

# *Citizens for Common Sense*

A non profit organization

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## **Spygate**

In 2002 the Super Bowl was to be played, pitting the New England Patriots against the St. Louis Rams. Prior to the game as the Rams went through one of their practice session, Bill Belichick or one of his surrogates' video taped the work out. This is in violation of the rules of the NFL, I stress the rules are those of the NFL and the NFL only. There are no Federal governmental rules that apply to the playing of the game or what is or isn't good sportsmanship.

As a result of the violation of the leagues rules the Patriots and Coach Belichick were both fined, heavily by the NFL. This, apparently, wasn't good enough for one of our US Senators. PA Senator Arlen Specter has threatened to convene Senate Judiciary hearings to look into the matter. Senator Specter, as well as other misguided senators, must be ardent sport fans. Whether the illegal use of steroids by baseball players, the improper video taping of an opposing teams practice, our government is hard at work securing the integrity of the game.

There a several problems with the senate's actions. One, if the video cheating and steroid use was breaking a law than the Justice Department, visa vie the Attorney Generals office, should investigate and prosecute those involved. Not the Senate. Secondly, and more importantly, the country is now involved with two wars, a war on terror, a pending recession, record number of home foreclosures, inflation, ( have you been to the super market lately) unemployment rates increasing, a dollar in free fall, unaffordable healthcare, crime rates in our big cities eclipsing the body counts in Iraq and Afghanistan combined, the pending social security / Medicare collapse, tainted goods imported into this country from China, illegal immigration, etc, etc, etc. You'd think the Congress has enough to do.

Mr. Specter and his brethren in the Senate need to rethink their priorities, they need to fulfill their obligations to the people who elected them. In the event that you have forgotten those obligations reread the paragraph above, and keep reading it until it sinks in. We do not want the Senate wasting its very expensive time on the trivial pursuits of overseeing the rules of the NFL or Major League Baseball's drug policies. What's next, the length of cheerleader's skirts?

This action by Senator Specter has sunk the senate to an all time low and may help explain the record setting low approval ratings the Congress as a whole now enjoys.

Maybe the senator's investigation has a connection with the dispute between the NFL and Comcast. The NFL channel wants to charge Comcast more than Comcast wants to pay to broadcast the programming. Maybe Comcast, headquartered in Specters district, contributes to the senators campaigns and the NFL doesn't. If this be the reason, the taxpayers should not be subsidizing the cat fight.

You can reach the Senator (Specter) at **215-597-0406. Send our regards!**

## Another Stadium

They want a professional Soccer team, they want it to play in Chester, and they want you to pay for it.

Gov. Rendell is at it again! He is pushing for the construction of another stadium, at taxpayer expense, to lure a professional Soccer team to the area. The stadium, estimated to cost about \$115 million, will be constructed largely using tax dollars, state, county, city, and federal. Not to be overlooked the quasi governmental agency Delaware River Port Authority is expected to give, give, give, \$10 million to the project. Didn't the DRPA just release their intention to increase the bridge tolls, significantly, because they didn't have enough money for bridge maintenance?

Are the toll payers using the bridges in this area happy with the knowledge that the new, proposed, \$5.00 per trip will go to a new stadium in Chester and not bridge repairs? Comforting thought while suspended 200 feet in the air.

When proposed, the new stadiums for the Phillies, Eagles, Pirates, and Steelers were to be an economic boom for the two cities and the state due to increases in jobs and tax revenues. If it was a boom, the only job created of any magnitude was garnered by Gov. Rendell who landed a high paying gig as a post game analyst for Comcast. Who, by the way, got a \$30 plus million grant from the governor to construct their new headquarters. \$30 million of taxpayer money, Rendell gets a job; we get rate increase after rate increase. What a country!

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*The John DiPrimio Show on 1540 WNWR Mondays to 1 to 2 PM.*

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## Stimuli

You can tell this is an election year. These are the only times that the Congress can agree on things. Primarily the things they agree on revolve around buying votes, and this year is no different. With the country in the throws of a recession and record numbers of foreclosures, congress in its infinite wisdom is sending us a check.

They say they want to stimulate the economy, to put cash in the hands of the consumer so they can spend it on TV's and the like. The only problem with this is the fact that our government doesn't have 10 cents let alone the \$168 BILLION that is going to be sent out. The \$168 billion plus the interest we will pay, most likely to the Chinese, because it will be the Chinese who will buy the treasury note to fund this endeavor, and the TV's and most other purchases that take place as a result of this cash infusion will more that likely benefit China as well since they are the largest exporter of goods to this country. Whose economy are we supposed to be stimulating?

Our governments solution to our failing economy is to force every man, woman, and child to borrow \$300 to \$600 whether or not you need it. This is totally irresponsible of this government to force upon us this burden of debt which we, or more likely our children, will have to repay. Think about this, would you take money from your child or your child's future to buy a non-necessity today?

