

"...the trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so."
 Reagan R. "Time for choosing" October 27 1964

Table 1.

Question	Answer options	Unenlightened person's answer	Economic significance assessment /and comments
1. Restrictions on housing development make housing less affordable.	1. Strongly Agree	Disagree	Significant / because of huge size of the market
2. Mandatory licensing of professional services increases the prices of those services	2. Somewhat Agree	Disagree	Significant / because of huge size of the services licensed aggregate market
3. Overall, the standard of living is better today than it was 30 years ago	3. Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Insignificant / all significance of the trend perception reducible to politics and ideology only
4. Rent-control laws lead to housing shortages	4. Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Significant / because of size of the market
5. A company that has the largest market share is a monopoly	5. Not sure	Agree	Significant / "Antitrust" practices prosecuting the most successful companies usually, cause wrong business incentives and support Big Government vs. Successful business (against consumers best interests in most cases respectively)
6. Third-world workers working overseas for American companies are being exploited	6. Other	Agree	Insignificant / US Government measures arsenal to prevent capital flight is pretty restricted
7. Free trade leads to unemployment	7. (Refuse to answer)	Agree	Moderate significance / wrong voters' perception could encourage government attempt "to protect" market and "national producers"
8. Minimum wage laws raise unemployment		Disagree	Significant / Because of huge size of the labor market in the USA

Table 2.

Question	Answer options	"Unenlightened" person's answer	Economic significance assessment / and comments
9. A dollar means more to a poor person than it does to a rich person	1. Strongly Agree	Disagree	Zero / purely theoretical questioned marked non-envious people
10. Making abortion illegal would increase		Disagree	Insignificant / because of relatively small size of this service's black market

Question	Answer options	"Unenlightened" person's answer	Economic significance assessment / and comments
the number of black-market abortions	2. Some what Agree		
11. Legalizing drugs would give more wealth and power to street gangs and organized crime	3. Some what Disagree	Agree	Insignificant / not Carter's nor Obama's (the most radical "liberal" (leftists)) administrations never proposed to cancel outlawing of the drugs trade, so practical meaning of the question is approaching to zero
12. Drug prohibition fails to reduce people's access to drugs	4. Strongly Disagree	Agree	
13. Gun-control laws fail to reduce people's access to guns	5. Not sure	Agree	Almost zero
14. By participating in the marketplace in the United States, immigrants reduce the economic well-being of American citizens	6. Other	Agree	<i>Significant ... if</i> we'd join the authors in ignorance of negative externalities of the huge immigrants' influx from the countries without tradition to cherish human life and to respect private property
15. When a country goes to war its citizens experience an improvement in economic well-being	7. (Refuse to answer)	Agree	Insignificant / It is grave mistake, but I don't know historical examples and I couldn't imagine in future US administration starting war taking in consideration idea to boost national economy on this way; BTW, military expenses ("discretionary") share in total government spending tends to fall since early 1950-ties and social spending ("mandatory") tends to grow; so US Bureaucracy's sustainable choice to push up state expenses as "butter vs. guns", not vice versa, <i>see diagrams 1 & 2 below for reference</i>
16. When two people complete a voluntary transaction, they both necessarily come away better off		Agree	Insignificant / Respondents ignored possible negative externalities in these questions but looks like the same respondent proved ability to count negative externalities for the case of immigrant worker hiring (see Q. 14 above).
17. When two people complete a voluntary transaction, it is necessarily the case that everyone else is unaffected by their transaction		Agree	Strong emotional sticking to free market ideas caused negative externalities ignorance in the Q16, Q 17 means the respondent's ability to cherish economic and political institution making USA prosperous

Conclusion: 1-st Survey's questionnaire most issues are really important; 2-nd Survey questionnaire's questions' significance is questionable...

In light of Reagan's vision of the problem with "liberal friends" appropriate question IMHO would be:

Question	Answer options	"Unenlightened" person's answer / comment
The State principal responsibility and budget spending priority should be:	1. Defense, security, justice 2. Education, healthcare, culture, science 3. Redistribution, welfare 4. Poor countries assistance and peace in the world promotion 5. Diversity, gender and race equality promotion	All choices but 1-st option / General (for all non-taxpayers' democracies) trends to expend state spending for mixed "public goods" at the cost of pure public goods and with prospect to spend more and more for debt and interest repayment; to impose more regulations on private business etc explainable by the very basic choice of the State goals "... either to promote happiness, or simply to prevent evil!"

