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Thomas Jefferson defined *rightful liberty* as “unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others—I do not add ‘within the limits of the law,’ because law is often but the tyrant’s will, and always so when it violates the right of an individual.”

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The Rule of Law, A Fraud Against the American People

Barrack Obama stated, “Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this Presidency.” During the Obamacare discussions, Obama also said many times, “Under our proposals, if you like your doctor, you keep your doctor. If you like your current insurance, you keep that insurance. Period, end of story.” Oh, and I distinctly remember, he also said our annual insurance premiums would drop by \$2,500. I think you may know where I’m going with this, e.g., much of what Obama publically said during his 8-years in office turned out to be lies justifying more taxation and regulation, that negatively impacted the working and productive middle-class within the United States.² As for “the rule of law” being a touchstone of his Presidency, it does not exist anymore; either he was ignorant due to the indoctrination he received through his schooling; or, he was continuing the perpetuation of this fraud against the American people.

Hillary Clinton was right when she stated, “Our Constitution enshrines the rule of law, freedom of worship and expression,”³ but, then she continued, “we cherish these values too.” Yeah, right!? The Clinton’s became extremely wealthy through their political career and so-called public service. Their wealth ought to be confiscated and they should be serving time in federal prison.⁴ But, as Oliver Goldsmith opined, “Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law.”

Let’s look at the history behind the concept of “the rule of law” and what it really means. For most of recorded history, humankind has been ruled by kings or tyrants. This “Old World” philosophy or belief system states that all rights came from the king or government. The ancient Celts and Scots were the first to challenge this belief system when in 1320 the clergy and great baron’s sent a letter to the Pope, known as the *Declaration of Arbroath*, expressing the people of Scotland’s desire for freedom and the right to choose their own government.

Inspired by the ancient Celts, Irish and Scots, and the teachings of the *Scottish Enlightenment*, the Founders of the United States, in particular, Thomas Jefferson, changed this “Old World”

² For those of you who listen to the “drive-by media” and believe President Trump continuously lies, none of what the major media describes as lies and false statements “picks our pockets” or infringes upon our freedom, or, what’s left of it.

³ You may want to read, *The United States Government is Illegitimate*, available through our website and Amazon.com.

⁴ See *Clinton Cash* by Peter Schweizer, *Partners in Crime* by Jerome R. Corsi, PH.D., and *Hillary’s America* by Dinesh D’Souza.

view (the rule of kings), with the conviction that individuals had certain pre-existing inalienable rights that were the basis of legitimate government; they enshrined this new belief (the rule of law) in the Declaration of Independence.

In 1776 Americans announced to the world that “the rule of law” supplants “the rule of kings.” With the ratification of the Constitution of the United States in 1789, “the rule of law” was becoming increasingly important for the American people. With the adoption of the civil war amendments abolishing slavery, the United States was fast-approaching the realization of “the rule of law” for all of its people.

Then, in 1913, the beginning of the end for “the rule of law” was set in motion. With the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment, granting Congress the power to tax all incomes, from whatever source derived, all of the other Constitutional “checks & balances” were made practically worthless in protecting the inalienable rights to life, liberty and property. In addition, the Seventeenth Amendment was ratified that same year, taking power away from the States by providing for the popular election of U.S. Senators. And, the final blow was struck that same year with the passage of the Federal Reserve Act, creating a central bank, allowing those in power the ability to access an unlimited source of debt-financing for all of their pet-projects, schemes, and ambitions.

The laws we have in place today are designed to change behavior and control the masses. And, if the State is not able to modify your behavior, it will use these voluminous and ambiguous laws to take your property and incarcerate you. There are over 4,500 federal crimes on the books and 400,000-plus rules & regulations.⁵ As John Whitehead stated, “It is estimated that the average American actually commits three felonies a day without knowing it.” And, according to law professor John Baker, “There is no one in the United States over the age of 18 who cannot be indicted for some federal crime.” Under these circumstances, “the rule of law” is an illusion used for propaganda and indoctrination purposes.⁶

We made progress by going from “the rule of kings” to “the rule of law” in 1776. But now, we have come full-circle; back to the “Old World” view and “the rule of kings.” The power-elites

⁵ There is absolutely no reason to have all these federal laws and regulations that infringe on individual freedom and make a mockery of “the rule of law.” In 1995, Professor Richard A. Epstein published his thesis, *Simple Rules for a Complex World...* If I recall correctly, there were six basic rules, not over 400,000!

