quickly.

Responded Dennis Kennethsson: " But if we lose our basic freedoms of privacy and whatever, will we be free to be truly happy and to maximize our human potential? I note that Revelation 13 contains a Bible prophecy that may be fulfilled in the future. It will affect you and every other person on earth. It concerns the Mark of the Beast. Revelation 13:16-17: He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Truly I worry about the consequences of that as stated in Revelation 14:9,10 "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath."

Questioned Gordonsson: Could it be that the mark of the beast will be a computer chip, surgically implanted under the skin, by a totalitarian government wishing to exercise total control over its citizens? Could it also be that the Mark will also be tied to bar codes or even the social security numbers used in the United States or elsewhere."

Replied Kennethsson: " Perhaps, but Heath C. Goodman has provided us with this shill scenario: "Step right up and get your biochip implant! No hassles! Just a little stick on the back of your hand or forehead! Good for anything that ails you! No more need for cash, checks or credit cards, the biochip does it all!

Through electronic transfer of money, one hand sweep over the grocery store or other business's scanner device linked to the Central Accounts Database and voila... funds are automatically deducted from your personal account! And crime will certainly be curbed substantially because how can thieves steal or use the biochip imbedded in your forehead or hand! No more need for bulky keys or combination locks- your microchip puts out a frequency of your own personal digital identification number. Serving as an access code it will unlock your car, your house, your office and whatever else you wish to lock up! How convenient... 101 uses for your personal implanted microchip! So why not take the chip and join our "New World Order Society?" Because we love you... Don't be a rebel or dissident to this grand plan to bring about global, national, social and individual harmony and well-being. Because we love you... Be a good little citizen in our "brave new world". Because we love you... And if you refuse to take the

microchip, then you would be showing that you are unproductive and a rebel to our new society and we won't like that. Because we love you...

To which Gordonsson added: Heath C. Goodman also speculated: "The current global financial meltdown has all been planned out and manipulated to bring about the need for a one world government, one world currency, one world citizenry. Of course, not all of us will be here to enjoy the new world paradise. The plan is to wipe out over five billion of us through war, disease and the final phase, through concentration facilities being set up now all over the world to kill and harvest our bio resources. So don't be too frightened by the prospect of having to choose between a chip in your forehead or a chop in your forehead."

Responded Kennethsson: " They want this to happen, Why? ... Because they love you."

. Then Kennethsson opines: "The assertion that the gender gap is mostly or not the product of discrimination always generates much heat."

Steve Horwitz in a April 4, 2014 article appearing in Bleeding Heart Libertarian wrote: that one point of confusion is not understanding that the issue, for economists, is about discrimination in labor markets and wages men and women with identical labor market characteristics and preferences about jobs will get paid nearly the same Then adds: "Our concern is whether wages are related to those variables rather than the employer's like or dislike of one group or another, regardless of their job characteristics etc.. Put differently, economists tentatively conjecture that discrimination exists if any part of the pay differential between men and women cannot be explained by human capital and job preferences Then concludes: ... that this says nothing about whether there is sexism elsewhere in the economy. All that is says is that we only presume that employers are discriminating when they don't pay people the same who have otherwise the same job market characteristics (aside from gender).

Historically, The Equal Pay Act of 1963 is a United States federal law amending the Fair Labor Standards Act, aimed at abolishing wage disparity based on sex It was signed into law on June 10, 1963, by John F. Kennedy as part of his New Frontier Program. In passing the bill, Congress stated that sex discrimination: depresses wages and living standards for employees necessary for their health and efficiency; prevents the maximum utilization of the available labor resources; tends to cause labor disputes, thereby burdening, affecting, and obstructing commerce; burdens commerce and the free flow of goods in commerce; and constitutes an unfair method of competition.

The law provides (in part) that:

No employer having employees subject to any provisions of this section [section 206 of title 29 of the United States Code] shall discriminate, within any establishment in which such employees are employed, between employees on the basis of sex by paying wages to employees in such establishment at a rate less than the rate at which he pays wages to employees of the opposite sex in

such establishment for equal work on jobs[,] the performance of which requires equal skill, effort, and responsibility, and which are performed under similar working conditions, except where such payment is made pursuant to (i) a seniority system; (ii) a merit system; (iii) a system which measures earnings by quantity or quality of production; or (iv) a differential based on any other factor other than sex [. . . .]

Factually, the U.S. Department of Labor reports that when the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. While women hold nearly half of today's jobs, and their earnings account for a significant portion of the household income that sustains the financial well-being of their families, they are still experiencing a gap in pay compared to men's wages for similar work. Today, women earn about 81 cents on the dollar compared to men — a gap that results in hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages. For African-American women and Latinas, the pay gap is even greater.

Interjected Kennethsson: I agree, the gap is even worse for women of color - African American women earn only 64 cents and Latina women earn only 55 cents for each dollar earned by males.

For 10 years, Lilly Ledbetter fought to close the gap between women's and men's wages, sparring with the Supreme Court, lobbying Capitol Hill in a historic discrimination case against Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Ledbetter won a jury verdict of more than \$3 million after having filed a gender pay discrimination suit in federal court, but the U.S. Supreme Court later overturned the lower court's ruling. Despite her defeat Ledbetter continued her fight until the Supreme Court decision was nullified when President Obama, on January 29, 2009, signed into law the first new law of his administration: The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

As it happened, Ledbetter will never receive restitution from Goodyear, but she said, "I'll be happy if the last thing they say about me after I die is that I made a difference."

Enactment of this legislation was a move by the President to help address the gender wage gap, the act gave people who experienced pay discrimination more time to file a complaint.

But the wage gap, which on 1/29/2014 stood at 77 cents paid to women for every dollar a man made, hasn't really improved one bit since — there hasn't been a decrease in the gap since 2007, and it actually widened a bit in the years after the act was signed .according to Bryce Covert in his article , "Five Years After The Lilly Ledbetter Act, How To Start Closing The Gender Wage Gap"

Observed Gordonsson: I don't agree --- when the U.S. Department of Labor put out its statistic on its website but the wage gap of 81 cents looks like a small decrease to me.

. As it is, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. It is also illegal to discriminate against a person because the person complained about discrimination, filed a charge of discrimination, or participated in an employment discrimination investigation or lawsuit.

Most employers with at least 15 employees are covered by EEOC laws (20 employees in age discrimination cases). Most labor unions and employment agencies are also covered.

The laws apply to all types of work situations, including hiring, firing, promotions, harassment, training, wages, and benefits.

The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal. Job content (not job titles) determines whether jobs are substantially equal. All forms of pay are covered by this law, including salary, overtime pay, bonuses, stock options, profit sharing and bonus plans, life insurance, vacation and holiday pay, cleaning or gasoline allowances, hotel accommodations, reimbursement for travel expenses, and benefits. If there is an inequality in wages between men and women, employers may not reduce the wages of either sex to equalize their pay.