If the government wants the money in our hands to spend, to keep this consumer driven economy growing, don't take it in the first place. Eliminate the income tax, period. Stop the game of taxing and refunding, taxing and spending on earmarks, taxing and spending of a government out of control, just stop it.

## Radio Show Update

Just a reminder to listen to The John DiPrimio Show on WNWR, 1540 AM, Mondays 1 to 2 PM.

If you miss the show which airs on Mondays you can listen to it by going to [www.citizensforcommonsense.net](http://www.citizensforcommonsense.net) where the archive of the show can be accessed. WNWR is implementing a new MP3 format that will allow you to download the show to your hard drive, IPOD, etc.

The John DiPrimio Show is necessary because main stream media has dropped the ball and the issues we address needs to be heard.

To keep the show on the air we need your support and we need sponsors (advertisers). Interested parties should contact John DiPrimio for ad rates. Your contributions are helping fund this program so please send what you can, it is greatly needed and greatly appreciated.

# National Healthcare

For those of you supporting some form of national healthcare think about this. Merck, one of the largest drug makers in this country, just settled with Medicare for giving kick backs to hospitals and doctors, all the while the taxpayers were compensating Merck for the full price of those drugs. Merck was fined \$671 million, about 2/3rds of what it should have been fined, and they paid it without breaking a sweat.

Merck got caught, how many other drug firms are getting away with this? What is this costing this nation? Why are doctors still allowed to accept gifts and trips from drug companies to prescribe their meds to us? This practice still represents a conflict of interest and should be stopped.

Our contention still is that our government hasn't addressed the root cause of the healthcare problem, that being the cost. Until the outrageous cost of drugs are brought down, and the outrageous fees charged by hospitals and doctors are brought down more and more people will go uninsured. If the government becomes the insurer, costs will escalate at a more rapid pace; more money will be overpaid to the care providers as a result of fraud and scams, just like the Medicare scams that currently exist.

Have we not learned anything? The Federal Government cannot prevent tainted goods from China from gracing our store shelves, they couldn't deal with Hurricane Katrina, social security is on the verge of collapse, crime, the war on drugs, hunger, failing highways, bridges, and levies, you name it they find a way to screw it up. Time and time again, whenever the government gets involved in a program costs escalate and quality disappears. Healthcare will be no different.

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## Personal notes.....by John DiPrimio

Ten years, that's right ten years since Citizens for Common Sense began.

It all started with the emissions testing of our cars and we haven't looked back since. I don't consider the challenge to the emissions testing as a failure, quite the opposite. The concerns about the testing that we presented then is still relevant today and with each day that passes our concerns about this program are being reinforced. We knew we were right then, and we were. We're still right.

New issues and concerns arise and we are prepared to address those as well. We've had some success with regard to bringing attention to a whole host of issues, largely because of your involvement.

An organization is only as strong as its members. I am one person and cannot do it alone. Your support and actions are what make CCS. For it is you who put pressure on those in power to change governments behavior, you provide the funds which allow the voice of CCS to produce this newsletter and keeps our voice on the airwaves.

CCS has seen an increased interest in this organization with supporter now in several states, our web site attracts over 3,500 hits a month, and when Googled CCS is the number one site listed, which reflects the frequent visits to our site. These are all good signs. We've come a long way baby! Our web site has a forum that allows visitors to comment on anything they wish, please, feel free to use this tool.

Like other organizations we have, from time to time, had to pare down those on our mailing list who have not contributed in a while. While I'd like to send everyone a newsletter, economics dictate we cannot. Postage increases along with printing, necessitate this action. So I encourage everyone wanting to continue to receive this publication to make whatever donation you deem appropriate. We do not set a fee, we do not reject any amount sent, and we understand some can do more than others. Send what you can.

Being on the radio has increased our reach; hopefully we will be able to continue this program, with you help. I would appeal to the supporters of CCS to contact all the talk radio stations in the area, tell them you want to hear The John DiPrimio Show. Tell them you want a local, logical, non-corrupted teller of the truth.

By the way, don't forget to flex your muscles on Election Day.

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**The People's Voice**

**"Liberty cannot be preserved without general  
knowledge among the people."**

John Adams

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Thank you for your continued support.

**Help is needed:    \$25.00\_\_\_, \$50.00\_\_\_, \$100.00\_\_\_, Other\_\_\_\_\_.**

Remember, we are all volunteers, no one is paid. There are no mandatory dues to belong to CCS, we depend completely on your generosity, and we thank you for caring enough to support our efforts.

Your participation is needed as well. You and only you can write and call the politicians regarding the issues we address. You and only you are needed to write letters to the editors of the newspapers, and you and only you can call in to the talk radio stations to bring light to the issues of importance to us all.

Give us feedback: let us know how you like what we are doing.

**John DiPrimio is available as a guest speaker for groups and organizations.**

To increase our impact we need to increase our membership, so please pass this newsletter along to others, and make copies: let others know about Citizens for Common Sense.