⁶ The U.S. Department of Justice, particularly under the Obama Administration, had a history of hiding evidence and charging people with non-existent crimes. See Sidney Powell’s *Licensed To Lie*, Brown Books Publishing Group (2014).

that control government and every aspect of our lives no longer call themselves kings; for even the most ignorant of the masses might suspect something may not be right. As long as we capitulate, they allow us to vote for our masters who enslave us. They even encourage the properly-schooled and indoctrinated—e.g., Barrack Obama and those who call themselves Progressives, along with many other Democrats and Republicans—to join them and participate in the plunder of their fellow citizens. This allows the fraud to continue unabated.

Thomas Jefferson defined *rightful liberty* as “unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others—I do not add ‘within the limits of the law,’ because **law is often but the tyrant’s will, and always so when it violates the right of an individual.**” As explained by Jefferson, “the rule of law” does not exist when individual rights are violated as they are today.

Freedom, liberty, and “the rule of law” are still enshrined in our founding documents and although these terms are frequently used suggesting that they exist for all Americans, they are practically meaningless. As Frank Chodorov wrote in February 1954:

“Tradition has a way of hanging on even after it is, for all practical purposes, dead. We in this country still use individualistic terms—as, for instance, the rights of man—when, as a matter of fact, we think and behave in the framework of collectivistic doctrine. We support and advocate such practices as farm support prices, social security, government housing, socialized medicine, conscription, and all sorts of ideas that stem from the thesis that man has no rights except those given him by government.”⁷

“Despite this growing tendency to look to political power as a source of material betterment and as a guide to our personal destinies, we still talk of limited government, state’s rights, checks and balances, and the personal virtues of thrift, industry, and initiative. Thanks to our literature, the tradition hangs on even though it has lost force.”

The experiment in individual freedom and limited government, which was begun by our Founders, along with the concept of “the rule of law,” has been reversed. As explained by Robert Higgs:

⁷ If rights come from government, as the liberals in academia believe, we are all slaves to those in power. If government grants rights, those in power can take them away; and, under this philosophy, “the rule of law” has been thrown out the window and we are back to “the rule of kings” or, the more modern version, “the rule of the power-elites who control government.”

“One need only open one’s eyes to the clear historical trend. The United States verges ever closer to totalitarianism, yet at every moment the bulk of America’s people and most intellectuals insist that we live in a free country . . .”

“In 2010 alone, federal regulatory agencies issued 3,573 final rules—a fairly typical number in recent years—and the Federal Register reached an all-time high of 81,405 pages. Each year state and local governments add countless rules, regulations, and ordinances of their own. Very few such rules are ever repealed, so the total number of them grows steadily greater. A standard compilation of federal tax rules, regulations, and IRS rulings, for example, contains 72,536 pages, most of which only a tax lawyer or tax accountant has any chance of understanding, although every taxpayer bears the risk of penalties, fines, and imprisonment for violating them.”

“The United States is a dreadfully unfree country, all things being considered, and it is becoming less free all the time. The little patches of freedom that remain, scattered here and there, are too few and too insignificant to refute this generalization.”

“For a very long time, [Americans] have rested content with the Myth of the Land of the Free; they have accepted creature comforts, lavish entertainments, and the illusion of security as good substitutes for living in a free country. Such disregard of reality allows them to drift steadily toward a whirlpool of tyranny from which they will be unable to escape.”

The concept of “the rule of law,” which existed for about the first 150 years of our existence, is now an illusion. The phrase, “the rule of law” is often repeated by the political class and academia, suggesting a meaning that, sadly, no longer exists. This is a fraud perpetrated against the American people by the power-elites that control government.⁸

⁸ To reverse this trend towards totalitarianism and re-establish “the rule of Law,” the first thing we need to do is to remove power from Washington, D.C. and bring it back to the States; then we must separate Education from the State and get rid of compulsory-schooling. You may want to read *The United States Government is Illegitimate*, which is available from our website or Amazon.com; this publication offers useful recommendations to reverse this trend towards totalitarianism.

The Best Kept Secret to Financial Freedom

How would you like to become wealthy and financially independent? If you have obtained financial independence, how would you like to insure that you will maintain your financial freedom? How would you like to see your children and grandchildren obtain financial freedom early in their lives no matter what job or career they choose; and, no matter how many mistakes they make along the way? And finally, how would you like to see your parents retire without worrying about outliving their money? If you answered yes to any one of these questions, then you have come to the right place!