An individual alleging a violation of the EPA may go directly to court and is not required to file an EEOC charge beforehand. The time limit for filing an EPA charge with the EEOC and the time limit for going to court are the same: within two years of the alleged unlawful compensation practice or, in the case of a willful violation, within three years. The filing of an EEOC charge under the EPA does not extend the time frame for going to court.

Equal Pay/Compensation and Sex Discrimination

Title VII also makes it illegal to discriminate based on sex in pay and benefits. Therefore, someone who has an Equal Pay Act claim may also have a claim under Title VII.

Other Types of Discrimination

Title VII, the ADEA, and the ADA prohibit compensation discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Unlike the

EPA, there is no requirement under Title VII, the ADEA, or the ADA that the jobs must be substantially equal.

At this moment, JoAnn Olliedotir joins Kennethsson and Gordonsson in the conversation: "On the equal pay issue, it is a given that Democrats in Congress have spent the past two years pushing equal pay as part of their women's economic agenda. Republicans, meanwhile, challenge the notion that a pay gap exists at all. Can you believe that they call it a lie? Then too, they are also quick to point out that the White House has its own pay gap. In answer, the White House says all of its employees receive equal pay for equal work, but that women are more highly concentrated in junior-level positions. Personally I can't wait until January 20, 2017 to see who would be in charge in the real-world. Personally I think the Republican Party has a problem with the gender gap wage issue and I believe that the Republican Party through its own studies realize that is alienating female voters by opposing equal pay laws. Would you believe that the Republican National Committee had the audacity to tweet this Message: This Labor Day, the White House & Democrats believe paying women less than men is an acceptable practice/" and then tweeted the graphic "All Republicans support equal pay." Staggering. Stunstonishing. Mind-blowing. I mean, if tweeting that graphic means that the RNC is ready to line up every Republican in or running for Congress and seriously press them to talk about equal pay, great. Because so far what we've got in my opinion does not seem to support this statement even a little bit. To me the reality is that Democrats are the ones who've brought the Paycheck Fairness Act up for repeated votes. And the president? Since Republicans were blocking congressional action on equal pay, President Obama went ahead with two executive orders strengthening equal pay protections at federal contractors. Historically, President Barack Obama made a pitch for women's pocketbook issues at Valencia College 03/20/2014, by calling for legislation requiring equal pay for equal work and quipping that Congress would get more done if it had more women.

Obama with emphasis noted that: "Women with college degrees may earn hundreds of thousands of dollars less over the course of her career than a man at the same educational level," And moralized that it is wrong for this to be so. Alluding to the fact that attitudes or practices over time do change or require change, the President pontificated "This isn't 1958 -- it's 2014." In 2014 the President said: "A woman deserves work place policies that protect her right to have a baby without losing her job. It's pretty clear that, you know, if men were having babies, we'd have different policies."

In the end the President said from a Valencia College stage filled with 25 women of diverse ages and ethnicities: I've got a personal stake in seeing women get ahead. First of all, women make up 80 percent of my household, if you count my mother-in-law, and I always count my mother-in-law." He also noted he was raised by a single mother, with the support of a grandmother who he said hit a "glass ceiling" at the bank where she trained men to become her boss

Said Dennis Kennethsson: "So what else can be done to make progress on ensuring equal pay?"

Replied Olliedotir: 1) End salary secrecy 2) Raise the minimum wage 3) Offer universal preschool and paid family leave

On these suggestions Bryce Covert in Five Years After The Lilly Ledbetter Act, How To Start Closing The Gender Wage Gap posted January 29, 2014 in Think Progress wrote:

1) End Salary Secrecy ---. Currently, about half of all workers are either banned or discouraged from discussing pay with each other. That presents a huge barrier for those who suspect they may be unfairly paid less. The Paycheck Fairness Act would prohibit any bans against discussing pay with coworkers. But while that takes an act of Congress to pass, Lilly Ledbetter herself has proposed that President Obama do something on his own. He could issue an executive order to ban federal contractors from retaliating against workers who share information on pay with each other. That would impact 26 million workers, or 22 percent of the workforce.

2) Raise the Minimum Wage --- Women make up two-thirds of the country's minimum wage workers. But the minimum wage has failed to keep up with inflation — it hasn't been raised in more than four years and would be over \$10 if it had kept pace since the 1960s — and isn't enough to keep a parent out of poverty. A raise would boost income for 13.1 million women. And experiences on the state level bear out the idea that a higher wage means a smaller gap: states that have higher wages than the \$7.25 federal floor have a gender wage gap that is three cents smaller on average than everywhere else

3) Offer universal preschool and paid family leave --- Just 51 percent of three-year-olds and 69 percent of four-year-olds are enrolled in preschool programs, while the cost of private childcare has skyrocketed. The U.S. is also one of just a few countries around the world that don't guarantee paid maternity leave. But women's wages suffer when they have to interrupt their careers to care for their children: A bit more than 10 percent of the wage gap is thanks to the fact that women often spend less time in the labor force than men. Mothers with regular childcare are twice as likely to stay in their jobs than those without, which ensures a steady work history and advancement that can boost their pay. Because many women are only able to take unpaid time off, a quarter either quit their jobs or are let go when a new child arrives. On the other hand, women who get paid family leave are much more likely to see their wages go up afterward than those who get no paid time off

Offered Dennis Kennethsson: What is a Minimum Wage?

Responded Gordon Gordonsson: "A minimum wage is the lowest hourly, daily or monthly remuneration that employers may legally pay to workers. Equivalently, it is the lowest wage at which workers may sell their labor. Although minimum wage laws are in effect in many jurisdictions, differences of opinion exist about the benefits and drawbacks of a minimum wage. Supporters of the minimum wage say it increases the standard of living of workers, reduces poverty, reduces inequality, boosts morale and forces businesses to be more efficient.] In contrast, opponents of the minimum wage say it increases poverty, increases unemployment (and therefore lowers the desire to work), is damaging to businesses, and ultimately increases poverty of workers and businesses alike..

