

NOW YAW'LL LISTEN UP

Some years back there was a very successful TV commercial. In fact, though it has not been heard for decades, I daresay most people reading this could finish the commercial when they hear these opening lines: *“When E.F. Hutton talks...”*

If you finished with “people listen”, congratulations...you are right on the money (no pun intended). That line which, was very popular in the 70s and 80s, was based on the perception that E.F. Hutton had made a lot of money and was, therefore, qualified to help you.

Depending on who you listen to today, with soaring gasoline prices, high unemployment rates, a huge deficit, and declining revenues with no end in sight, America is either approaching, teetering on the precipice, or has already begun a downhill plunge to financial catastrophe. Again, depending on who is talking, “Whatever we do, we must increase our deficit and increase spending;” or “Whatever we do, we must lower the deficit and decrease spending;” and/or “The answer is raise taxes;” or “No, the answer is lower taxes.” Who has the right answer(s)?!

Well today, with your permission, I’d like to update and paraphrase the E.F. Hutton tag line: *“When Gov. Rick Perry talks, people **should** listen.”*

In case you have not heard (hard to imagine), Rick Perry is the present Governor of Texas, who (rumor has it) is finding a run for the presidency *“becoming more and more comfortable.”*

Let me also say, this should not be construed (or misconstrued) as either an endorsement or criticism, but merely an extremely brief approach to a logical question; “Why should anyone listen to Gov. Perry?”

First, he makes no bones about who he is and what he believes. Just as the Founding Fathers were firm believers in a “Creator” who

“endowed men with certain unalienable rights...” Gov. Rick Perry unabashedly, unashamedly, and undeniably believes in the Creator. In a country where roughly 82% of the population identify themselves thusly, that makes him part of a huge majority.

He called for prayer for his state, and across America, between 75 and 82% of Americans believe God answers prayer.

62% of America at large and 76% of Texans believe marriage is between one man and one woman. Press “reports” to the contrary, all this places him squarely within a huge majority of Americans.

But now we enter an arena that sets him clearly outside the mainstream. He is so far outside the mainstream in this particular arena that his policies have caused his state to stand alone, far distanced from every other state in the union. The arena? JOBS.

According to the Director of the Center for Economic Freedom:

“Texas has been the hands-down winner in the national jobs-growth contest for quite some time. Since June 2009, when the recession ended, Texas has added 265,300 net jobs, accounting for 45 percent of net U.S. job creation. Over the last ten years, the numbers are even better.

Texas created more than 1 million jobs during this period, more than all other states combined (emphases added), while California, New York, Florida, and Illinois have combined to lose 930,000 jobs.”

Why is this? Could it be he practices some supernatural machinations, or voodoo? Perhaps it is some other hitherto hidden form of activity, called “**free market economics.**”

Again, according to the Center for Economic Freedom:

“... the free-market school seeks to bring and keep businesses in a state by providing the best economic climate for people to

live, work, and do business. It keeps taxes low, keeps regulations at a minimum, and generally tries to keep government out of people's lives.... You might also call this the Texas model."

And now, Gov. Perry has gone one step further. He has taken a step that will doubtless infuriate a small group with a big voice...the liberal media.

He has invited people from across the USA, and the governors of all 50 states, to come to...

"...Houston on August the sixth and take your place in Reliant Stadium with praying people asking God's forgiveness, His wisdom, and His provision for our state and nation."

According to reliable reports, *"There will be no political speeches, no tee shirts, no caps, and no food vendors..."* only *"water, prayer, and fasting."*

Wouldn't it be something if folks actually **listened** to Gov. Perry and showed up at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas on August 6th, to ask God, Who in turn **listened** to all of us, then answered our prayer and "healed our land?"

Maybe like many of us, you won't be able to go to Houston, but here's more good news...the Creator doesn't have to make a specific trip to Houston. He can **"hear from Heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land."** (2 Chronicles 7:14)