

CHAPTER 1



THE DAYLIGHT MOVEMENT KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

“People who expect to be ignorant and free expect what never was and never will be.” *Thomas Jefferson*

The DayLight Movement is based on a belief that it is information and education, not money and military might, that will make our nation and its people strong. In the DayLight Movement, We-the-People will have an Internet-based, real-time information resource and our own media network for all to use for learning, for decision-making, and for assurance that the news we receive remains fair and balanced – a term that has been greatly demeaned by certain news sources upon which we have had to rely for much of our knowledge of current affairs.

When the American people are honestly and truthfully informed and the time comes that the lobbyists and special interest groups have to direct their pitches to the We-the-People, all of their marketing and persuasion tactics will have to be honest and factual or we will see through their deceit. By the same token, the press will become more investigative and less biased and sensationalistic because We-the-People will be wise to them as well.

A fairly recent, Internet-based, international “Neighborhood Watch,” which we will explore in later pages, is a phenomenon called “blogging:” online diaries and running commentaries on a wide array of topics by ordinary citizens as well as the “high & mighty” of government and commerce. Bloggers help to keep traditional news sources and virtually everyone else honest. I have witnessed when someone tried to “pull a fast one,” in the conventional press or in the “blogosphere” and several hundred citizen bloggers jumped all over the offending statement, dragging it into the bright light of day.

The cover story of the May 2, 2005 edition of *Business Week*, titled, “Blogs Will Change Your Business,” asserts that “[t]he divide between the publishers and the public is collapsing. This turns mass media upside down. It creates media of the masses.” The article, written by Stephen Baker and

Heather Green, went on to report that it is already possible for an organization to track millions of blogs simultaneously. The result is “a heat map of what... the world is thinking about, minute by minute.” The DayLight Forum will effectively extend “blog power” to all who visit it and participate in its myriad discussions.

With all of this technology at our fingertips, it is fair to say that We-the-People have the potential to become the most enlightened and responsible voting population in the history of the world. Using the DayLight Forum as our staging area, we will have *the power to effect change, virtually in real-time*, without having to wait for “Big Brother” to schedule a vote, because we can initiate the process on our own. Votes on important issues will resonate with a ring of fairness and truth. Even when a vote goes against a particular position that you or I support, we will know that it was fair, for the greater good, and not for the benefit of some special interest minority, lurking in a proverbial “back room” with a bag full of cash and favors. With telephone and cell phone, conventional voting machines, and eventually with our computers via the Internet, we can be more proactive and able to send a virtually instant message whenever our country and its leaders get off of a track that We-the-People, not they, will lay. For the first time in modern history the average American citizen, who currently feels overwhelmed and helpless to change anything, will be empowered to “move the proverbial ball.”

Our country’s soul is slipping away so quickly that the time for action is *now*. We are living in an ever-more competitive world, where the greatness or downfall of a nation is determined by the intelligence and dedicated interest of its citizens. This does not necessarily mean that one must have attended college, but we do need to be well informed to effect change in an ever-shrinking, increasingly turbulent, world. The DayLight Movement provides an impartial information resource and a virtual series of local, state, regional and national town halls expressly for that purpose. It is more important than ever that all of us become informed voters, because if we are not educated and do not vote, then we will have no one to blame but ourselves for the things that happen to us, to our loved ones, and to our nation.

“One oft-stated goal of democracy is the growth of individuals. Hence, the double meaning of “self-government;” in the course of participating in public affairs, individuals become more complete people (or “selves”) with richer lives. The converse is equally true:

GREGORY OLINYK

if self-government promotes better, more mature selves, so too the latter makes effective self-government possible. Unless citizens develop sufficient knowledge, independence, and public spiritedness, they cannot handle the responsibilities of self-government.”

Alan Hirsch

As we struggle to keep up with an increasingly fast-paced world, our national resonance, which used to be based on commonsense, has faded to a whisper. Through our electoral process, we have surrendered responsibility for our well-being to those who claim to be more knowledgeable and better equipped to address important matters of state like our nation’s economy, education, defense, health care, transportation, market regulation, and justice, to name just a few. What good is our vote if we entrust it to people who do not serve our interests?

