

Remove Consent

Date: Tue, 6 Sep 2005 11:22:14 -0400 (EDT)
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To: Letters <letters@dailyitem.com>
Subject: Governmental Efficacy

Sir:

What do you call a government that, hearing the warnings by knowledgeable experts of impending disasters, still proceeds for years, even decades, without meaningfully effective attempts to solve or avoid the problems?

What do you call a people who, knowing that their government is failing them irresponsibly, ignoring their welfare and inviting disaster, kicks back and coasts on, trusting in the competence, benevolent concern and leadership of their elected officials?

What do you call a country that combines both the elements above?

In the real world, causes have effects; actions, even inactions, have consequences. The denial of the evidence of our senses, the wisdom of our experts, the experience of history lubricates our descent into a morass of unintended consequences.

For years experts have predicted disaster along the Gulf Coast as development in the flood plains and lowlands of the southern US has increased. Our government, not just Bush's, but a succession of governments have, for decades, been warned but have failed adequately to prepare.

As we ignore the consequences of previous disasters and situate ourselves in the line of action for the next, we fulfill one criterion of insanity: performing the same operation under the same circumstances repeatedly 'hoping' for a different result. As a mechanism for effective problem solution, 'hope' just doesn't cut it. 'Hope' is no substitute for timely, innovative, effective action, BEFORE crises occur not afterward!

Legitimate government derives from the consent of the governed. It is long past time: to remove our consent from ineffective, self-serving, dysfunctional government; to demand that government function for the well-being of ALL the people; to insist that government envision and plan for the long term based on reason, plausibly effective strategies and rational attempts to avoid undesirable consequences, not denial, delusions and wish-fulfilling fantasies.

John N. Cooper