Rapping a gavel on a podium, JoAnn Olliedotir said: "Gentlemen, Gentlemen, pay attention to the Table I carefully put on the White Board

Minimum hourly wage of workers in jobs first covered by				
Effective Date	1938 Act 1	1961 Amendments 2	1966 and Subsequent Amendments ³	
			Nonfarm	Farm
Oct 24, 1938	\$0.25			
Oct 24, 1939	\$0.30			
Oct 24, 1945	\$0.40			
Jan 25, 1950	\$0.75			
Mar 1, 1956	\$1.00			
Sep 3, 1961	\$1.15	\$1.00		
Sep 3, 1963	\$1.25			
Sep 3, 1964		\$1.15		
Sep 3, 1965		\$1.25		
Feb 1, 1967	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$1.00	\$1.00
Feb 1, 1968	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.15	\$1.15
Feb 1, 1969			\$1.30	\$1.30
Feb 1, 1970			\$1.45	
Feb 1, 1971			\$1.60	
May 1, 1974	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.90	\$1.60
Jan. 1, 1975	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.00	\$1.80
Jan 1, 1976	\$2.30	\$2.30	\$2.20	\$2.00
Jan 1, 1977			\$2.30	\$2.20
Jan 1, 1978	\$2.65 for all covered, nonexempt workers			
Jan 1, 1979	\$2.90 for all covered, nonexempt workers			
Jan 1, 1980	\$3.10 for all covered, nonexempt workers			
Jan 1, 1981	\$3.35 for all covered, nonexempt workers			
Apr 1, 1990 ⁴	\$3.80 for all covered, nonexempt workers			
Apr 1, 1991	\$4.25 for all covered, nonexempt workers			

Oct 1, 1996	\$4.75 for all covered, nonexempt workers
Sep 1, 19975	\$5.15 for all covered, nonexempt workers
Jul 24, 2007	\$5.85 for all covered, nonexempt workers
Jul 24, 2008	\$6.55 for all covered, nonexempt workers
Jul 24, 2009	\$7.25 for all covered, nonexempt workers

As it happened, in 2013, President Barack Obama used the State of the Union address to call for an increase from what liberals called a paltry \$7.25 an hour to \$9. A year later, using the same forum he urged Congress to raise the wage to \$10. 10.; and soon after signed an Executive Order to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 for the individuals working on new federal service contracts

To which Dennis Kennethsson responds: " Many would argue that efforts to give working Americans a living wage have gone nowhere fast—apart from the executive order Obama signed to increase the hourly rate for individuals working on new federal service contracts. Today only two states—Washington and Oregon—have minimum wages above \$9 an hour, though more local efforts are under way in cities and municipalities."

Added Gordon Gordonsson: " Residents of Hooterville, wherever in the world that place is, used to ask about the risqué Hollywood parties. Well, this resident of Allentown, the City without Limits, wants to know more about those lavish fund raising parties of Congress in which Eliza Krigman wrote about August 8, 2014 in Takepart.com. Indeed, If the alleged facts in that story are true, the Modern Day representatives and Senators of Modern Rome are joining Nero in playing the fiddle while the alleged recovered or recovering economy still sputters along.

Replied Kennethsson: " I hear you man ... Krigman claims that income disparity in America has grown so bad that the rating agency Standard & Poor's has issued warnings that inequality levels were hindering U.S. economic growth. The S&P report noted that top 1 percent earners saw their incomes rise an average of 15 percent from 2009 to 2010, outpacing the bottom 90 percent considerably, for whom incomes rose by less than 1 percent in that period.

Interjected Gordonsson; "Krigman does not mix words as in regard to what she thinks about what our esteemed leadership is doing. To quote Krigman:" ... The lack of economic progress and destructive partisan gridlock won't stop pols from hosting swanky fund-raisers during their five weeks out of session, so they can raise money to hold on to the power they've apparently chosen to do little with by way of legislation

Next Kennethsson, Gordonsson and Olliedotir become aware of a huge crowd gathering near them and they realize that the power structure in Washington D.C are assembled to hear President Obama speak.

To Quote the President:

Tonight, this chamber speaks with one voice to the people we represent: it is you, our citizens, who make the state of our union strong.

Here are the results of your efforts: The lowest unemployment rate in over five years. A rebounding housing market. A manufacturing sector that's adding jobs for the first time since the 1990s. More oil produced at home than we buy from the rest of the world – the first time that's happened in nearly twenty years. Our deficits – cut by more than half. And for the first time in over a decade, business leaders around the world have declared that China is no longer the world's number one place to invest; America is.

That's why I believe this can be a breakthrough year for America. After five years of grit and determined effort, the United States is better-positioned for the 21st century than any other nation on Earth.

The question for everyone in this chamber, running through every decision we make this year, is whether we are going to help or hinder this progress. For several years now, this town has been consumed by a rancorous argument over the proper size of the federal government. It's an important debate – one that dates back to our very founding. But when that debate prevents us from carrying out even the most basic functions of our democracy – when our differences shut down government or threaten the full faith and credit of the United States – then we are not doing right by the American people.

As President, I'm committed to making Washington work better, and rebuilding the trust of the people who sent us here. I believe most of you are, too. Last month, thanks to the work of Democrats and Republicans, this Congress finally produced a budget that undoes some of last year's severe cuts to priorities like education. Nobody got everything they wanted, and we can still do more to invest in this country's future while bringing down our deficit in a balanced way. But the budget compromise should leave us freer to focus on creating new jobs, not creating new crises.

In the coming months, let's see where else we can make progress together. Let's make this a year of action. That's what most Americans want – for all of us in this chamber to focus on their lives, their hopes, their aspirations. And what I believe unites the people of this nation, regardless of race or region or party, young or old, rich or poor, is the simple, profound belief in opportunity for all – the notion that if you work hard and take responsibility, you can get ahead.

Let's face it: that belief has suffered some serious blows. Over more than three decades, even before the Great Recession hit, massive shifts in technology and global competition had eliminated a lot of good, middle-class jobs, and weakened the economic foundations that families depend on.

Today, after four years of economic growth, corporate profits and stock prices have rarely been higher, and those at the top have never done better. But average wages have barely budged. Inequality has deepened. Upward mobility has stalled. The cold, hard fact is that even in the midst of recovery, too many Americans are working more than ever just to get by – let alone get ahead. And too many still aren't working at all.

Our job is to reverse these trends. It won't happen right away, and we won't agree on everything. But what I offer tonight is a set of concrete, practical proposals to speed up growth, strengthen the middle class, and build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class. Some require Congressional action, and I'm eager to work with all of you. But America does not stand still – and neither will I. So wherever and whenever I can take steps without legislation to expand opportunity for more American families, that's what I'm going to do. That's why I believe this can be a breakthrough year for America. After five years of grit and determined effort, the United States is better-positioned for the 21st century than any other nation on Earth.

In analysis of what he heard so far of the Presidential speech, Kennethsson comments: "The President wants Congress to act on legislation favorably that he proposes with a warning that he will act unilaterally if he does not get a favorable response from Congress on his legislative initiatives. Clearly the President has laid down a red line that he wants Congress to cross, but on his terms. The following is more of what the President Said:

Today, women make up about half our workforce. But they still make 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That is wrong, and in 2014, it's an embarrassment. A woman deserves equal pay for equal work. She deserves to have a baby without sacrificing her job. A mother deserves a day off to care for a sick child or sick parent without running into hardship – and you know what, a father does, too. It's time to do away with workplace policies that belong in a "Mad Men" episode. This year, let's all come together – Congress, the White House, and businesses from Wall Street to Main Street – to give every woman the opportunity she deserves. Because I firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds. Now, women hold a majority of lower-wage jobs – but they're not the only ones stifled by stagnant wages. Americans understand that some people will earn more than others, and we don't resent those who, by virtue of their efforts, achieve incredible success. But Americans overwhelmingly agree that no one who works full time should ever have to raise a family in poverty.

