

## Political Corruption and Thoughts on a Heavenly Constitution

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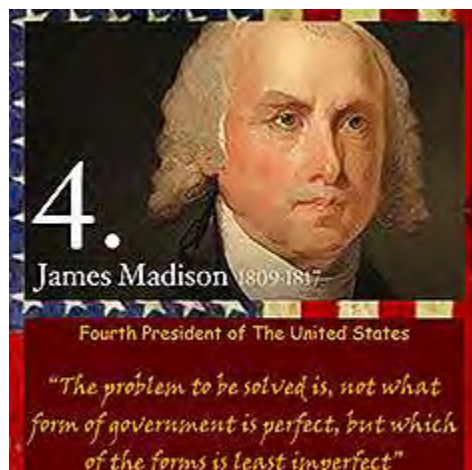
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As Dr. Michael Balcomb mentioned in his video report last week on Friday, July 19, 2013, respected elders of the Family Federation are compiling and discussing the basic elements of the Cheon Il Guk Constitution in Korea. Dr. Balcomb, Dr. Michael Jenkins and Dr. Tyler Hendricks are key members of the U.S. delegation to the Constitutional talks that will go on through July 24, 2013.

As the church waits for news from respected elders who are drafting the document under the guidance of True Mother, let's take a few moments to reflect upon the political history of my city of residence, Chicago, and keep in mind the system of checks and balances which our Founding Fathers installed as the central point of our own United States Constitution.

We have no less a witness than St. Paul to the terrible corruption that will be a marker of the end of the age. As we read in 2nd Timothy, Chapter 3:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.



Unificationists who have labored on public campaigns to stop communism, to reign in the flood of porn in our media, to expose prostitution in our cities or to fight the good fight for heterosexual marriage are no strangers to public activism. Some are guided by the lights of 18th Century political philosophers such as James Madison, who reminded his peers in the *Federalist Papers* that

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

Thomas Jefferson, the author of *the Declaration of Independence*, realized that its lofty principles would not stand up legally, so he, James Madison and others framed our Constitution so as to protect the rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” legally. And they did so knowing full well that men are not

angels.

### **Chicago: My Kind of Town**



Recently a radio talk show host referred to Chicago as “the murder capital of America, which really riled me. As a lifelong Chicagoan, whose grandparents emigrated here from Russia to escape religious persecution after the turn of the 20th century, I have always loved what Frank Sinatra referred to as “my kind of town.” In fact, growing up in the Jewish neighborhoods of Humboldt and West Rogers Parks, I was always proud of the fact that I lived in the city and not the suburbs. I could take a bus and an el [an overhead railroad] to any corner of the city—Wrigley Field, Soldier Field, Marshall Field, Comiskey Park, the beach, downtown, or I could ride my bike safely anywhere—even before there were official bike paths.

Chicago has the best hot dogs in the world (it’s the home of Vienna beef) and the original deep dish pizza (Uno’s and Due’s). The hot summers were tempered by the beach (never over 70 degrees until mid-August) and the thousands of acres of forest preserves for camping and picnics. And it was all free! We played baseball every day (16” softball is a Chicago tradition), and we had a different game depending on the number of people who showed up at the school yard.

We all went to public school, and there was no divorce. So, even though we had between 40-44 kids in a classroom all throughout elementary school, we did our homework – because our parents wouldn’t let us watch television or play outside after dinner if we didn’t. And Mayor Richard Daley would never let the teachers strike. We walked the fraction of a mile or so to school, and we never missed a day. In fact, the only time that school was ever cancelled – because of a snow-storm – we were already in class.

### **Power Corrupts**



Up until the American Freedom Coalition was created in 1987, Rev. Moon warned us to stay far away from politicians (please note St. Paul’s warning in the letter to Timothy). Growing up in Chicago, my house served as a polling place, and I loved it, because I got to keep the American flag when the voting was over. In Chicago, the precinct captains are appointed by the political parties. Their job was to “get out the vote” and supervise everything. I still remember the day when a big oil tanker truck pulled up in front of our house so that the driver could vote. After he voted, the driver called over to the precinct captain and said, “Hey don’t forget about the free tank of gas you promised me.” The Precinct Captain then assured him that it was a done deal.

Chicago sprang to life 100 years ago amid such prevailing professions as prostitution, gambling and political intrigue. During the past 50 years, four of Illinois’ governors have gone to prison for corruption,

as did several of the mayor's closest advisors. One governor was a highly respected federal judge, another a maverick renegade who ran against the system and later authored the report about the 1968 Democratic National convention riots. Our last governor is currently in prison, along with several of his closest aides. Gov. Rod Blagojevich, 56, was convicted two years ago for engaging in wide-ranging corruption, including that the two-term governor sought to profit from his power to appoint someone to the U.S. Senate seat that Barack Obama vacated to become president. George Ryan, the governor preceding him, was convicted on corruption charges after leaving office in 2003 and was released to home detention in recent weeks.

I long for the day that a public official will apologize for succumbing to the seduction of taking advantage of their position of trust. (We of course are all susceptible—were those pointing their fingers at Nixon and Clinton themselves without sin —so they could throw the first stones?)

All of this concentrates the mind wonderfully on what kind of checks and balances on executive power will be written into the Cheon Il Guk Constitution? How will the legislators of a Cheon Il Guk government be held accountable for not misusing their positions of public trust? Can the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven be assured that their government will have the consent of the governed?

In spite of the fact that the city and the state have become infamous for political corruption, its millions of citizens love their life in the nation's second city. (As evidenced by the thousands of bistros filled with young people, miles and miles of bike- and running paths, its ethnic neighborhoods, its world famous marathon and the greatest tourist attractions between Coney Island and Santa Monica – Navy Pier and Millennium Park.)

One can only conclude that the wisdom of western constitutional government in this country has been tested and proven for more than two centuries. It isn't perfect, and it has never claimed to be. It wasn't made for angels and none live there today (that we know of). But the ideas of the Founders have created what some would say is "my kind of country."