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Send a Letter to the Editor

The Platte Institute strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of

PLATTE CHAT

Our Unconstitutional Congress

BY GLENN M. FREEMAN, Chairman
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“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter; so help me God.”

Article VI, paragraph 3, of the U.S. Constitution states that all executive and judicial officers of the United States are bound by oath or affirmation, to support the Constitution. Accordingly, the Legislative Branch of the government adopted the aforementioned oath. Hence forth, the people assume that anyone taking this oath of office clearly understands that the U.S. Constitution is fundamentally a rulebook for government. Its guiding principle is the idea that the “government” is a source of

people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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corruptive power and ultimate tyranny. Therefore, the Framers made the U.S. Constitution the “supreme law of the land” (see Article VI, paragraph 2, U.S. Constitution) not Congress.

After failure of the first Constitution, Articles of Confederation, the Framers created a government and intentionally assigned specific duties and responsibilities to the three branches of government. Article I covers the Legislative (Congress), which is responsible for making the law; Article II covers the Executive (President), which is responsible for enforcing the law; and Article III covers the Judicial (Supreme Court), which is responsible for interpreting the law.

Due to the Framers’ fear of big government and to make sure there was no misunderstanding, the Framers delineated the specific duties of Congress in Article I, Section 8, paragraphs 1 thru 18. To further strengthen this ideal, the Framers included additional guidance for governing the nation in Amendments IX and X of the Bill of Rights. These Amendments established the following three principles:

- None of the rights enumerated in the Constitution can be construed to deny others retained by the People;
- The Federal Government can do nothing under the Constitution unless it is affirmatively authorized by some provision of the Constitution;
- The states can do anything under the Constitution unless they are expressly prohibited by some provision of the Constitution.

The Federal government has slowly diminished these principles to dangerous levels. In an article titled *Federalism: A Key to Liberty*, Utah Congressman Rob Bishop noted that James Madison described how the

vertical separation of powers or Federalism was to operate when he wrote in the Federalist Papers that Washington is responsible "principally [for] external objects" while state government is responsible for "all the objects, which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people."

Similarly, the 10th Amendment to the Constitution reads, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Unfortunately, states and the people have allowed many of their reserved powers to be swallowed by a power-hungry Washington.

Furthermore, "the vertical balance of power concept has been seriously eroded in recent years. Power-hungry congressmen have dangled "free" national money in front of cash starved states for decades. Each piece of greenback-bait dangled before a state legislator was accompanied with the promise of financial salvation."

"When the bait was taken, the national government reeled in the states with mandates on everything from computer programs to motorcycle helmets. The national government has tipped the vertical separation of power in favor of Washington and endangered the individual and personal liberties of all Americans in the process."

Implicit in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution is an underlying principle that the final arbiter of power is "We the People." As Thomas Jefferson stated: "In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." Contrary to what the Federal Government believes, man is responsible for this nation - not government. However, man cannot be responsible for the way he lives his life unless he is free. Liberty, therefore, is a necessary corollary to "Life and the Pursuit of

Happiness.”

Glenn M. Freeman is a career military non-commissioned officer. He retired from the Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant in October 1985. His military decorations include the Bronze Star, four Air Force Commendation Medals, and three Meritorious Service Medals. During April 2008, he was recognized by the U.S. Congress as a scholar on the political process and the U.S. Constitution (Congressional Record, Monday, April 28, 2008). He is often called upon to lecture on American Government and the Constitution. He currently serves as Chairman of the National Council of Censors; a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that seeks to educate and inspire citizen awareness of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

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