In the year since I asked this Congress to raise the minimum wage, five states have passed laws to raise theirs. Many businesses have done it on their own. Nick Chute is here tonight with his boss, John Soranno. John's an owner of Punch Pizza in Minneapolis, and Nick helps make the dough. Only now he makes more of it: John just gave his employees a raise, to ten bucks an hour – a decision that eased their financial stress and boosted their morale.

Tonight, I ask more of America's business leaders to follow John's lead and do what you can to raise your employees' wages. To every mayor, governor, and state legislator in America, I say, you don't have to wait for Congress to act; Americans will support you if you take this on. And as a chief executive, I intend to lead by example. Profitable corporations like Costco see higher wages as the smart way to boost productivity and reduce turnover. We should too. In the coming weeks, I will issue an Executive Order requiring federal contractors to pay their federally-funded employees a fair wage of at least \$10.10 an hour – because if you cook our troops' meals or wash their dishes, you shouldn't have to live in poverty.

Of course, to reach millions more, Congress needs to get on board. Today, the federal minimum wage is worth about twenty percent less than it was when Ronald Reagan first stood here. Tom Harkin and George Miller have a bill to fix that by lifting the minimum wage to \$10.10. This will help families. It will give businesses customers with more money to spend. It doesn't involve any new bureaucratic program. So join the rest of the country. Say yes. Give America a raise.

In Analysis, Gordon Gordonsson commented: The President indeed was asking that the second session of the 113th Congress take action on Senate Bill 460 which was introduced in the Senate March 5, 2013. This Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 sought to Amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) to increase the federal minimum wage for employees to: (1) \$8.20 an hour on the first day of the third month after the enactment of this Act; (2) \$9.15 an hour after one year; (3) \$10.10 an hour after two years; and (4) the amount determined by the Secretary of Labor (based on increases in the Consumer Price Index) after three years, and annually thereafter. Additionally, it increases the federal minimum wage for tipped employees to \$3.00 an hour for one year on the first day of the third month after the enactment of this Act. Provides a formula for subsequent annual adjustments of the wage increase to ensure that it remains equal to 70% of the wage in effect under FLSA for other employees ...Or move H.R.3746 — which was introduced in the House 12/12/2013. This Alternate Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 - Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (FLSA) to increase the federal minimum wage for employees to: (1) \$8.50 an hour on the first day of the third month after enactment of this Act; (2) \$10.00 an hour after one year; (3) \$11.00 an hour after two years; and (4) the amount determined by the Secretary of Labor (based on increases in the Consumer Price Index) after three years, and annually thereafter.

Interjected Dennis Kennethsson: Let's see what James Sherk, Senior Policy Analyst in Labor Economics of 'The Heritage Foundation' said at Testimony before The Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee United States Senate June 25, 2013:

" Supporters of the minimum wage intend it to lift low-income families out of poverty. Unfortunately, despite these good intentions, the minimum wage has proved ineffective at doing so. Indeed, it often holds back many of the workers its proponents want to help. Higher minimum wages both reduce overall employment and encourage relatively affluent workers to enter the labor force. Minimum wage increases often lead to employers replacing disadvantaged adults who need a job with suburban teenagers who do not.

This can have long-term consequences. Minimum wage positions are typically learning wage positions—they enable workers to gain the skills necessary to become more productive on the job. As workers become more productive they command higher pay and move up their career ladder. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers earn a raise within a year. Raising the minimum wage makes such entry-level positions less available, in effect sawing off the bottom rung of many workers' career ladders. This hurts these workers' career prospects. Even if minimum wage workers do not lose their job, the overlapping and uncoordinated design of U.S. welfare programs prevents those in need from benefitting from higher wages. As their income rises they lose federal tax credits and assistance. These benefit losses offset most of the wage increase. A single mother with one child faces an effective marginal tax rate of 91 percent when her pay rises from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour. Studies also find higher minimum wages do not reduce poverty rates. Despite the best of intentions, the minimum wage has proved an ineffective—and often counterproductive—policy in the war on poverty.

Congress could do more to help low-income families by restructuring and coordinating welfare programs and their associated phase-out rates. No one in American—and especially not low-income workers—should face tax rates in excess of 50 percent.

In analysis, Gordon Gordonsson reflects; "One would think if the minimum wage is raised at the bottom level of the economic scale, that those who were just above the minimum would seek raises to retain their economic status. That those above them would seek raises too for the same reason. Surely there would be a dynamo effect leading to higher labor costs and higher retail costs -- inflation as your will.

Replied Kennethsson: "That is a good thought ...Please read more of Sherk's ^Testimony:

"Most minimum wage jobs are entry-level positions filled by workers with limited education and experience.... Almost three-fifths of minimum wage workers have no more than a high school education. They work for the minimum wage because they currently lack the productivity to command higher pay.

Minimum-wage jobs give these workers experience and teach them essential job skills. Sometimes these skills are unique to an individual job, such as how to operate a particular piece of equipment. More often they pertain to general employability: the discipline of waking up early to go to work each day, learning how to interact with customers and coworkers, how to accept direction from a boss. These skills are essential to getting ahead in the workplace, but difficult to learn without actual on-the-job experience.

Once workers gain these skills they become more productive, and most quickly earn raises. Over two-thirds of workers starting out at the minimum wage earn more than that a year later. Minimum-wage jobs are learning wage jobs—they teach inexperienced employees skills that make them more productive. They are the first step on many workers' career ladders.

While very few Americans currently work for the minimum wage, a substantial number once did so. Over half of American started their careers making within one dollar of the minimum wage. Most quickly get promoted as their productivity increases.

Workers have a say in how quickly they get promoted. Most minimum-wage earners work part time, and many are students and young adults who desire this flexibility. But minimum-wage workers who choose to work longer hours gain more skills and experience than those who work part time and, as expected, earn larger raises. A typical minimum-wage employee who works 35 hours or more a week is 13 percentage points more likely to be promoted within a year than is a minimum-wage worker putting in fewer than 10 hours per week.

The notion that workers are trapped earning \$7.25 an hour for much of their working lives is mistaken and ignores the primary value of minimum-wage jobs. Their importance lies not so much in the low wages they pay in the present, but in making workers more productive so they can command higher pay in the future. " Nodding his head in approval, Gordonsson summed it up: "To advance in pay, one must learn the job, stick with the job, show initiative on the job, and get some time or seniority as some union men are said to say to wet behind the ear rookies... I anxious to see what Sherk says concerning the Labor Demand/Price increase Curve.

