

No sympathy for government workers

Few things in life make my blood boil hotter and quicker than listening to some public-trough-slurping state employee yammer about his pork being pinched [“Unfair to state workers,” Letters, July 11].

Robert Schoenburg did not, to be fair, actually say that he was a state employee. Who else, however, would moan that state employees face “A 5-percent across-the-board cut in pay, unpaid furloughs, possibly another 10-percent cut, possible layoffs, and a severe reduction in personal benefits”?

I — who earn a living in the private sector — have little worry about benefit cuts, since I don’t have any basic medical coverage. I pay 100 percent of my dental bills, and would love to purchase a dental plan — if I could afford one. Problem is, I am too busy shelling out nearly half of my income in order to support America’s various levels of government so that they can fund the millions and millions of “employees” who seem to have nothing better to do than whine about pay cuts. If you don’t like it, you know, you can always quit and get a job in the real world.

As for Schoenburg’s remark that “state employees will not receive merit raises or promotions” — why on Earth should they? Can anyone name one area of government “service” that has improved that would warrant such an action? To the contrary, the “services” that I have had no choice but to use in recent times have all been characterized by the same lame, inefficient, and infuriating “take it our way and if you don’t like it, that’s tough” approach that has always been the classic response of the state to its “customers.”

“As part of the budget,” Schoenburg drones on, “the governor and Legislature have stolen \$1 billion from the state employees’ retirement fund.” Isn’t that sad? Kind of like a pirate lamenting the fact that someone walked off with his looted treasure.

If I sound frustrated, angry, and fed up, you bet I am! Primarily because there’s not a damn thing I can do about it. If a business were to operate in such a non-market-oriented manner, I could simply tell them to take their product and stuff it. Just how, though, does one tell the “business” of government, whose product is force, theft, and fraud, that you no longer desire its “services”?

The answer to California’s — and America’s — government budgeting problem is really very simple: Cut both taxes and spending by firing all government “workers” not directly employed by a property/life protecting agency, and abolish the collectivistic, second-class “welfare” state that has been erected in place of the system of liberty and individualism that made America free and prosperous in the first place. End of problem.

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