BEST OF ALL...it need not cost us any more, because much of the money that corporations and PACs now spend on vote-getting, would, when properly taxed as profit, be used to fund and improve our schools and teachers to encourage better the lives of us all. Who would oppose it?

We will grow The Best and The Brightest and they will be sought for their own special contributions to the society. Those who disdain or are disdained by the present political system will come forward. We may well find ourselves with others in the mold of Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln. To find men like these and others so gifted would make the whole process worthwhile. As California leads by example, other states will copy.

AND YET...

For those of the Power-elite who want us to believe there is some special and unique quality or talent in their right to govern us, they, most of all should welcome this L/L experiment. If in fact, democracy is beyond the scope of the average citizen, then what surer way to prove it? It would be their proof.

ON THE OTHER HAND...if government is not a unique talent, but a more serious, conscious and active effort by the citizenry to improve the lives of the whole society, and not just a portion of it, then we can look for an onslaught of some very slick propaganda from the state and federal courts; certain of the media and universities that harbor the Power-elite. To forestall change, we would undoubtedly hear gifted and persuasive arguments, but always be those who have their political power base threatened, as the concept and ramifications of a L/L becomes known among the people. Here one must be prepared to come face to face with the violence of propaganda as never before in the history of our society. Gore Vidal, an American historian and writer said: "How you get people to really think against their interests and to vote against their interests is very clever. It's the cleverest ruling class that I have come across in history."

THIS PAPER DOES NOT for a moment pre-suppose that the ideas put forth here will go un-opposed, or for that matter, will succeed. What it may do however, is to force the Power-elite, who refer to themselves as our "public servants", to be seen for what they really are. It will cause them to have to say to us, Look: you really aren't smart enough to govern yourselves...we are much more intelligent than you are, and that's why we are going to continue to be your servants. That's the Law as we have made it, and that's the Law you are going to have to continue to observe!

This is exactly why they continue to appoint political candidates for the people to choose between via "the two-party system". And this is why they can fund their appointed nominees' campaigns with tax-deductions which are used to bribe the media thru millions of dollars of "paid political advertising". We have, as Mr Vidal said, the cleverest ruling class in all of history!

And still, conversely, as Esther Vilar wrote in a piece for HARPER'S Magazine, titled "The Magic Ingredients in Politicians", she wrote:

> "Are they (the politicians) hiding their true qualities for the good of the people, or is what they're showing all that they have to give? Is their activity so exhausting that they no longer notice their own banality? Or is their banality a prerequisite for seeking that activity in the first place? Are the people so stupid as those who would like to govern them seem to assume? Or are the latter so stupid that they don't notice that the people are smarter than they are? Are those who finally succeed elected because there is no one better to fill the job? Or are people of superior ability eliminated from the start by the limited imagination of the voters? -- Is it possible that those who so vigorously plead for the right to assume responsibility on our behalf can no longer even imagine what that word means? In other words, is our political fate at the mercy of a power that in final analysis, is nothing more than the power of stupidity?"

"A long-range planning board"

In his highly acclaimed book, THE CAPTIVE AMERICAN, published in 1988, California author and philanthropist Lee Brandenburg proposed, what he calls, "a long-range planning board".

> "I'll tell you what a true long-range planning board should look like. It should be small enough to avoid deadlocked paralyzing debates, but large enough to allow a real diversity of views. The term of membership should be short, so that the body doesn't become a permanent bureaucracy of its own. You're in, you devote a reasonable period of time to creative meditation and dialogue, and then you're out. The members should be from different regions...with different backgrounds and wide-ranging interests.... Most important of all, the people chosen should have absolutely no political background whatsoever. The one detail I keep coming up short on is how to choose the members. Whom can we trust to choose people who aren't already part of the problem? I don't think we can trust Congress, or academia or even the media to select (people).... Frankly, on this point I'm stumped. In our current state of affairs, I know what we need but not precisely how to get it." - p. 278-279

It would appear to the author of this paper that what Mr Brandenburg is seeking may very well be a legislative grand-jury...a randomly selected congress of the people; in other words,

a Lotto/Legislature.

INDIVIDUALLY AS WELL AS COLLECTIVELY we are a strong people. We don't need political parties and political "servants" mainly because they have relinquished their privilege to ask for our support. They have become burdensome to our society. They have become corruptible and corrupt.

WHO BETTER TO GOVERN IN A DEMOCRACY than those who are themselves the governed? And what fairer way of choosing among the governed than to choose directly from our citizens? And what fairer way to choose than by lottery?

For those who would be impatient to learn the results of such an experiment, let them refer to the history of the Greek city-state of Athens, which had just such a government over two thousand years ago. Here they boasted almost 300 years of corruption-free government. Both the idea and the word democracy were born here.

U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM BRANDEIS:

"To stay experimentation in things social and economic is a grave responsibility. Denial of the right to experiment may be fraught with serious consequences to the Nation. It is one of the happy incidents of the federal system that a single courageous State, may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory; and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country. This Court has the power to prevent an experiment. We may strike down that statute which embodies it on the ground that, in our opinion, the measure is arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable.... But in the exercise of this high power, we must be ever on our guard, lest we erect our prejudices into legal principles. If we would guide by the light of reason, we must let our minds be bold." - 285 U.S. at 311.