The above paragraph is from my new book, *The Best Kept Secret to Financial Freedom*. We just sent it to the publisher. You may be interested in obtaining a copy hot-off-the-press! Go to CONTACT on our website, www.JeffersonianGroup.com, and let us know, so you can get your copy as soon as possible.

The majority of you reading this newsletter already know *most* of the secret. However, due to the propaganda that we all grew up with, which is re-enforced on a daily basis, it is important that we understand the benefits of the “secret” in order to maintain our newly changed paradigm.

So here it is again! The key to obtaining and maintaining financial freedom is to invest directly in great businesses—that have survived wars, recessions, and depressions—that have paid and raised their annual dividends each and every year for 25-years and longer. One of my favorite examples of a DRIP⁹ is The Coca-Cola Company (KO), which has paid and raised its annual dividend each and every year for the past 55-years. Why is this important? Let’s just go back 25-years, Coca-Cola continued to pay and raise its dividends through the major stock market correction that began in 2000 and lasted three years; and, it continued to pay and raise its annual dividend through the Great Recession of 2008.

Not only did Coca-Cola and 108 other *U.S. Dividend Champions* pay and raise their annual dividends through these hard times, everyone that owned these companies and reinvested their dividends were able to acquire more shares because the stock prices had declined during the respective stock market corrections and the Great Recession. Although on the surface, it may first appear illogical that stock market corrections provide substantial benefits to long-term DRIP investors, the math proves it does. I repeat, DRIP investors want stock market corrections; the more often, the better!

⁹ DRIP is short for Dividend Reinvestment Program.

Going back to Coca-Cola (KO), if you had purchased 100 shares of KO on November 30, 1994 for \$5,112 using the Company's DRIP, after 18-years ending December 17, 2012, your 100 shares would have grown to 1,958 shares worth \$73,914 representing an average annual return per year of 74.56%. More importantly, the dividend yield at the time of purchase was only 1.5% or \$78. For the year ending December 17, 2012, the last dividend payment for that year, that dividend payout to you would have grown to \$1,977.44 representing a one-time yield or return on your original investment, just from the dividends received that year (2012) of 38.68%. This annual dividend yield continues to increase each and every year. For the year ending December 15, 2016, the last quarterly dividend payment for 2016, the total dividends paid was \$3,053.46 on this original investment of \$5,112 representing a total return for 2016 of 59.73% based upon the dividend payments alone. And, within several more years, the annual dividend payments will exceed the original investment, while continuing to increase ad infinitum!

This is how you become financially independent AND, maintain your financial freedom; you continue to buy DRIP's on a regular and continuing basis. In 10-to-15 years, assuming you invest regularly, your annual dividends, which continue to increase each and every year, just may very well exceed your salary or self-employment income.

Go to CONTACT on our website (www.JeffersonianGroup.com) and ask to be notified when my book is ready, *The Best Kept Secret to Financial Freedom*. You may know the "secret" but, you will want the book for all the details to success!

Great Businesses to Buy Now

Of the 12 Great Businesses that we believe should be in everyone's portfolio, the following *U.S. Dividend Champions* (paid and raised dividends for at least 25-years) meet our parameters and are current buys:

1. Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) - \$132.90, yield = 2.52%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 54-years
2. Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM) - \$80.27, yield = 3.83%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 34-years
3. Coca-Cola Company (KO) - \$45.54, yield = 3.24%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 55-years
4. Procter & Gamble (PG) - \$90.64, yield = 3.104%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 60-years
5. Wal-Mart Stores (WMT) - \$80.45, yield = 2.52%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 44-years
6. McDonald's Corp (MCD) - \$153.83, yield = 2.43%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 41-years
7. **Sysco Corporation (SYY)** - \$52.25, yield = 2.53%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 47-years

Sysco Corporation (SY) was added since the last newsletter. McDonald's (MCD) just fell slightly below our 2.5% or better yield criteria but, its 20.1% average annual increase will make up for the difference; if you do not own MCD buy it now!

Two additional Great Businesses that we believe ought to be in everyone's portfolio are also considered a current buy:

- Intel Corporation (INTC) - \$36.33, yield = 2.99%, Paid Dividends for 24-years
- Walt Disney Company (DIS) - \$107.51, yield = 1.43%, Paid Dividends for 33-years

See June 2, 2017 Issue 13-2017, for details about The Walt Disney Company (DIS).

