

Housing supplied by the federal government is not a right

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By [Randy W. Bright](#)

I am a very positive person. I think that most people who know me well would agree that I am a very positive person. I read a lot of articles that I disagree with and anyone who has read my column over the years would agree with that. Despite all of the problems that this country has, it still has a bright future if we can retain what made us an exceptional nation to begin with.

But sometimes I read an article that makes it difficult to maintain my positive outlook because it conveys an attitude of surrender to the destruction of the human spirit and it comes from someone who believes that the Obama administration isn't doing enough for America.

For the record, I am not interested in personal attacks. If you are interested enough to determine who wrote the quotes I am about to give you, you can likely do so. Having said that I hope that what I write in this article is considered to be constructive criticism.

The blogger I am writing about in this article is concerned about the poor, specifically, he is concerned about providing housing for the poor. That in and of itself is a noble thing.

However, this person's complaint is not just that there is not enough affordable housing for the poor, but that the federal government is not providing it.

Here is what he wrote: "...the federal government has largely abdicated its responsibility to build more affordable housing in this country. Given the current housing crisis in cities such as New York, San Francisco and other growing urban areas, and given that 13 percent (39 million) of Americans live in poverty, the federal government's reluctance to build more affordable housing is at best irresponsible."

To make this more understandable, the term "affordable" no longer means what the dictionary says it means; now it means "subsidized." We see this term used a great deal now in reference to housing and transportation, and it is descriptive of what wealth redistribution means.

There is no doubt that there is poverty in this nation and there probably will always be some – it is simply a matter of degree. It is not a matter of accepting poverty as a matter of fact but in objectively understanding why there is poverty.

Some people bring poverty on themselves with their life choices; others are in poverty because of circumstances beyond their control, such as health or age. Still others are in poverty because they are encouraged to believe that that is all that is possible for them. Irrespective of any of these conditions, poverty does not have to be a terminal condition and many people have escaped it when they chose to take responsibility for their plight, regardless of who is actually to blame.

The blogger further laments that the poor are being neglected by a federal government that is placing too much emphasis on the military.

He wrote, “The stated mission of the Pentagon is to be capable of fighting a major war on two fronts. Although this was necessary during World War II, the threat of two wars today pales in comparison to the threat faced by so many Americans who live below the poverty line and cannot afford decent shelter. Every country must be prepared for the eventuality of war. However, every country should also provide basic public services to all of its residents. These choices need not be mutually exclusive. Thankfully, the United States is wealthy enough to do both.”

First of all, nowhere in our Constitution is housing listed as a right - nor does it state that the federal government must provide some minimum level of comfort to all Americans. This blogger laments that Americans cannot afford decent shelter, yet even the poorest Americans have a greater standard of living than most people in the world. And for those in this country who are willing to work hard, decent housing is available without being subsidized by the federal government.

Secondly, the federal government is constitutionally required to provide for the national defense. In case you haven’t noticed, we live in a very dangerous world and the Obama administration is dangerously reducing our military, not prioritizing it over housing.

It would be easy to feel demoralized, discouraged and disparaged by such an attitude that American cannot succeed without the help of the federal government.

The truth is that most Americans want to work for what they get – they just want the federal government to get out of their way.

If you disagree with me, read the book *The 5000-Year Leap* first and try to tell me that America has its best days behind it. As long as Americans don’t believe what this blogger does, and embraces Constitutional principles, you haven’t seen anything yet.



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