“There is this strange disease that affects Republicans as well as Democrats, that as soon as you get away from home, you think your ideas are better than at the grassroots.”

Senator Lamar Alexander, R. Tennessee

IT’S NOT JUST THE LOBBYISTS

Our precious votes have fallen prey to a bizarre cross-weave of conflicting electoral challenges and proposals. A prime example of this is a ballot measure to change Colorado’s state constitution so that its nine electoral votes would be allocated in proportion to the popular vote, instead of on a winner-take-all basis. While this move would keep the electoral vote in line with the way citizens actually voted it also supports the logic behind simply doing away with the Electoral College altogether. Doing so would dramatically reduce the inordinate amount of power held by some of America’s special interest groups whose members tend to concentrate in states with large metropolitan areas and heavy electoral voting power.

How do you feel about the fact that the winner of the 2000 presidential election received fewer votes than the loser? Would you be surprised to learn that this was not the first time? It happened in 1824, 1876 and as recently as 1960. Whether you voted for Al Gore in 2000 or not, it makes a person wonder whether we’d be bogged down in Iraq – a 21st century “Viet Nam” – if politicians not so beholden to the military-industrial-complex were in power.

By becoming passive spectators on our local and national political playing fields we have unintentionally fostered a sickening degree of hubris and a twisted sense of entitlement that resonates, to our detriment, through the halls of Congress and America's corporate boardrooms. As a nation, we are rapidly losing sight of our values. It is time that We-the-People take definitive action to change our electoral system from one of corruptible power to one of wisdom and honest guidance. In the March 14, 2006 editorial mentioned in this book's Forward, ("Drop Out of the College"), *The New York Times* opined, "... throughout the nation's history, there have been a series of reforms affecting how elections are conducted, like the ones that gave blacks and women the vote and provided for the direct election of United States senators." If we can directly elect our Congressmen and women, then why not the leader of the free world?

What do you say about a country and an electorate that, during the Democratic Party's 2004 presidential primaries, selected its nominee not because of what he stood for but because they felt he could defeat the incumbent Republican – a man who many claim bought his 2000 and 2004 elections? What do you say about an electorate that was so cowed by the "propaganda of fear" that it elected a president who is neither popular nor wise, and is either an outright liar or a dupe of his political handlers? What do you say about the leverage held by special interest groups and Big Money corporations, and the mindset of voters that elect as senator a woman who, as honorable and wise as she may be, did not live in the state that elected her prior to running for office? This is not representation; this is pure old power and manipulation. We-the-People deserve better.

"What good fortune for governments that people do not think."

Adolph Hitler

"Thinking" must start with conversations. Coffee house conversations are great but something better defined and organized is needed. Something that can sustain millions of simultaneous conversations and organize them in such a way that patterns can be readily detected, and fair and rational conclusions can be drawn and acted upon by the people themselves. The DayLight Forum has such a tool and will be perfecting its capability over time.

AN AMERICAN CONVERSATION

Young people especially need to secure their future by supporting The DayLight Movement rather than the PR-driven partisan cliques that our political parties have become. We need to talk less about what our country needs to do and start talking about what we, as *individuals*, need to do. The DayLight system is not a panacea; we all know that there is no such thing as a perfect system for any purpose. Instead, it represents a good starting point for one of the most important and exciting conversations in the history of our nation – one that requires the active participation of *all* Americans in a free-flowing interaction that will lead us to where we, as a nation, want to be.

“I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.” *Thomas Jefferson*

THE MYTH OF COMPLEXITY AND FEAR OF THE MAJORITY

To those who say that the issues facing our country are too complex and too time-consuming for its citizens to command, it is worthwhile to repeat the time-proven adage: “the bigger the problem, the simpler the solution.” Much of that so-called “complexity” is nothing more than self-serving job creation, perpetuation, and obfuscation on the part of those whose jobs, elections, power, and riches rely on such a myth. Under the DayLight process politicians will, by definition, be honest and lobbyists will move heaven and earth to guide us to the truth or we will know it and their clients’ money will be wasted.

