

“Consider Thomas Jefferson’s View”

Poplar Forest near Lynchburg, Nov. 12, 16

To George Logan

Dear Sir,

I received your favor of Oct. 16, at this place, where I pass much of my time, very distant from Monticello. I am quite astonished at the idea which seems to have got abroad; that I propose publishing something on the subject of religion, and this is said to have arisen from a letter of mine to my friend Charles Thompson, in which certainly there is no trace of such an idea.

When we see religion split into so many thousand of sects, and I may say Christianity itself divided into it's thousands also, who are disputing, anathematizing and where the laws permit burning and torturing one another for abstractions which no one of them understand, and which are indeed beyond the comprehension of the human mind, into which of the chambers of this Bedlam would a [torn] man wish to thrust himself. The sum of all religion as expressed by it's best preacher, “fear god and love thy neighbor” contains no mystery, needs no explanation. But this wont do. It gives no scope to make dupes; priests could not live by it.

Your idea of the moral obligations of governments are perfectly correct. The man who is dishonest as a statesman would be a dishonest man in any station. It is strangely absurd to suppose that a million of human beings collected together are not under the same moral laws which bind each of them separately. It is a great consolation to me that our government, as it cherishes most it's duties to its own citizens, so is it the most exact in it's moral conduct towards other nations.

I do not believe that in the four administrations which have taken place, there has been a single instance of departure from good faith towards other nations. We may sometimes have mistaken our rights, or made an erroneous estimate of the actions of others, but no voluntary wrong can be imputed to us. In this respect England exhibits the most remarkable phaenomenon in the universe in the contrast between the profligacy of it's government and the probity of it's citizens. And accordingly it is now exhibiting an example of the truth of the maxim that virtue & interest are inseparable.

It ends, as might have been expected, in the ruin of it's people, but this ruin will fall heaviest, as it ought to fall on that hereditary aristocracy which has for generations been preparing the catastrophe. I hope we shall take warning from the example and crush in it's birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance to the laws of our country.

Present me respectfully to Mrs. Logan and accept yourself my friendly and respectful salutations.

** Supervisor Broderick received this letter from constituent Rick Hake.
It was reprinted verbatim from Thomas Jefferson's archives.*

The Broderick Report

By Supervisor Gerry Broderick

For Residents of Milwaukee County's 3rd District

Spring 2011

County Board adopts 2011 County Budget

The County Board adopted a budget for 2011 that took a balanced approach to preserving core services while keeping any property tax increase to a minimum. This budget was contentious; no doubt about it.

There were numerous budget holes to fill, due to phantom revenue and unachievable wage and benefit modifications proposed by then-County Executive Scott Walker, and the County Board took decisive action to avoid drastic service cuts. Walker's budget proposal was unrealistic, unachievable and set up the County to lose in court or arbitration, which would cost taxpayers dearly. Supervisor Broderick believes the County has a much better chance with the package approved in the amended budget, which was adopted in November.

Highlights from the budget include:

- Employees will pay a percentage of their wages to the County as a pension contribution
- Pension benefit was also reduced by 20% in 2010 for non-represented employees and elected officials
- Up to 26 unpaid furlough days for union-represented employees in 2011
- Preserved funding for the Community Justice Resource Center, as an alternative to more expensive incarceration
- Reversed the County Executive's proposed late night and early morning transit cuts, which would have resulted in 424,000 fewer rides



- Provided funds for repair the O'Donnell Park parking garage

Under the adopted budget, the 2011 tax levy is \$269,554,701, an increase of 2.4% over the 2010 levy of \$263,264,740. Under this scenario, the owner of an average City of Milwaukee home would see the County portion of their property tax bill rise by only \$7.49.

Supervisor Broderick would like to acknowledge and recognize all Milwaukee County employees for their hard work and perseverance in providing services to constituents despite the addition of up to 26 unpaid furlough days for 2010 and 2011. Milwaukee County has a great team, and Supervisor Broderick salutes them for their professionalism and teamwork during these difficult times.

SAVE THE DATE
a special CELEBRATION honoring
Charles R. "Chuck" Ward
THURSDAY • MAY 12, 2011
VETERANS PARK
4:00 PM • ALL AGES
MILWAUKEE COUNTY
PARKS
PRIDE & TRADITION

in Veteran's Park. Chuck had a passion for parks, his heritage, and making people happy. He worked with many Friends Groups and always appreciated the time, care and effort these volunteers gave to the park system. We miss you Chuck!