

Dear Administrator, Legislator, or Jurist:

As a member of the "governed class," many time I wonder if you, as a member of the "political, ruling class," ever ponder over the meaning and purpose of the word, *governing*. My dictionaries (I have a couple) indicate that the word, *govern*, has a number of meanings. As an example, I quote from my copy of *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, Random House, New York, (1966.)

gov·ern (gov' ern), *v.t.* **1.** to rule by right of authority, as a sovereign does: *to govern a nation*. **2.** to exercise a determining or restraining influence over; guide: *the motives governing a decision*. **3.** to hold in check; control: *to govern one's temper*. **4.** to serve as or constitute a law for: *the principles governing a case*. **5.** *Gram.* to be regularly accompanied by or require the use of (a particular form): In *They helped us*, the verb *helped* governs the objective case of the pronoun *we*. **6.** to regulate the speed (of an engine) with a governor. — *v.i.* **7.** to exercise the function of government. **8.** to have predominating influence. [ME *govern(en)* < OF *gouvern(er)* < L *gubenāre* to steer (a ship); c. Gk *kybernān* to steer] — **gov'ern·a·bil'i·ty**, **gov'ern·a·ble·ness**, *n.* — **governable**, *adj.*

—**Syn.** **1.** reign. See **rule**. **2.** control, sway, influence, check, conduct, supervise, superintend.—**govern** implies the exercise of authority in controlling the actions of the members of a body politic and directing the affairs of state, and generally connotes as its purpose the maintenance of public order and the promotion of the common welfare; **rule** now usually signifies the exercise of arbitrary or autocratic power; **administer** implies the orderly management of governmental affairs by executive officials.—**Ant.** **1.** obey.

In the USA, many of us "*governed*" take *governing* in the sense of "**the maintenance of public order and promotion of the common welfare.**" We also revere the uniquely American concept of "**consent of the governed.**"

All this has set me to asking the question, "**What is governing; what is the legitimate function of government?**" And as I think of all the things that "government" does, I find myself asking again, "**Is this governing?**" For example:

1. Is sweeping the streets *governing*?

2. Is collecting and disposing of refuse *governing*?
3. Is delivering mail and parcels *governing*?
4. Is providing transportation such as airlines, airplanes, bicycles, buses, cars, horses, hovercraft, motorbikes, motorcycles, oxen, race cars, roller skates, ships, skateboards, taxis, ultra-light aircraft, etc. *governing*?
5. Is farming, providing food and fiber *governing*?
6. Is any form of manufacturing *governing*?
7. Is providing energy such as coal, electricity, natural gas, nuclear, oil, petroleum, solar, steam, tidal, wind, wood, etc. *governing*?
8. Is providing education, entertainment and information such as amusement parks, computer games, colleges, concerts, elementary schools, intermediate schools, high schools, internet service providers, lectures, libraries, magazines, middle schools, motion pictures, music, newspapers, occupational schools, plays, radio, skating rinks, swimming pools, technical schools, telecommunications services, television, universities, video games *governing*?
9. Is providing housing, shelter, and living space *governing*?
10. Is providing emergency-rescue, fire, and security services *governing*?

All of the above human activities are, have been, or could be provided by private-citizen entrepreneurs. Many of the above human activities are, have been, or could be provided by government agencies that engage in business.

The overriding question is: "***Who should provide which goods and services?***" The participants in the Tea Party Movement have finally gotten fed-up with government intervention (at all levels) into our daily lives. When will administrators, legislators, and other government minions realize they have become oppressors?

In a truly-free, American society, government has one basic task, that is: to seek out, prevent, and punish ***with restitution and retribution***, the perpetrators of (1) fraud, (2) misrepresentation, (3) theft, and (4) unprovoked, violent, physical aggression against others. We ask you seriously to ponder and reconsider your role in government and get back to basics.