



** FEEDBACK SOUGHT** I guess everybody remembers how I raked my friend, Congressman Dennis Ross, over the coals, in my recent scorchedearth column: http://www.TheLedger.com/

Q

.../COLUMNISTS03/160809884/1382/edit... And, not before my infamous "Heavy Hand" letter really embarrassing him & his office for cyber-bullying: http://www.TheLedger.com/artic.../.../20130124/News/608070720/LL (The fact he still talks to me & isn't mad speaks volumes to his good character!) Anyhow, before I turn up the temperature to max heat for my next scorchedearth column, I'm tagging a few friends because I'm about to contemplate "Part 2," & wanted your feedback -because I admit that I don't know it all:

My next victim... uh, I mean, subject... is Sec of Ed, Betsy DeVos. While I agree with her conclusion on Public Ed vouchers, I'm adamantly opposed to the lame defense (or lack thereof is more accurate), & wanted to chide & "educate" the Sec. of "Education," ironically. I also have concerns with how African Americans are getting the short end of the stick, as TIME magazine documents: "Four years after graduating college, black students owe nearly twice as much student debt as their white peers do and are three times more likely to default on those loans, according to a new paper by the Brookings Institution." Source: "Black College Grads Have Twice as Much Student Debt as Whites," by Kerri Anne Renzulli, TIME, Oct 21, 2016: http://Time.com/money/4540266/student-debt-racial-gap/ While I'm bothering to write a follow-up. I think I'll hold DeVos' feet to the fire on the same 2 points where I felt Congressman Ross failed: Failing to grasp the 'Bennett Hypothesis,' which states costs increase when you subsidizes, and, of course, the issue of bankruptcy for college loans, the lack of which is wrong for numerous reasons: Not trying to get a free handout, but I despise being called a 'Liberal Snowflake' seeking a 'Free Handout' College: WAS free back on their day, so those old-timers making fun of me are the ones who were getting a free handout -- PROOF: "Was college once free in United States, as Bernie Sanders says?," PolitiFact, RATED "Mostly True" - By Amy Sherman on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. http://www.PolitiFact.com/.../was-college-once-free-united-st...

Anyhow, here's a few excerpts from my rough draft - please tell me what you think, even if you disagree with me: All voices are important, and we only get stronger if we listen to all voices - and not just those which which we agree. The DOE was kind enough to both visit my website (which I documented) and also respond to me, acknowledging me emails:

- * http://gordonwatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email PDF.pdf
- * http://gordonwaynewatts.com/DOE-acknowledges-my-email_HTML....

The following is an excerpt from my recent Press Inquiry to the U.S. Dept. of



Education, where I reminded them I'm capable of embarrassing press if they give me some flack:

- * http://gordonwatts.com/Fri10Mar2017_Press-Inquiry-AOL-to-Do...
- * http://gordonwatts.com/Press-Inquiry_FollowUp_HTML.html

ROUGH DRAFT: [[""Why is there a deafening silence from the Dept of Ed and the Trump administration when there is a good comparison, with the Federal Pell Grant, which they might use to defend the use of vouchers? I'm VERY disappointed, but, unlike others, I won't merely complain, but rather try to help them effect a solution - in this case, to their problem of deafening silence & mute inability to defend their voucher plan: Here's my take:

Proponents of Public Ed vouchers, chiefly Conservatives, Republicans, & right-wingers, argue that vouchers would help Public Education because they promote free market competition between private & public schools by affording "school choice" to parents & students. Proof of that is seen because this model has worked in Higher Ed, with publicly funded colleges & universities directly competing with private universities for tuition money provided by the Government, such as the G.I. Bill & the Pell Grant.

Since liberal college students have no compunctions or qualms taking their Federal Pell Grants, and running to any school of their choice (even private or religious colleges), this is proof that this model works, but are Pells and Vouchers comparable?

Based on numerous phone conversations with U.S. Department of Education policy experts, the DOE Press Officers, and my own research from their official website, I conclude that the answer is 'yes': The Pell Grant, a need-based aid, like the Voucher, can only be used for authorized school expenses at qualified schools, and, like the Pell, the money follows the student, for use against those authorized expenses (not all expenses are covered): Sources: "Federal Pell Grants are usually awarded only to undergraduate students.". Retrieved March 10, 2017:

https://StudentAid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/pell and: "Wondering how the amount of your federal student aid is determined?". Retrieved March 10, 2017: https://StudentAid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated Lastly, DeVos, Trump, and others have found many people who have testified publicly that they were helped when vouchers made up a financial shortfall to compensate for their attempts to get out of a poor-performing public school.

