

## Reagan's Words Still True

By Jon Coupal **Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association**

According to Ronald Reagan, the nine most terrifying words in the English language were, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help." If anything, they are even more terrifying today.

Everywhere we turn, government is intruding into our lives and homes. Don't want to buy health insurance? Go to jail, or so mandates Speaker Pelosi's comprehensive healthcare "reform" bill.

Need a little more heat on a blustery day? Better check with the government before touching your thermostat. And don't let them catch you even thinking about using an incandescent light bulb, even though some tiffany style lamps look ridiculous with anything else.

Now, California, which has become the leader of the nation for nutty ideas - yes, Nancy Pelosi is from our state - wants to limit the power consumption and size of the television you buy.

On November 18th the California Energy Commission is scheduled to vote on a proposal that would limit the sales of televisions to those using about one-third the power consumed by today's models

If the Commission gets its way, it will put a real crimp in the plans of those who have been working hard to be able to afford a home theater system. Although technology is rapidly making more energy efficient products available, the energy commission is going to wave its magic wand and say, "If you don't comply, bye bye to your big screen TV."

Alright, can't watch the game this Sunday? How about taking the family for a drive? Just make sure your car is not black. Seriously. The California Air Resources Council would like to see black cars banned because the color absorbs more heat. That's right, they want to eliminate black cars because they figure that drivers are turning on their air conditioning, which means using a little more gasoline. If black cars go, can navy blue be far behind? Folks, we are rapidly approaching an America where government will be picking the color schemes of our homes.

The nanny-state is proving a relentless foe of freedom. Don't be surprised if, in a few short years, government looks to take over, not just standards for your appliances and automobiles, but when you can operate them, for how long and how much energy they consume in a given time frame. If Government bureaucrats think people are using too much energy to heat and cool their homes, they'll just take control of thermostats electronically - so that the temperature of your child's bedroom is dictated by some bureaucrat in Sacramento or

Washington. These are the same fools who believe that such control actually makes more sense than encouraging the building of new power plants to keep up with demand for energy.

And while those in government seem intent on controlling every aspect of our lives, it is not farfetched to suggest that to pay for these programs, their next step will be to seize more tax money directly from our paychecks. Oh, wait, they just did that by increasing withholding on wages by 10 percent.

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