

MORE of the Story

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Quote of the Week

“It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong. Know-it-alls in the school system do not lose one dime or one hour's sleep if their bright ideas turn out to be all wrong, or even disastrous, for the child.” -- Thomas Sowell

Talking Points

- The quote applies specifically to education, but is applicable to almost every human endeavor.
- It is particularly appropriate to governments, which make monumental decisions but pay no cost for being wrong.
 - For example, how many government employees lost their jobs during COVID?
 - Look at the CPSC and the hysteria over gas stoves. What if they are wrong?
 - Even worse is the continuing freak-out over the climate. How many times have they been wrong? Greta Thunberg famously predicted that if we did not stop using fossil fuels by 2023, the world would end. It's 2023, and guess what?
- Look up Paul Ehrlich. Wikipedia describes him as “...an American biologist best known for his pessimistic—and wildly inaccurate—predictions and warnings about the consequences of population growth and limited resources”. The man has been wrong so many times you would think he would be embarrassed into silence. But no. Being wrong and stupid brings no consequences if you are ideologically pure.
- All of us have to bear the burdens of our decisions. Unless, of course, you're in government or a bureaucrat. Public schools get tax money (particularly property tax) whether they do a good or bad job. So why do they care? Well, they don't. Look at how vociferously the National Educational Association (NEA) opposes charter schools and school choice. They don't want the money supply to be cut off.
- When people making decisions pay the price for being wrong, you can bet that better decisions will be made. Compare this with Silicon Valley Bank. Incredibly stupid decisions were made, such as not having a risk officer for 9 months. But the Biden administration is taking taxpayer money to make them whole. What did they (and other bankers) learn? They learned that the government is stupid enough to bail them out, with, of course, the taxpayers footing the bill.
- “Stupid ought to hurt. That's the only way stupid people learn”.
- “Experience keeps a costly school, but a fool will learn in no other”. -- Benjamin Franklin

For a background on Thomas Sowell, go to <https://www.hoover.org/news/black-history-month-profile-thomas-sowell>