States Sherk; "One of the central premises of economics is that "demand curves slope downwards"—when prices rise people buy less of a good or service. When gasoline becomes more expensive Americans drive less, and when it becomes less costly Americans drive more. The same applies to business owners. When the price of goods or services they use in production rises, they buy less of them. This includes labor costs—when wages rise employers hire fewer workers. Economists estimate the long-run elasticity of labor demand in the U.S. economy at around -0.3 .^[15] In other words, a ten percent increase in labor costs causes employers to cut their workforce by three percent. Higher compensation costs

without corresponding increases in productivity cause employers to hire fewer workers.

This finding applies to employers of both highly skilled and unskilled workers. Employers will not pay a worker more than their productive value to a firm. Businesses that do so quickly go out of businesses.

As reported by Jon Nichols of the Nation September 2, 2014, President Obama launched the fall 2014 campaign season with a robust call for increasing the minimum wage.

“If you work full time in America, you shouldn’t be living in poverty, you shouldn’t be trying to support a family in poverty,” Obama told thousands of cheering union members in Milwaukee, adding, “There is no denying the simple truth: America deserves a raise.”

In the view of Nichols, "the president wasn’t trying to convince the American people." They already knew or believed "that increasing the minimum wage" was necessary "to address income inequality and the injustice of a circumstance where millions of American families" were struggling "because their hard work is not adequately compensated"

Nichols writes that. "a poll conducted last summer for the National Employment Law Project Action Fund found that 80 percent of Americans surveyed favor a \$10.10-an-hour wage floor. Ninety-two percent of Democrats favor the increase, as do 80 percent of independents and 62 percent of Republicans". Nichols," this enthusiasm is not just theoretical." It was immediate. "Seventy-four percent of Americans say that Congress should make it a priority to significantly increase the minimum wage".

Nichols notes that the House and Senate will be in session this fall. That A proposal to increase the base hourly wage to workers from \$7.25 to \$10.10 has been advanced. In Nichol's opinion top Republicans seem to be on board for a higher minimum wage, with Mitt Romney saying “We ought to raise it,” and Rick Santorum saying “It just makes no sense” to oppose an increase.

Members of the Senate Democratic majority already back higher wages and, despite the obstructionist tactics of Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, Nichols believes that the prospect of a high-profile vote just weeks before a critical national election might even get some Republicans—like Maine Senator Susan Collins— to do what see describes as the right thing.

So Nichols asked the question, where’s the problem? Answering his own question, he says the house.

In the House. Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, has shown no inclination to allow a vote. But the rules of the House according to Nichols allow a majority of members to go around the speaker and use a “discharge petition” to force a vote, which is precisely what the Time for a Raise campaign being championed by Ralph Nader argues is the right approach.

Nader and his allies are not just theorizing here. They are outlining strategies, naming names(of Democrats and Republicans) and proposing action And this proposed action in regard to the minimum wage has raised the bar higher as Progressive Democrats according to a report by Pete Kasperowicz Nov. 10, 2014 in the Blaze asked President Barack Obama to create federal procurement preferences for companies that pay their workers a minimum of \$15 an hour and allow them to bargain collectively.

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, told reporters that his group would ask Obama to ensure the government does business with these companies first, as a way to set an example for other companies about the need to raise the minimum wage, boost benefits, and allow labor negotiations.

Said Grijalva the federal government is the " largest purchasers of goods and services, \$1 trillion, whether it's a contract, a loan or a grant, ... And as such, the federal government should be setting the example for the people that work there. ... For those employers that are good employers, that provide minimum wage, a sustainable minimum wage at \$15, that provide benefits and opportunity for workers to be represented collectively, the representative thinks those merit the full attention and full support of our federal government, the representative further believing that businesses that don't, set the example, that steal wages, that continue to exploit our workforce, should not reap the benefits of taxpayer dollars."

Opined Kennethsson: "President Obama has been advocating for a \$10.10 federal minimum wage. But because Republicans have opposed it on the grounds that it would reduce jobs for low-wage workers, Obama has only acted on his own to require federal contracts to pay workers a \$10.10 hourly minimum."

In analysis, Gordonsson stated: "Grijalva's proposal would still put pressure on all companies to improve work standards for their employees, or face the prospect of not winning a federal contract. I recall Obama has said he's prepared to act unilaterally on immigration if Congress fails to pass an immigration reform bill. I don't know if the President will raise the minimum wage bar again and act unilaterally on a fifteen dollar an hour minimum wage if Congress fails to pass a bill.

Responded Kennethsson: "To me there is no doubt that the President's political army OFA (Organizing for America) is at work promoting the minimum wage if it

be the \$10.10 minimum wage rather than the \$15 minimum wage ... The following is their talking point; "

"Raising the minimum wage nationwide would benefit 28 million workers across the country, and lift nearly a million people out of poverty. These aren't just teenagers at their first job — the average age of workers who would benefit is 35 years old.

Despite support from 7 out of 10 Americans, lawmakers have failed to act. But momentum is on our side. So far in 2014, ten states and D.C. have enacted minimum wage increases, and many more states have legislation in motion to follow suit. We've seen state legislators from both sides of the aisle come together, because they know that putting more money in the pockets of working Americans means more spending at local businesses.

President Obama led by example, raising the wage for all federal contractors by executive order. We've also seen business owners raise wages for their employees, because they know that workers who feel valued are more productive and less likely to leave their jobs.

Higher wages are good for workers and business, and are key to a stronger economy that creates opportunity for all Americans."

Which at this point JoAnn Olliedotir presented a new White Board.

Existing Major City Minimum Wage Laws

Jurisdiction	Wages	Indexing	Legislation or Initiative	Year	Status	Impact: Workers/ Workforce %
San Francisco (CA)	\$15.00 (2018)	Yes	I	2003; 2014	Approved by Voters	142,000; 23%
Seattle (WA)	\$15.00 (2018-2021)	Yes	L	2014	Passed into Law	102,000; 21%
Los Angeles (CA) (hotels)	\$15.37 (2015-2016)	Yes	L	2014	Passed into Law	Not available
Chicago (IL)	\$13.00 (2019)	Yes	L	2014	Passed into Law	379,000; 28%
Oakland (CA)	\$12.25 (2015)	Yes	L	2014	Approved by voters	44,00; 28%

Washington (DC)	\$11.50 (2016)	Yes	L	1992, 2004, 2013	Passed into Law	Not Available
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Current Proposals

Jurisdiction	Wages	Indexing	Legislation or Initiative	Year	Status	Impact: Workers/Workforce %
New York (NY)	\$15.00 (2019) \$11.50 (2015)	Yes	L		Mayor de Blasio has proposed \$15.00 Gov. Cuomo has proposed \$11.50	1.25 million / 37%
Washington (DC)	\$15.00	Yes	I		Proposed ballot initiative filed for Nov. 2016 election	not available
Los Angeles (CA)	\$15.25 (2019) \$13.25 (2017)	Yes	L		Mayor Garcetti has proposed \$13.25 Campaign is calling for \$15.25 by 2019	567,000 / 37%
San Diego (CA)	\$11.50 (2017)	Yes	I	2016	City council passed ordinance in 2014 and opponents gathered signatures to force referendum vote in 2016	193,000 / 26.2%

COMMON SENSE HERALD GEOPOLITICAL REPORT
THE QUEST FOR HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY

By Dennis L. Pearson
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Part I - The Quest for Hemispheric Solidarity

Dialogue 5 by Dennis L. Pearson

Positivism Leads to Rebirth of the Western Hemisphere Idea

A philosophy which had its birth or genesis in Europe played an important part in reawakening the Western Hemisphere Idea. Auguste Comte, a Frenchman, developed a vogue called Positivism.