To those who fear “decision-by-majority:” wouldn’t you rather be governed by the direct expression of We-the-People rather than having our needs and aspirations filtered and edited by politicians who pander to political correctness, Big Money, and special interests? Governance by majority vote is only dangerous if the majority as well as the minority is not well informed about each particular issue or educated enough to understand it; or if the majority is dominated by illegal immigrants who have not earned the right to join in the American decision-making process. (The subject of immigration will be explored in greater depth later in this book.)

Constitutional scholar, Professor Alan, Hirsch, in his seminal treatise titled, *Direct Democracy and Civic Maturation*, argues for our right to amend our Constitution for the purpose of effecting direct voting rather than representative voting. One of the many salient points of Professor Hirsch's cogent document puts the specter of tyranny-by-majority to rest: "Does direct democracy leave minorities – including racial minorities, but also homosexuals, aliens, and other underrepresented groups – at the mercy of majorities? The risk that citizen lawmaking, will be misused to punish the weakest or least popular members of a community rests on a vision of an atomized populace voting its fears, prejudices, and unenlightened self-interests. To the extent this phenomenon exists, we should not regard it as unalterable. If the citizenry lacks civic virtue that may be because it has been alienated from civic responsibility. Involving people in the process of making laws is a step in the direction of fostering public-spiritedness. By contrast, allowing people to vote only for representatives, who often duck hard choices and place their own ambitions ahead of public service, is a prescription for a selfish and apathetic citizenry. To the extent that initiatives inspire citizens to participate in collective self government, they could prove a partial corrective."

"It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."

Samuel Adams

In the 21st century, members of the minority (whomever they may be in a particular decision) have little to fear. Thanks to a ubiquitous, highly accessible media and mass communication environment (especially the Internet), anyone with a valid point can be heard. In fact, bloggers are proving that the mainstream media is now being forced to pay attention to the *most articulate*, rather than the most powerful.

"If we ever pass out as a great nation we ought to put on our tombstone, 'America died from a delusion that she has moral leadership.'" *Will Rogers*

In 1776, we embarked on the most ambitious governmental experiment in the history of the world but now we are living in a jaded America. As a nation, we have become desensitized to the fact that thousands of Ameri-

can soldiers have been killed and maimed in Iraq, not to mention the vast numbers of innocent Iraqi civilians (35,000 at last count) who have perished. We simply, and sadly, do not feel these things anymore – a first sign of a nation sliding into decadence and decline. Arnold Toynbee, who wrote the acclaimed 12-volume work, *A Study of History*, once declared, “Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today.”

We need to awaken to the fact that we have not lost our soul; our government has lost its soul and it is time for it to upgrade to the 21st century while still retaining the values of our founding forefathers. Who else but America should lead the next paradigm-shift in the realm of human governance? When has there been a greater need or a better time?

One of the most important things to keep in mind is that, to one degree or another, anything that happens to the least of us happens to all of us. America will thrive only if we realize that we are all part of a single organism, and thus, act and vote in a manner that does not kill any one part. We have permitted ourselves to be panicked into selling out to a masterfully-orchestrated campaign of fear, which caused us to elect someone in 2004 who many of us knew in our hearts was not the best candidate for the highest office in the land. However, with the advent of print, radio, television, and the Internet (especially daily news and email services), that previously mentioned 97% literacy rate, and guidance by the “ombudsman” political prototype described below, we will be in good hands: our own.

A NEW KIND OF CONGRESSMAN

Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary defines ombudsman as “**an appointed public official who investigates activities of government agencies that may infringe on the rights of individuals.**”

Noble civic organizations, like Common Cause, alert We-the-People to gross political transgressions, and they work diligently to influence government policy on a case-by-case basis; but change on an order of several magnitudes greater is needed. We need a means to actually take action on the things that the “whistleblowers” call to our attention. There are some ugly issues that need to be addressed and put behind us, and they cannot be ignored any longer. Under the guidance of the DayLight Movement, politicians will be converted from their current role as decision-makers who are constantly plagued by conflicts of interest from their Big Money masters.

