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Hemphill: Liberals do not like the poor

After writing columns for 25 years, an inescapable truth has emerged from my research: Liberals hate the poor.

Most liberal programs end up hurting the poor – unintentionally, I suppose, but results count much more than intentions.

We have an immediate fuel price problem – actually, the poor do. Most of us don't give a darn. And, yes, a tax holiday – particularly if it was a complete tax holiday (sales, local, state and federal) would have an immediate impact. About \$0.75 a gallon. That is pretty impressive.

A Tom Friedman column recently had a great quote from Peter Schwartz of Global Business Network, describing our American energy policy: "Maximize demand, minimize supply and buy the rest from the people who hate us the most."

Unless we have managed to repeal the law of supply and demand, he is nearly right. (Actually we, Canada and Mexico all produce most of our energy.) We need to increase supply and decrease demand. Decreasing demand means educating 300 million people – while increasing supply means educating 60 senators. In difficulty, that task is about equal. I just saw a great video on House members who lease personal cars and have their insurance and gasoline paid by the taxpayers.

The medium-range solution is drilling for the oil beneath our feet. We are sitting on pools of oil.

The long-range solution may be renewable power. Scientific American ran a plan last December showing that it would take "only" 30,000 square miles of photovoltaic cells to provide billions of watts of power, assuming 16.5 percent efficiency – currently available not even in the lab.

Jumping right to photovoltaic is not feasible. The object is to minimize the pain in the meanwhile – which means diminishing taxes on gas for a brief time, announcing drilling to keep the price down, and planning for photovoltaic in the long run.

I would argue that liberals hurt the poor – and I offer as evidence the welfare program before changes, and as witness I offer the late big liberal Daniel Patrick Moynihan who wrote entire books on the subject.

Welfare broke up millions of poor families, established a government plantation for the poor, and hurt them terribly. But, as bad as it was – and even after changes it is better – nothing, absolutely nothing, matches the deaths of 20 million African children from the banning of DDT. Each day, 2,777 African children continue to die from malaria and this liberal disaster!

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Thank you, Rachel Carson!

Ethanol, another liberal pipe-dream, is driving up food prices for the poor, and in the poorest nations causing food riots.

The union problem is like the ethanol problem – born of good intentions. Once successful, unions remain to cause unintended consequences. Today, the Rust Belt is the result of union policies, and that hurts the poor – unless the poor are willing to move to absolutely booming manufacturing plants in right-to-work (non-union) states!

Locally, liberal unionists oppose Wal-Mart bringing lower-cost food to the poor!

Liberals simply hate the poor.

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