Positivism was more than a method: it was a system of affirmations, "a conception of the word and man." Comte believed that humanity required nothing less than the reorganization of society to produce social change. And as expected, political change would follow in the same manner.

Clearly, Comte's reasoning is very scientific on this matter. In fact, scientific reasoning is an essential point of Positivism. Just the same, Positivism is able to be interpreted in different ways. It could appeal to the emotions as well as the intellect. The potential user of the philosophy could pick out what he/she found true or useful and ignore the rest. The philosophy spurred all the Liberal movements of the second half of the nineteenth century

According to Leopoldo Zea no other philosophical current since Scholasticism has gained the stature that positivism has achieved in Latin America. Scholasticism historically representing the philosophical movement dominant in western civilization from the 9th until the 17th century and combining religious dogma with the mystical and intuitional traditions of patristic philosophy especially of St. Augustine and later Aristotelianism.

Scholasticism's conception of the world was imposed on Latin America by its

European conquerors; and in the context of shedding off the vestiges of old empire, countermovements were begun against the philosophy so associated with Spanish and Portuguese colonial rule. Clearly many of these new movements more often than not were destructive philosophies designed primarily to free Latin America from intellectual and political restraints imposed upon them by Spain and Portugal. But none of these new movements gained the importance of Positivism. Positivism, in fact, as it developed in Latin America proved to be a constructive instrument of intellectual order comparable to Scholasticism. Positivism as it spread from country to country in Latin America contributed to a new feeling about the United States and thus, fostered the renewal of the Western Hemisphere Idea.

The Enlightenment (a philosophical movement of the 18th century marked by a rejection of traditional social, religious , political ideas and an emphasis of rationalism) had been the inspirational philosophy, the symbol of a new order, for the first general of political leadership in Latin America.

But as the first generation entrenched itself and system into power a general disillusionment set in among members of the second generation. The system that was dedicated to "enlightened despotism" degenerated into a pattern of alternating dictatorship and civil war. The second generation was looking for something better. Thus, Comte's philosophy influenced learned scholars throughout Latin America. Just the same, some men as Domingo F. Sarmiento of Argentina and Victoriano Lastarria of Chile developed a Positivism-like philosophy independently of Comte and Herbert Spencer. But in any case, upon the introduction of Comte's Positivism and Spencer's brand of Positivism known as Spencerism into the New World, Lastarria and Sarmiento became converts to the new system. Interestingly, Spencerianism is the synthetic philosophy of Herbert Spencer that has as its central idea the mechanistic evolution of the cosmos from relatively simple to relative complexity.

In Europe, Positivism called for the establishment of a general system of universal education for all, the establishment of a small circle of persons united by devotion or allegiance to an artistic or intellectual movement or figure and the establishment of political direction by the enlightenment of public opinion through periodical publications. In Latin America, Positivism was taking on a distinct form. Latin American Positivism was significant for its Liberalism except in Mexico where it became a tool of Porfirio Diaz. Secondly, it contained a strong anti-Spanish sentiment which formulated itself as Americanism. Naturally, the chief benefactor of the rejection of Spanish ideas was the United States.

PART II --- THE QUEST FOR HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY

Dialogue 6 by Dennis L. Pearson

Positivism Leads to Rebirth of the Western Hemisphere Idea.

The United States represented a new model of progress that Latin American writers rallied upon.

Their aim was to destroy in Latin America the destructive spirit that made anarchy and despotism possible. Spain to these writers represented the epitome of what was bad in the world, and thus, generated their scorn and discouraging word. Domingo Sarmiento upon arriving in the Spain he called "Barbaric" commented. "This España that has pleased me so much is finally in the amphitheatre under my hand. I came to Spain with the holy aim of putting it on trial to give foundation to accusation. As an already known prosecutor I must do this before the tribunal of opinion in America."

Unlike many of his nationalistic contemporaries in South America, Sarmiento did not see the problems and destiny of each separate country as distinct and independent. He found the similarity of national experience in the Spanish speaking world during the nineteenth century as a sign of a common Spanish heritage.

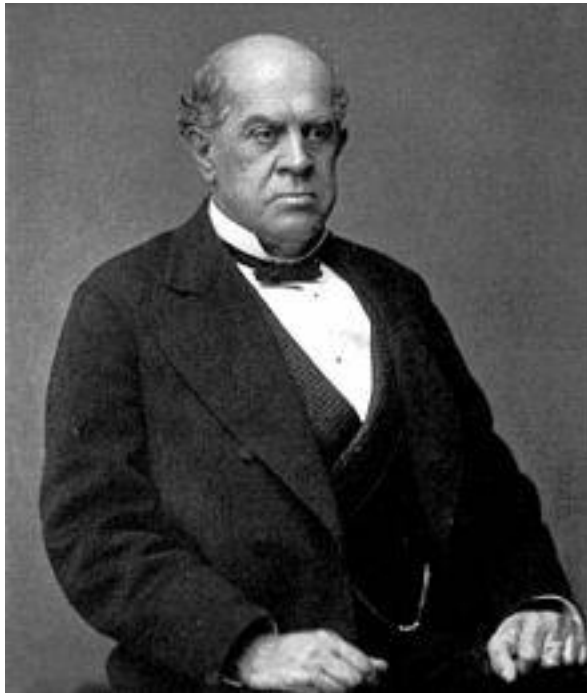
In the El Mercurio he remarked that Spain and her colonies began to move toward constitutional government at the same time - the difference being the fact that whereas Spain tried to improve its institutions while the Americans Colonies tried to free itself from its foreign yoke.

However, these institutions met with little success , and a period of political turmoil occurred throughout the Spanish speaking world.

Expanding the idea further in his Facundo, Sarmiento said with emotion: " Do not laugh. Oh People of Hispanic America, at seeing so much degradation! Remember that you are Spanish, and the Inquisition educated Spain in that matter! We carry that disease in our blood!" Thus, Sarmiento developed the theory that the situation could only be attributable to the common Spanish heritage. He stated that the Spanish race was condemned to consume itself in civil war and soil itself with all kinds of crimes; thus, offer a depopulated and exhausted country as easy prey to a new European colonization.