Instead, they will be *educators and ombudsmen* for We-the-People. We, not our elected ombudsmen, will vote on important issues via a regularly scheduled series of local, state, regional and national referendums. When necessity calls, a special panel – perhaps an elected Supreme Court, or a junior adjunct thereof in the form of a qualified (not patronage-appointed) review board, will adjudicate these referendums, which will be open and immune to undue influence.

Without wise leadership, a nation is in trouble; but with good counselors there is safety. Proverbs 11:14

Under our voice-of-the-people form of government, we will require our elected representatives to be as informed and experienced as possible so that they can advise us about each voting issue. It is in our power to create what will be looked back upon a thousand years from now as a turning point to a world illuminated by the light of full disclosure not darkness; of peace not hatred and war; and of enlightenment, wisdom and spirituality on a level that permits us to respect, learn from, and become better *because of*, not in spite of, our differences. These qualities can be cynically characterized as “platitudes,” or they can be respected as something that we all are willing to work for. The choice is ours. It all starts with a simple decision: DayLight or darkness?

“We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.” Plato

“SOFT REVOLUTION”

Power in the hands of the federal government is not the problem; *misuse* of that power and misapplication of our money and natural resources by conflicted politicians is. We have the ability to create a new system of government that keeps the best of what we have while improving the worst into something noble, wise and effective. By adopting a national referendum system, We-the-People can lift our politicians out of their current influence-peddling cesspool and elevate them to the level of leadership, wisdom, and expertise that they all claim to possess. Once the requirement to chase Big Money is removed, we will see who really wants to serve their fellow man and who is in it just for the wealth and power. When we have cleaned up

the mindset, values, and motives of our Congressmen and women, they will be free to focus on untangling our bureaucracy and transforming our government into one that actually serves its citizens with a degree of responsiveness much closer to real-time. The business world and many other countries are rapidly moving toward real-time responsiveness. Why should the government of the most powerful nation on earth remain so far behind the times?

What we are really talking about is overhauling and elevating the basic function and culture of Congress, not eliminating it. Many of the good Congressmen in office today will still be in office when the DayLight system of *people-powered governance* is fully in place. Once conflict-of-interest, the taint of Big Money, and skewed electoral influence are effectively removed from the congressional function, the leadership dynamic of our entire governmental system will dramatically improve.

“Our country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when a baby gets hold of a hammer.” *Will Rogers*

Just one of literally thousands of reasons why We-the-People need to take actual decision making power away from Congress is the Medicare accounting scandal (reported in the March 25, 2004 edition of *The New York Times*, “Medicare Official Testifies on Cost Figures”). Medicare’s actuary, Richard Foster, declared that the cost of the new Medicare bill would actually be \$200 Billion *more* (an eye-popping 50% discrepancy) than what was submitted to Congress 6 months before it voted for approval. When NBC Nightly News reported that the Democrats were strongly suggesting that the issue should be re-voted, it was pointed out that “[w]ith both houses controlled by the Republicans, there is little-to-no chance that that will happen.”

By refusing to put it to a re-vote, Congress, as the only entity able to correct this fraud, became a collaborator. If the DayLight referendum system had been active, We-the-People could have corrected this financial travesty in a matter of weeks, if not days. In fact its very existence, speed, and flexibility will affect a dynamic change in our governmental culture, emboldening government employees like Mr. Foster to be more forthcoming upon learning of such gross misdeeds.

Like most of the messes in Washington, the fault for this particular one lies with both parties. With all of their experience, money and staff, and 6 months before a vote was called, no one bothered to perform the basic due

diligence that could have uncovered this egregious misrepresentation. We can do better.

We-the-People have the power to stop most if not all of the insanely illogical regulatory acts perpetrated on our pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness by the appointed minions of whatever political party happens to be in power at the time – parties that, under the current political culture, are conflicted at best and corrupt at worst. The following pages offer an initial DRAFT of a platform for The DayLight Movement. I cannot stress strongly enough that the positions and opinions recorded throughout the chapters that follow are just that – one man’s opinions – offered as conversation starters to be shaped, by you, into formal platform points, but only after they have been actively argued, tested, and argued some more via the public forums that we will create and use daily. Reading this book is our first step into that future. Let us begin.