



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Parliament

— democratic world parliament through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldParliament.org

Vote World Parliament Co-Presidents are Ted Stalets and Bob French

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

This site, above, is for the VWP companion book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at <http://voteworldparliament.org/about/newsletter/>)

THE SCORE

As of August 14, 2010, 21,381 people have voted. So far, the votes are 95.5% in favor of creating a democratic world parliament.

Quotes of the month

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race. Calvin Coolidge
(submitted by Bob French, Co-President of VWP)

Hearken not to the voice which petulantly tells you that the form of government recommended ... is impossible to accomplish. James Madison, *The Federalist* No. 14.

News in brief

The Global Referendum Ballot Meets the Widget

Ted Stalets, Co-President of VWP

Right now all voting in the global referendum takes place at VoteWorldParliament.org.

Wouldn't it be great if we could take the ballot on the official website of the referendum and allow other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to put it on their websites? Also, wouldn't it be great if an Internet visitor could just vote at that remote website, and wouldn't it be great if the statistics would update daily on that same website?

Well, those are the capabilities we are currently working on. The Internet continues to grow with more inter-operability. The primary focus of the Internet has moved from static displays to interactive sharing. What we are working on is called a "widget," and widgetbox.com is where we are currently having the coding implemented for this remote voting capability.

Such a widget would allow Vote World Parliament to open up the global referendum to other interested non-governmental agencies around the world. These organizations as well as other interested websites would then be partners with us in helping to spread the word about the global referendum ballot.

The widget box code is not hosted on the partner's website. Just a simple three lines of code on the partner's website is all that it will take to add this functionality. For security, we are requesting a three-tier format, so that the widget will interact with a special page on our VWP server, and then that page will interact with the referendum database. I know this is kind of technical, but the upshot is that the remote ballot widgets will not directly interact with the actual voting database.

As well, with smartphones now outpacing stationary desktop computers and the whole Internet going mobile, voting on mobile/cell phones will be extremely important during the next decade. The voting widget is basically a portable component that can be placed in any website on the Internet. If that particular site supports the new smartphones, the widget will definitely display on the phones as well.

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World Democracy podcast

Brian Coughlan, a member of our Board, has teamed up with Fred Brandi and Deon Barnard (the three "core twiggers") to construct a professional and informative podcast on wide-ranging world democracy issues, including the global referendum. The title is:

[This Week in Global Governance](#)

because there has got to be a better way to run a planet

For details, see <http://twigg.squarespace.com/about-us/> You are all encouraged to give it a listen. The guest this week was Ted Stalets, Co-President of Vote World Parliament. The URL is: http://twigg.squarespace.com/storage/podcast-files/podcast1_complete.mp3 The core group is seeking to add a female perspective to the project, so if any woman is interested, please contact Brian Coughlan at coughlanbrianm@gmail.com.

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Problems with the VWP site

Apologies to all, but for the past several weeks, we have had a technical problem with the active ballot on our site, a problem that prevented new votes from being entered. We have no idea how that error could have gotten into the programming, but it is now fixed, hopefully forever. While we were reviewing the ballot, we also decided that instead of “birth date” we would require only “age” to be entered in a required field. We know this makes us marginally more vulnerable to voter fraud, but there are entire cultures where remembering or knowing your birth date is uncommon. We didn’t know of that situation until recently, and we cannot disenfranchise large numbers of people because they don’t know the day they were born on.

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Fear, Intelligence and Transparency

Ted Stalets, Co-President of VWP

In July, the *Washington Post* commenced a three-part report by Dana Priest and William M. Arkin on the massive growth of private contracts and government organizations that are supposed to support the post-9/11 American “war on terror,” and the funding required to pay for all this frantic activity.

The war effort is exposed in great detail, yet no one knows exactly how much money the American war actually costs, how many people it employs, how many programs exist within it or exactly how many agencies do the same work. Below are just four highlights from the *Washington Post*. NOTE: The U.S. government was invited to comment prior to publication, but there was almost no substantive response.

* Some 1,271 government organizations and 1,931 private companies work on programs related to counter-terrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about 10,000 locations across the United States.

* An estimated 854,000 people, nearly 1.5 times as many people as live in Washington, D.C., hold top-secret security clearances.

* In Washington and surrounding area, 33 building complexes for top-secret intelligence work are under construction or have been built since September of 2001. Together they occupy the equivalent of almost three Pentagons or 22 U.S. Capitol buildings, about 17 million square feet of space.

* Many security and intelligence agencies do the same work, creating redundancy and waste. For example, 51 federal organizations and military commands, operating in 15 U.S. cities, track the flow of money to and from terrorist networks.

The composite reports were quite extensive (see www.TopSecretAmerica.com) and the whole revelation had my head in a fog for a few days. The concept of transparency here was quite bizarre, due to the juxtaposition of all this covert intelligence gathering with its antithesis, a completely “opened up” operational detail of the United States’ haphazard response.

I for one very much enjoy the privilege of living in the United States, yet I fear that if the global referendum at VoteWorldParliament.org doesn’t catch on quickly in the upcoming 2nd decade of the 21st century, more and more disasters will outpace peace efforts.

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Tobin Tax may be feasible, but is it desirable?

Jim Stark, Founder and Past President of VWP

I am very nervous about the so-called Tobin Tax, and I am quite surprised that respected organizations like UBUNTU think it’s a great idea, and call upon “international leaders and [national] parliaments to implement” such a tax.

Battles have been fought to establish the critical democratic principle of “no taxation without representation.” And there is also a saying that “He who pays the piper calls the tune.” And then there is the comical modern version of the Golden Rule, to the effect that “He who has the gold makes the rules.” In other words, if money transfers between and among banks and trusts are taxed to fund the UN (or, for that matter, a new world body), those providing the money will demand a political quid pro quo, a veto, or an advantage of some other sort, in terms of determining world policies. Surely we don’t need or want a world run by the banks. (It is argued by some that that is what we already have!)

No one wants to pay more taxes, but if we want global democratic governance, like it or not, the ordinary people of the world should ideally provide the tax base upon which the UN (or a global parliament) operates. It is surely axiomatic that there will be no effective global representation (of the will of the human race as a whole) without such a system of individual taxation. In other words, “he who calls the tune” *should* pay the piper, and “he who pays the piper” *must* be us individual electors if the end result is to be called world democracy.

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Stark pens children’s novel

VWP founder and past president Jim Stark wrote a kids’ book entitled *Beaner Wiener* some years ago, and it is now available for electronic download from Amazon’s Kindle service. The book is ostensibly the autobiography of a cat, the life story of a real cat as (allegedly) told by the cat herself. The URL is:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Ddigital-text&field-keywords=Beaner+Wiener&x=14&y=17&ih=12_0_0_1_0_0_0_0_1.118_472&fsc=-1

BEANER WIENER

— the life story of a real cat —



Written by Beaner Wiener all by her very own self, but with a wee bit of help from

Jim Stark