Sarmiento bemoaned this fact in El Nacional when he observed: " Any form of government is impossible in South America, considering the fact that the Spanish race inhabits the continent."

Sarmiento looked for a program to rescue Latin America from this continuing curse. He found the possible solution in the education system of Horace Mann, a North American. Therefore, Sarmiento came to the conclusion that " the dignity and glory" of Latin America would come only when the education level of its people was raised; thus, Positivism in all countries of Latin America was dedicated to the promotion of education and national betterment for all classes of society.



(L) Domingo Sarmiento (R) Auguste Comte

COMMON SENSE HERALD LEHIGH VALLEY REPORT

Preface --- Within recent weeks in the Lehigh Valley we have learned that employee layoffs involving Mack Trucks and Air Products have occurred; and have learned that the Kraft Plant in Western Lehigh County will close.... Historically, the decision by Schaeffer Beer of Brooklyn NY and Kraft to locate plants in the Valley resulted in the creation of the Lehigh County Authority, the building of a pre-treatment plant in Upper Macungie Township and an agreement to extend a trunk line from Allentown's Kline's Island Waste Water Treatment Plant out to the Pre-treatment in order to serve these plants. Historically too, problems related with the LCA Pre-treatment plant because of effluent coming from the Schaeffer and Kraft Plants also caused problems back in Allentown... Now we learn that the Kraft Plant in western Lehigh County is closing because the plant is considered outdated and it represents duplicate capacity due to the merger of the company that owns the Kraft Plant with the Heintz company.

We Present The Truth, But You Do Not Comprehend

By Dennis L. Pearson

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INSTALLMENT FIVE

The major purpose of a regional comprehensive plan is to deal with issues and problems that transcend municipal boundaries. Subjects as transportation, planning, providing for sewer and water systems, dealing with complex questions of growth policies, farm preservation, etc., are examples where a regional perspective is needed in addition to a local

perspective according to a Joint Planning Commission, Lehigh-Northampton Counties Comprehensive Plan for Lehigh-Northampton Counties adopted November 1977 but updated November 1982.

In regard to regional trends, major sewer system extensions during the late 1960's and 1970's were carried out to service new development, as well as existing development in boroughs, villages and older subdivisions, which were suffering from problems malfunctioning on-lot sewage. Naturally, increased wastewater flows from these new interceptor systems, as well as from new commercial and industrial development produced pressures for the expansion of major wastewater treatment facilities located in the tri-cities of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, the major cities located in the metropolitan Lehigh Valley area.

The JPC Comprehensive Plan claims that early sewer systems were completed in Palmer and Forks Township areas, around Easton and in the western Lehigh County area. More recent sewer systems were in Bethlehem Township, Walnutport and the village of New Tripoli in Lynn Township/ One major proposal, however, the Bushkill/Lower Lehigh Sewer Project experienced delays for several years over questions about the need for the project, the cost and the potential growth impact of long sewer extensions through relatively undeveloped areas.

In regard to residential land use trends, the JPC Comprehensive plan summarizes:

“Between 1964 and 1972, a large amount of new development occurred in the region. Little change took place in the boroughs and cities. However, residential acreage in the suburban townships increased by one-third, or about 6,000 acres. Residential land in rural townships increased 4,700 acres between 1964 and 1972.

The dispersion of residential development accelerated between 1972 and 1980. During the eight year period, residential

acreage increased by 11,486 acres. About 7,100 acres or 61% of this increase took place in the rural townships. Another 3,820 acres, one-third of the total residential acreage increase, occurred in the suburban townships and the remaining 6% was in the cities and boroughs. Nearly all of the new residential acreage in the rural townships and most of the acreage in the suburban townships was for single family detached housing.”

Indeed- this trend harbored important implications for the JPC and others since so much of this new residential development has occurred in areas that did not have centralized water and sewerage, good roads and other support facilities that are often demanded by urban populations.

Since 1964, the JPC has observed a steady increase in commercial development. Most of this has occurred in the townships surrounding the three cities (Allentown-Bethlehem-and Easton). Between 1964 and 1980, the area of land devoted to commercial uses increased 1,491 acres or 40%. Most of the new commercial development was in the form of shopping centers and discount stores and strip development along major arteries such as MacArthur Road (Whitehall), Stefko Boulevard (Bethlehem) and Lehigh Street (Salisbury – Allentown).

Then too, the region has not escaped the impact of industrial development activities. Industrial acreage expanded rapidly between 1964 and 1972 but had leveled off by 1980. Most of the industrial expansion located in the industrial parks and suburban townships. But, in the early 1980’s after years of intermittent economic recession, there has been renewed concern for industrial growth in the region based on the location of high technology – silicon valley type industry in place of traditional smokestack industry beleaguered by the need for modernization, foreign competition and reduction for demand for products.

Examples of regional industrial park activity include:

1. The Forks/Easton Industrial Park located north of Easton.

2. The Lehigh Valley Industrial Park – Section I, II, III and IV located north of Bethlehem in Hanover Township – Lehigh and Northampton Counties.
3. The Queen City Airport and Thruway Park located off Lehigh Street in southwest Allentown.
4. The Iron Run Industrial Park at Fogelsville.

TABLE VII
REGIONAL LAND TRENDS

LAND USE CATAGOR Y	19 64 AC RE S	%	19 72 AC RE S	%	19 80 AC RE S	%	20 00 AC RE S	%
RESIDENT IAL	57, 83 0	1 2. 4	69, 61 7	1 4. 9	81, 10 3	1 7. 4	10 9,8 00	2 3. 5
COMMER CIAL	3,7 31	0. 8	4,4 82	1. 0	5,2 22	1. 1	7,6 00	1. 6
Industrial, Wholesale & WAREHO USING	11, 19 1	2. 4	14, 02 9	3. 0	14, 78 4	3. 2	16, 60 0	3. 6
TRANSPO RTATION, COMMUNI CATIONS & UTILITIES	32, 17 9	6. 9	34, 03 1	7. 3	34, 32 5	7. 4	35, 05 0	7. 5
PUBLIC & QUASI-	6,9	1.	7,0	1.	7,1	1.	7,4	1.

PUBLIC	96	5	32	5	36	5	00	6
PARKS & RECREATI ONAL	11, 65 9	2. 5	17, 82 9	3. 8	18, 74 8	4. 0	21, 03 0	4. 5
AGRICULT URAL & VACANT	34 2,7 83	7 3. 5	31 9,3 51	6 8. 5	30 5,0 53	6 5. 4	26 8,8 31	5 7. 7
TOTAL ACREAGE	46 6,3 71	1 0 0.	46 6,3 71	1 0 0.	46 6,3 71	1 0 0.	46 6,3 71	1 0 0.

