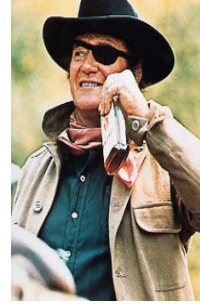




RHPHC Chair (c. 1964)

RHPC Committee Meeting Cerebral Needles March 15, 2007



RHPHC Vice Chair (c. 1969)

The Earmarks of Cain?

Today's Republican House Policy Committee (RHPC) meeting spurred the following philosophical core questions regarding earmarks. Please feel free to submit your thoughts on the subject for dissemination to your colleagues. Thanks!

Core Questions

1. Are earmarks necessary to protect and promote the U.S. Constitution's prescribed separation of powers between the federal government's executive and legislative branches; or because they remove discretionary spending powers from the executive branch, do earmarks actually protect and promote the U.S. Constitution's prescribed separation of powers between the federal government's executive and legislative branches? (*Sovereignty*)
2. Do earmarks increase the federal budget deficit by encouraging unnecessary expenditures; or do earmarks reduce the federal budget deficit by narrowly targeting government expenditures? (*Liberty/Sovereignty/Prosperity*)
3. Do earmarks subvert federalism by encouraging the federal government to encroach upon the proper powers of the sovereign states and their local governments; or do earmarks strengthen the ties between these levels of governance by facilitating state and local governments' compliance with federal mandates? (*Sovereignty*)
4. Do earmarks subvert federalism by allowing local and state governments to avoid prioritizing their fiscal decisions, due to the prospects of federal funding, and lead to a decrease in local participatory democracy; or do earmarks encourage greater public participation in the federal fiscal decisions without consequence to local participatory democracy? (*Sovereignty/Liberty*)
5. Do earmarks diminish our national security by politicizing defense contracting decisions; or do they strengthen our national security by fostering enhanced review and/or necessary revisions of existing or prospective defense contracting decision? (*Security/Prosperity*)

Respectfully Submitted on March 15, 2007

Thaddeus G. McCotter