The following additional *U.S. Dividend Champions* are also good buys right now:

1. Kimberly-Clark Corp (KMB) - \$121.25, yield = 3.19%, Paid & Raised Dividends 45-years
2. PepsiCo Inc. (PEP) - \$115.93, yield = 2.77%, Paid & Raised Dividends 44-years
3. Target Corp (TGT) - \$57.45, yield = 4.35%, Paid & Raised Dividends 49-years
4. VF Corp (VFC) - \$63.16, yield = 2.66%, Paid & Raised Dividends 44-years
5. Weyco Group Inc. (WEYS) - \$27.01, yield = 3.26%, Paid & Raised Dividends 35-years
6. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) - \$42.50, yield = 3.00%, Paid & Raised 42-years

Contenders are companies that have paid and raised their dividends for 10-to-24 years. The following six *Contenders* are priced right for acquisition:

1. General Mills (GIS) - \$56.19, yield = 3.49%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 13-years
2. Int'l Business Machines (IBM) - \$145.14, yield = 4.14%, Paid & Raised 21-years
3. Lockheed Martin (LMT) - \$296.26, yield = 2.46%, Paid & Raised Dividends 14-years
4. Omega Healthcare Investors (OHI) - \$30.86, yield = 8.27%, Paid & Raised 15-years
5. Qualcomm Inc. (QCOM) - \$52.73, yield = 4.31%, Paid & Raised Dividends 14-years
6. Enterprise Products Partners (EPD) - \$26.66, yield = 6.26%, Paid & Raised 20-years

The next category of dividend payers are called *Challengers*, which have paid and raised their dividends for 5-to-9 years. In today's market, we like the following three companies:

- AbbVie Inc. (ABBV) - \$70.82, yield = 3.61%, Paid & Raised Dividends for 5-years
- Cisco Systems Inc. (CSCO) - \$31.75, yield = 3.68%, Paid & Raised for 7-years
- **Johnson Controls (JCI)** - \$39.05, yield = 2.56%, Paid & Raised for 10-years

See prior newsletter, dated June 2, 2017 for reasons why you should consider ABBV and CSCO.

Johnson Controls International PLC (JCI) was founded in 1885 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 2016 they merged with Tyco, a provider of fire and security solutions. It serves customers in over 150 countries, manufacturing building control and battery systems. It has paid dividends since 1887; and, has paid and raised its dividend for 10-years by 9% and 11.4% over the past 5-years. After the merger in 2016, it is now headquartered in Ireland, which will reduce its taxes and hopefully, use some of that savings to up its annual dividend payments.

How To Invest

If you were to buy 100 shares of all 24 of these companies listed above, it would cost you about \$195,000-to-\$200,000. Also, by the time you get this newsletter, the prices will have changed but, you should buy the companies you desire as long as the dividend yield, at the time of your purchase, is above or near 2.5%.

Some of you may already own many of these stocks; feel free to add to them. First purchase the stocks you own less of. Some of you may not own any of these great businesses. Some of you may have \$100,000 to invest while others may only have \$1,000. Using a discount broker (e.g., E*TRADE, Schwab, TD Ameritrade, Fidelity, etc.), you can now buy 10 shares or 1,000 shares and the brokerage fees will be less than ten dollars. In addition, **once you acquire any of these DRIP's, you should instruct your discount broker to automatically reinvest the dividends.** The reinvested dividends should be done with no additional cost.

If you are just starting this investment program, first acquire the Top seven *U.S. Dividend Champions* that we have recommended for everyone's portfolio, i.e., JNJ, XOM, KO, PG, WMT, MCD and SYM. The order of our listing has nothing to do with one company being better than the others; they are all great businesses! If you have enough investment capital to invest in all seven, 10-to-100 shares of each, then you should consider doing so. Your goal would be to acquire 100 shares of each of these seven *U.S. Dividend Champions* before moving on to any of the other recommendations.

If you only have \$1,000 to invest, buy 20 shares of Coca-Cola (KO); then buy more shares the next month; or, pick any other great business listed as *U.S. Dividend Champions* that you personally like; they are all great companies that have paid and raised their dividends for more than 25-years. As an alternative, you might select one-to-three stocks to acquire each month.

Start investing in these great businesses... NOW!

Remember, the only way to become financially independent is to acquire assets (e.g., DRIP's) that pay you enough passive income to cover and exceed your lifestyle expenses.

When you buy a DRIP, you are buying it for life. At some point in the future, you will no longer reinvest ALL of the dividends; you will live off the dividends.

