THE CONCEPT OF THE RANDOM SELECTION AND THE STATE LOTTERY

HOW IT WOULD WORK...

Here are combined two accepted mathematical formulas: A random selection with the natural statistical curve, sometimes refered to as "the Bell Curve".

In his book, "CHAOS", James Gleick writes: "The standard model for plotting variation was and is the bell-shaped curve. In the middle, where the hump of the bell rises, most data cluster around the average. On the sides, the low and high extremes fall off rapidly...a statistacian uses a bell-shaped curve...as an instrument of first resort. It represents the standard, so-called Gaussian distribution of things...the normal distribution. It makes a statement about the nature of randomness. The point is that when things vary, they try to stay near the average point and they manage to scatter around the average in a reasonably smooth way:

The
normal
law of error
stands out in the
experience of mankind
as one of the broadest
generalizations of natural
philosophy * It serves as the
guiding instrument in researches
in the physical and social sciences and
in medicine agriculture and engineering *
It is an indispensable tool for the analysis and the
interpretation of the basic data obtained by observation and experiment *
- Chaos, p 84

FOR THOSE WHO RETAIN DOUBTS of such random selection, they should know that while this method may deliver a few "space cadets", it would also produce some "rocket scientists" as well. We have the same probability in our present system now, human beings being what we are. However, what should concern us all is that the **Great Center of the Average is potentially corruptible the longer it retains political office.** This is also part of the historical condition of man.

Yet it is most interesting that with 35 of our 50 states presently holding weekly lottery drawings, we are creating thousands of millionaires every year in this country. No one has been able to show thus far that this is destroying the national character, or that the average citizen can't handle this new-found wealth and responsibility. Seemingly then, average American citizens can govern their lives and manage great trusts when necessary. That it may also occur to us that we can also handle self-government is but a small step further.

HOW TO SELECT OUR LEGISLATURE BY LOTTERY

Among other methods that should be studied, one could involve the use of present-day Social Security numbers of California citizens. With the use of the State's computer network, names and numbers would be chosen thru, what statisticians term "random-generated number selection." Refering once more to the Bell Curve, those citizens so selected would reflect, in the main, the **cultural, social, economic and geographic composition** of the whole society. It would be, to use the word, **democratic.**

Those thus selected would be contacted by a "Legislative Office of Validation" or "LOV" within a predetermined time; perhaps 30 days. Those that do not qualify due to age, education, etc., would be withdrawn and the computer would continue on until sufficient citizen/legislators were found.

In any event, it should not take as much time and money as is needed today to hold present elections.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SELECTION TO THE L/L may include being of the age of 21 or above, high school deploma or its equivalent, proficiency in the English language, no felony conviction and no record of mental deficiency. One would need to be a citizen of the U.S. and a current resident of California for a predetermined time of perhaps two years. The LOV would need verify the necessary information as true and correct. For this, State and Federal records would be made available. In contrast, there need be no "security checks" beyond what has already been suggested. There would be no judges to judge anyone beyond what is Public Record; for to do so would require that there be judges to judge the judges. L/L members will be presumed to be competent citizens.

THE VIETNAM LOTTERY

Selecting citizens by random lottery is not new. Most recently the Federal Government employed this method in determining which of our citizens would be drafted and go to war in Vietnam. It was considered to be the fairest means to serve the nation's ends. By this logic, can we not apply the same to the governance of the State? Can we ask the citizen to risk his life but not allow, by the same process, the opportunity to serve in the State's government?

THE PARTY'S OVER...

NO MORE POLITICAL PARTIES, **rallies, speeches.** No more political rhetoric masked as promises to do great deeds. In short, no more political parties and patronage, and no more PACs.

One might think about how much more could be accomplished if our "public servants" didn't waste all that time and money campaigning for their jobs. To what better uses could all the millions of dollars and government time be used that are spent on elections of puppets? With a L/L, the people won't have to choose anymore between, what some have characterized as egomaniacs, whose chief concern in life is to get elected and re-elected forever. (In the recent presidential and gubernatorial elections, neither candidate on either side would go into details on taxes, the budget-deficit and other critical issues of our times.)

"TRUST"

ALL POLITICAL CANDIDATES ask us to trust them. Thru the Lotto/Legislature, we won't have to "trust" them any longer. Citizens will select their own qualifed and impartial administrators who will be directly answerable to the citizens.

As matters stand today, why must it necessarily follow that because today's governor or congressman or even president has been elected to office under the present political system, that he be most qualified for that office? Or that he will be able to appoint competent people to administer the many departments and agencies of government? One of our recent presidents believed that he could fire our ICBM missiles and "recall them" after launch. Both he and the American people learned of his ignorance only after he left office. It wasnot very funny then.

We are allowing the performance of the same rituals of a hundred years ago. Some of our federal cabinet officers and many of our ambassadors and emissaries from both our federal and state governments are largely those whose financial and political contributions have purchased their jobs. Are these our best and our brightest? If not, what does this say of the character of those who make these appointments? And by degree, what does it say about the process of the present system of political elections?

A hundred years ago, even fifty, we could get by with this because we had the time to correct our errors. Today those errors can be transmitted by the speed of light, and response time is but 15 minutes away from total destruction of the planet. Where then does the "government of, for and by the people" enter in? How long shall we continue this way, and more importantly, how can the people stop it?

The Rev. William Sloan Coffin: Ignorance thru complacency is the worst thing.