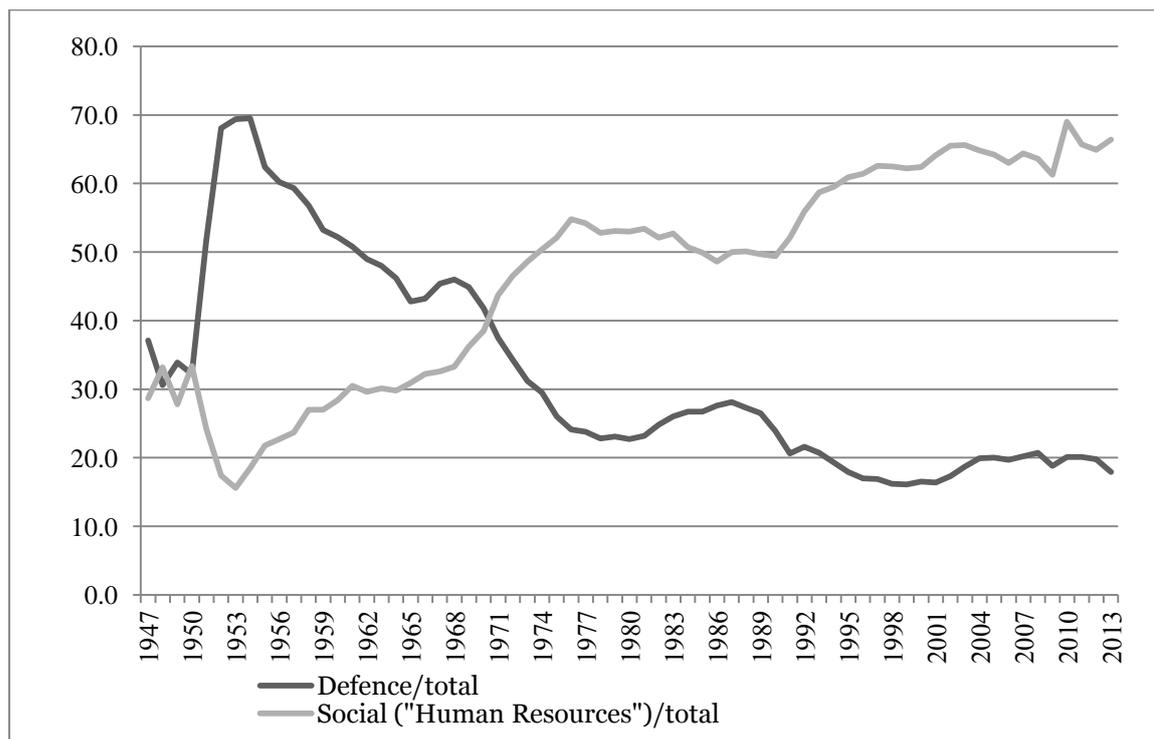


Diagram 1. USA Federal Budgets' principal components' shares historical trends ("discretionary outlays" – defense – to total spending, % and "Mandatory outlays" – Human

¹ V. F. Humboldt formulated the objectives of the state " A State, then, has one of two ends in view; it designs either to promote happiness, or simply to prevent evil"; Humboldt W. von, The Sphere and Duties of Government (The Limits of State Action) (1854 ed.) [1792]

http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=589&Itemid=28

Resources - to total spending, %). Source: US 2012 Federal Budget historical tables
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals>

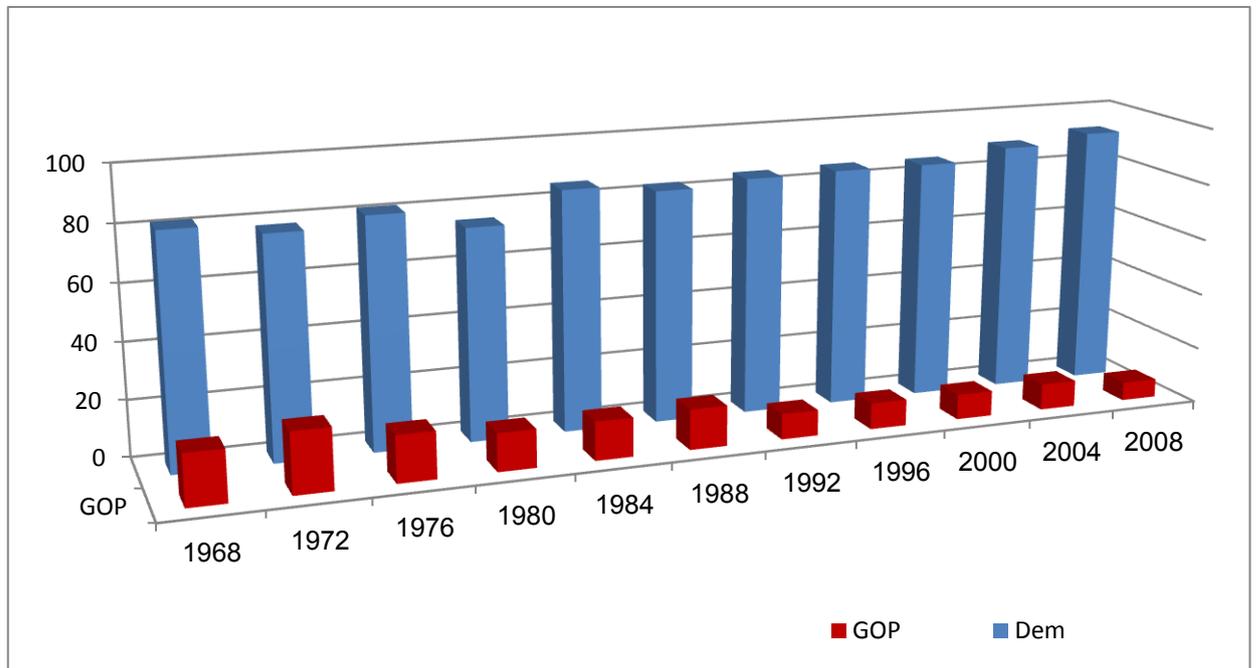


Diagram 2. Presidential elections statistics for Federal District Columbia.
Source: Official vote counts for federal elections from the official sources compiled by the Office of the Clerk US House of Representatives.
<http://clerk.house.gov>
(http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/electionInfo/index.aspx)