Please note – TABLE VII breaks down all available land in Northampton and Lehigh Counties into seven land use categories. The land use categories being the following: Residential – Commercial - Industrial, Wholesale and Warehousing – Transportation, Communications & Utilities – Public & Quasi-Public – Parks & Recreational – Agricultural and vacant. The purpose of TABLE VII being to detail the regional land use trends for each land use category from 1964 to projected figures for 2000.

There is some suggestion in JPC reports that the rate of conversion of agricultural & vacant lands into other uses has slowed, but where development still occurs it is mostly in rural townships. Hence the JPC suggests that we are still living with the implications of these trends toward access and travel, provision of public services, and the changing character of the region.

What then will the region be like in the year 2000? The JPC seems to think that if the trends of the 60's and the early 70's were to continue, new development would be distributed widely, although the concentration of development around existing urban areas would remain. As expected, the greatest amount of new development would be

in the suburban and rural areas. The Comprehensive Plan indicates that if the trends of the 1972 and 1980 period continue over 28,000 additional acres will be developed just for residential purposes between 1980 and 2000. Agricultural and Vacant land would decrease by 36,200 acres and would represent 57.7% of the region compared to 65.4% in 1980.

To make this study complete, we must revisit this topic in a future INSTALLMENT. It would be interesting to see how Lehigh County and Northampton County land preservation efforts would impact on the JPC prediction for the year 2000. It would be interesting to see whether Agricultural & Vacant land would constitute more or less than the predicted 57.7% estimate.

INSTALLMENT SIX

R.J. Schaefer, III, the President of the F. & M. Schaefer Brewing Company wrote in 1969 in regard to the significance of his company's decision to relocate its Brooklyn Plant in the Lehigh Valley:

“We have little doubt that construction of this project will open the entire western Lehigh County area to major tax-paying industrial users...”

Indeed, the F. & M Schaefer project provided the base from which other projects would spring. As a result, the farmlands and open space of western Lehigh County were opened to a different economic usage. Up till that time, let us note F. & M. Schaefer could not locate in the valley without certain public and quasi-public utility services and facilities in-place or under construction.

This privately-owned or quasi-public infrastructure includes: railroad and trucking services, gas and electric power, and the required facilities to service the same. Essential as well, is the infrastructure provided by municipal government. This infrastructure includes: public highway

access, storm drainage facilities, water supply and a sanitary sewage and industrial waste treatment system.

Significantly, the end point of Allentown's Little Lehigh Creek Collector Sewer, which was also known as the Emmaus Interceptor, provided a convenient conduit through which industrial wastes from F & M Schaefer and other industries in western Lehigh County could flow for processing at the regional wastewater treatment plant in Allentown. We hazard a guess that if the terminus of the Little Lehigh Creek Collector Sewer was not built or chosen as the site where the Emmaus and Allentown systems would meet, the economic activities we have seen in the farmlands and open spaces of western Lehigh County since 1969 would not have occurred.

At Keck's Bridge the 24 inch-sewer serving Emmaus and Salisbury Township and the 36 inch-Lehigh County Authority (LCA) interceptor both connect to the 24-inch terminus of the Allentown system. The LCA interceptor transports wastewater from seven municipalities in western Lehigh County: Lower Macungie, Upper Macungie, Upper Milford, and Weisenberg Townships and the boroughs of Alburtis, Emmaus and Macungie. With the exception of Upper Milford, where LCA provides direct service, the collection systems are owned and operated by the individual municipalities. In the case of Emmaus, the LCA interceptor transports approximately 60 percent of its wastewater to Keck's Bridge. In addition, portions of the Allentown and Salisbury sewer systems are tributary to the Allentown interceptor, both at and below Keck's Bridge.

The City of Allentown granted to the Lehigh County Authority the perpetual right to convey sewage and wastes in an amount not to exceed 10 cubic feet per second (c.f.s) through the Little Lehigh Creek Collector which runs from a point at Keck's Bridge to appoint at Shrieber's Bridge in an agreement made December 22, 1969. This grant

or privilege was extended in consideration of payment to the city of the charge of \$0.02 per 1,000 gallons of sewage and wastes discharged by the County Authority into the Little Lehigh Creek Collector Sewer until an aggregate of \$420,000 is paid to the city. However, this discharge was subject to the condition that the 10 c.f.s limit might be exceeded by 20 percent for a period of two hours per day for no more than one day per work. The city also agreed that in the event the Little Lehigh Creek Collector Sewer required relief as a result of the above grant and privilege to the County Authority. However, should the limits in regard to agreed upon waste loads be exceeded, the County will either (1) make plans to reduce the maximum flow or (2) relieve such sections of the Little Lehigh Creek Collector Sewer as shall be necessary.

It was also agreed that once a service connection had been made that resulted in sewage wastes being delivered by the LCA interceptor to the Allentown treatment plant for final disposition such sewage and wastes should not thereafter be diverted until the LCA and the city agree to such diversion. However, the County Authority reserved the right to establish such other treatment plants as would be necessary for the efficient and economical treatment of sewage and other wastes emanating from any of the municipalities which by good engineering practice could not be delivered to the treatment plant on a practical and economical basis and/or to handle the treatment and disposition of sewage and other wastes which would result in the County Authority exceeding its reserved capacity in the treatment plant.

Then too – the County Authority in order to comply with sewage and waste discharge limitations as defined in the December 22, 1969 agreement (these being the same limitations or restrictions detailed in Part Three, Installment Six) was obligated to construct and operate or cause to be constructed and operated all necessary pre-treatment facilities.

COMMON SENSE HERALD LEHIGH VALLEY REPORT

The Epistle of Hebrews tells us why Jesus the word came into the world ... Jesus the high priest came to offer the last sacrifice for our sins ... The Old practice of the yearly sacrifice of bulls and goats to cover up our sins was needed no more.

Remember as imperfect beings we never can come close to see the perfect being which is God ... We need the forgiveness of our sins --- which is defined as the failure to live up to the expectations of God) to have that opportunity...

Hebrews 10:1-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

10 For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Consequently, when Christ[a] came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

6
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

7
Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10

And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ[b] had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

16
“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”

17 then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Fact is, Human beings really cannot come close to God because we all are sinners ... We are sinners because we cannot live up to the expectations of God even if we would try to live up to it because we are imperfect... It is indeed true that priests before Christ were thought to remove our sins through the blood of bulls and goats but this removal of sin or new beginning only had an impact temporarily because it had to be repeated every year. But when the word (Christ) came into the world all changed ... Christ the word was one with God and obedient to God and his sacrifice made it possible for human being having been cleansed of sin to no longer have any consciousness of those sins... And made it possible for human beings to become closer to God's perfection and therefore become eligible

for eternal life ... However, if we willingly separate ourselves from God through our actions, this offering of the high priest could still again be lost We celebrate the birth of the high priest of our faith on Christmas Day ... So in whatever station of life we are in, let us not forget through our actions the sacrifice of the high priest throughout the rest of the year