Climate Change Requires Action

We can all agree that the climate changes and “97% of Climate Scientists Agree” on this point; hopefully 100% do! The problem is that the purveyors of this statement expressing the view that 97% agree, also believe: (1) humankind is responsible for climate change; (2) CO2 warming is harmful; (3) government should enforce policies to tax and regulate cheap & abundant energy so it no longer is available for use; and (4) government, through these policies, can stop the Earth’s warming and stabilize the climate.¹⁰ We can stop the Earth’s warming... how arrogant... these people think they’re God’s... we can’t even get the weather forecasts right!

Al Gore’s documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, warned, “that unless we took ‘drastic measures’ to reduce greenhouse gasses, the world would reach a ‘point of no return’ in a mere ten years. He called it a ‘true planetary emergency’.”¹¹ The only real *inconvenient truth* is that Global Warming or Climate Change is a \$1.5-Trillion Industry where the likes of Al Gore and his ilk milk the poor and middle-class taxpayers throughout the world each and every year.¹² By the way, the ten years have passed and “Armageddon” did not happen.

Apparently, being “a climate hysteric means never having to say you’re sorry. Simply change the cataclysm---Overpopulation! No, global cooling! No, global warming! No climate change!—push the apocalypse back just a few more years, and you’re in business, big business [to the tune of \$1.5-trillion annually].”¹³

As Dr. Arthur Robinson pointed out, “As coal, oil, and natural gas are used to feed and lift from poverty vast numbers of people across the globe, more CO2 will be released into the

¹⁰ Robert Zubrin, *The Assault on Science*, National Review, May 17, 2016.

¹¹ David French, *Apocalypse Delayed*, January 27, 2016.

¹² See JG Newsletter, Issue 12-2017, dated February 1, 2017.

¹³ French, *supra* note 11.

atmosphere. **This [release of CO2] will help to maintain and improve the health, longevity, prosperity, and productivity of all people.**¹⁴

According to 31,478 scientists and engineers, **Global warming is actually good for plants, animals, the Earth and humanity.** If the Global *Climate-Change Gang* gets its way, and the Earth starts cooling, “much of humanity would die from starvation alone.”

As Dr. Robinson has stated, the availability of cheap and abundant energy—to include oil, coal, natural gas and nuclear power—is necessary to preserve “much of humanity,” should the Earth start cooling again, which is highly likely.

Climate change requires action. President Donald J. Trump has taken corrective action. He withdrew the United States from the Paris Accord; and, wants to increase the production of nuclear power, oil & natural gas, and coal in the United States. He has already lifted government regulations on gas and coal production; and, is developing policies for offshore oil and gas exploration.

Let’s hope that President Trump succeeds in his quest to make the United States the dominant energy producer in the world. If he does, human lives will be saved!

American Prosperity and Job Creation

It is estimated that U.S. corporations have over \$2.1-trillion of untaxed profits sitting offshore. If this money was brought back into the United States without being taxed, we would experience a boom in investment activity and the creation of a substantial amount of high-paying jobs. Even low-level and unskilled individuals would most likely be offered wages higher than the highest State minimum wage laws.

In addition, if we were to eliminate corporate and small business taxes completely, most every worldwide company in existence would move their domicile or headquarters to the United States, creating more investment and significantly more jobs. Companies would be offering anybody and everybody employment opportunities through on-the-job training. Welfare as we know it today could be non-existent.

Not only would eliminating corporate income taxes be highly beneficial to the American economy, it would actually provide relief to the poor and middle classes. Corporations do not

¹⁴ Arthur B. Robinson, *Access To Energy*, Vol. 44 no. 8, March 2017.

pay taxes; they are only efficient collectors of taxes. Eventually, the taxes paid, along with the cost of government regulations, gets priced into the products and services provided by corporations. Therefore, everyone ultimately pays corporate income taxes but, it is the poor and middle classes that pay and suffer the most from the regulation and taxation of American business.

President Donald Trump is trying to reduce regulations and bring the corporate income tax down to at least 15%, which would increase investment and jobs in the United States. However, several Senators are now talking about a 20% rate and eliminating certain deductions.

If the United States Congress really desired to reduce welfare, create jobs and investment opportunities, they would follow Trump's lead. They would send him a bill that reduced corporate taxes to zero; or, at the very least, reduce the tax rate to 15%, keeping all deductions for ordinary & necessary business expenses. Based upon 7-years of false promises and lies to repeal Obamacare, the odds are against us, against the American people.

Although it is highly unlikely that the political class will do the right thing, they will have significantly less impact on those of us who obtain and maintain our financial independence by investing in DRIP's.

Dum spiro, spero—While I breath I hope.

Slainte mhath,

Robert G. Beard Jr., C.P.A., C.G.M.A., J.D., LL.M.