

BUYING TROUBLE

There's one part of seceding from Nevada that, from the website and public statements, it appears leaders of the effort have not told their followers about, if they know of it. It is this: Seceding would cost the residents of the new state money—lots and lots of it.

The traditional function of urban counties is to subsidize counties whose small tax base and few residents keep them from generating enough funds to function on their own. The small counties do not pay their own way.

We asked our writer Sheila Leslie, a former state legislator, if it was true that the urban counties subsidize the small counties. Leslie served on the budget committees in both houses of the Nevada Legislature.

"Oh, most definitely," she said. "And actually, Clark County subsidizes all of us if you look at it from a state level. That's why after September 11, things were so bad, when the tourists stopped coming to Vegas. If the strip fails, the entire state fails."

For example, would the 850 residents of Esmeralda County—some of them children—be ready to pay the \$20,750 per pupil spending in that county during the next biennium? In Lincoln County, it's \$12,131 with 5,223 residents. In Pershing, \$9,691 with 6,508 residents.

This is a factor that fluctuates, usually with the price of minerals. At the moment, two counties—Eureka and Lander—are funding themselves. So is Storey, for as long as Tesla is

in business. Otherwise, small county residents may want to think long and hard about how attached they are to county health, police, fire, street paving and other infrastructure, courts and so on, before deciding to secede.

The Epoch Times reports that the secessionists also have two other complaints.

One is that the "state's one-party-controlled state Legislature wants to enact sanctuary state policy, restrictions against the Second Amendment, and more and higher taxes." In other words, they oppose some public policies.

The second is that "the current state Legislature has failed to provide a republican form of government, as guaranteed by Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution."

That section of the Constitution reads, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence."

Nevada has representative government, so that satisfies the requirement for a republican form. Some right-wing commentators have argued that the number of migrants entering the country constitutes an "invasion," though if that is what concerns the Nevada secession movement, their complaint is with the federal government. Why break up Nevada over federal action or inaction?

IN COMMON CAUSE

In the late 1970s and early '80s, the federal government tried to install a basing mode for the MX nuclear missile system in Nevada and Utah. It was a giant railroad that would shuttle the missiles from shelter to shelter to prevent the Soviet Union from effectively targeting the missiles. It would have been the largest construction project in human history and would have locked off large swathes of land and vacuumed up resources. It was fiercely opposed by urban environmentalists and rural ranchers, who made common cause.

Abby Johnson, now of Carson City, arrived in Nevada in those years and quickly became involved in the anti-MX campaign. She later wrote about her first meeting of the campaign, "where I learned how to work with and build coalitions, and began to understand the power of coalitions. The Great Basin MX Alliance was Nevada and Utah ranchers, miners, Indians, environmentalists and citizen groups who parked their disagreements at the door to forge common agreement that the MX project should be stopped."

When the MX was defeated, the two sides went back to their normal causes, sometimes opposing each other.

Then the Las Vegas water grab in eastern Nevada came along, and the two sides reunited to try to stop it. Once again, Abby Johnson is one of them. Rural and urban residents fight alongside one another. She worked with Snake

Valley rancher Dean Baker in the MX fight, and he also later opposed the water transfers, passing away before the water fight was resolved. She knew Cecil Garland during the MX fight and his widow Annette is now fighting in the water battle.

Those kinds of coalitions are possible because of respect among the participants, a willingness to abide different points of view on other issues even while fighting together on an overlapping issue.

Alliances become impossible when viewpoints are intransigent, when respect for others is absent, when the outcome of battles are not accepted, when differences of opinion are criminalized.

When Washoe and Clark county legislators enlarged the legislature to keep some rural seats, when Reid generated tourism for the small counties, when urban legislators allocated money to build a prison in Ely and develop a tourist railroad there, they were acts of people with common goals whose politics sometimes overlapped and sometimes faced off. Amity sometimes generates remedies.

Everyday citizens had—and have—a choice in how to react. They can respond to those who want respect and cooperation, or they can respond to those who want division and secession. □



JIMMY B'S
\$10 Gift Certificate
YOU PAY \$5.00!

Great Food, Crafted Cocktails, and Excellent Service!

Whether you're looking to listen to awesome live bands, sing karaoke with your friends, or kick back with a game of pool – Jimmy B's has it all!

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday:
1 pm – 1 am

Friday & Saturday:
11 am – 3 am

Sunday: 11 am – 2 am

180 W Peckham Lane,
#1070, Reno, NV



Purchase at the RN&R office:
760 Margrave Drive, Suite 100* or online
<https://rnsweetdeals.newsreview.com>

*exact change only, card also accepted