

I agree with the separation of church and state where the state should not attempt to endorse or dictate the affairs of any church. More so, I support the separation of business and state where the state should not endorse specific businesses or dictate the free market but **ONLY provide regulation for an equal playing field restraining man's vices that would violate the God given rights of individuals.**

Over the past 75 years, the government be it Federal or State has increasingly sought to dictate the free market thinking it can minimize the ups and downs of recessions or another depression. I understand this desire, but it has to first acknowledge what contributes to the swings in the market. Usually, it is a "bubble" that is created either by greed, unwise policies in the private or public sector, or simply the government trying to impose social justice in a market that rejects the policy wisely or accepts it with its consequences to come.

The housing market was a perfect example of the latter. The Federal government provided a toxic lending environment wanting everyone to own a home. The private institutions that sold very risky loans, knowing Fannie Mae or Freddie Mack would buy them up at the nudging of a Federal social justice policy, contributed to the housing bubble but more so was the failure in government regulation that could have headed off the obvious disaster coming. In fact, the banking committee was warned by some regulatory offices but ignored. The dot com bubble was an over evaluation of companies by investors that caused that bubble.

Government taking a large ownership of the auto, banking, healthcare and student loan industry is going to be fascinating to watch to say the least. Instead of trying to manipulate the financial market, government has decided to just own a good chunk of key industries which are heavily unionized.

Here are obvious examples crying out for the separation of business and state:

1. Offering special deals to businesses: canal rights to build without putting it to bid,
2. \$50,000 bribes for union bosses to have access at the table when policy is being made,
3. Empire Zones giving credits for no or little growth,
4. Taxing specific bonuses of employees from specific companies,
5. Gov. Paterson proposing a 3% tax of gas production from the Marcellus shale that hasn't even begun! Do you think those gas companies might be encouraged to look to PA instead?
6. Sen. Schumer threatening Spirit Airlines with a targeted tax on carry-on luggage. The market will easily determine if they will tolerate this expense or not.
7. Misuse of Eminent Domain taking private property away to give to another that will generate more tax revenue.

The spending, taxes and debt incurred by the private and public sector also contributes to these swings in the market. Government's role in business should be to regulate and provide an atmosphere that encourages growth and innovation on an equal playing field. The above are samples of where they have fallen short and actually hinder business growth and innovation.