Conclusion: Since even Liberals take their PELL grants and gladly use them at private colleges, and the "public" state colleges aren't harmed or hurt (even tho said public colleges have *less* public funding than public education schools, which are 100%-funded), then there should be even *less* problem with vouchers than with PELL grants, so DeVos and her supporters would be wise to use this analogy as an affirmative defense & argument in whereof we support vouchers.""]]

OK, that's my proposed defense. When Liberals read this, there will be a temptation to continue to support vouchers (and if I'm wrong, let me have

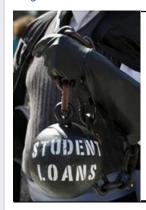
it). But, if I'm right, then my guess & hope is that most liberals (who gladly take Federal Pell Grants, similar in function) should admit they're wrong. (And, if DeVos & her Press Officers are honest, they'll *also* admit that they were also wrong to not use this common-sense defense.)

What do you think of my proposed defense of the voucher plan. (And, if you have time, what about my recent column about Congressman Ross or the other points I raised in my letter to the DOE?) Thanks,

Gordon W. Watts in Lakeland///

PS: I don't tag people often, but if you wanna avoid me tagging you in the future, just say so - no problemo. 🙂

Gordon Wayne Watts Doris Moore Bailey Ricky Shirah Robert More Jason Mattair Brett Upthagrove Brian Dockery Elliott Dorsch Justin Troller Lisa Miller Randy Wilkinson Randy Wilkinson Paula Davis Hacker April Mathis Rebekah E Ricks David Pippin Nancy Shaar Joel Luther Sheree Guastella Anthony Brian Logan Dan Burress Dena Stebbins DeCamp Jake Walsh Barb Stotler Jerry Legister Duwayne A Peart Patricia Killough Jennifer Gilford Anderson Carole Hawver MacKay Shawn Gilliam James Neighbors Anthony Stevens Dallas Thurman Earl Shay Beckye Rayburn Raquel Okyay MariLeigh Rayburn Dwight Young Calvin Marion Edward Caldwell Ron Hornback Shandale Terrell Erika Grey Brian Duggan Jeff Cox Natalie Wright



A Polk Perspective: Fix our bankrupt policy on student debt

In May 2014 U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross told those listening to a "teletown" hall meeting that if college students can't repay their loans from a

THE FDGER COM









🗘 🔼 😯 You, Beckye Rayburn, MariLeigh Rayburn and 2 others

1 share

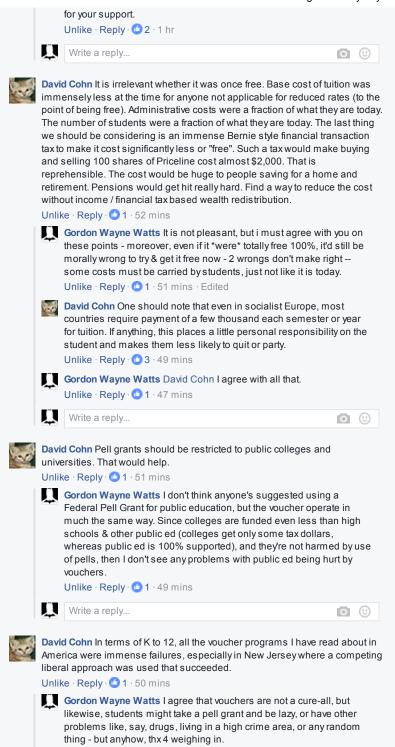
8 Comments

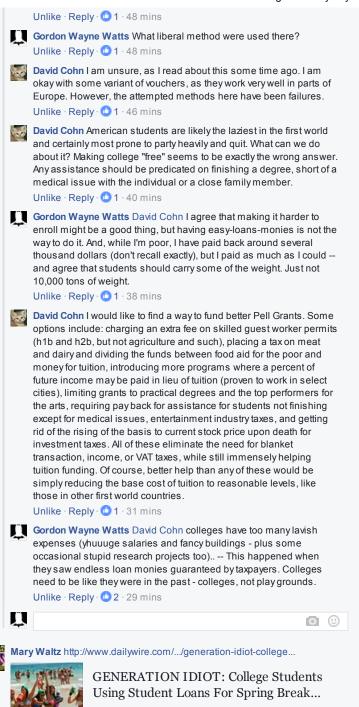


Robert More After having read your proposed defense, Mr. Watts, I challenge anyone who would disagree with its logic. In other words, great job. Now, the question is whether pride will be a deterrent to those parties who either disagree (so-called liberals) or supposedly agree but were not clever enough to use your proposed defense (the dept of ed and Ms. Betsy DeVos). Unlike · Reply · 1 · 1 hr

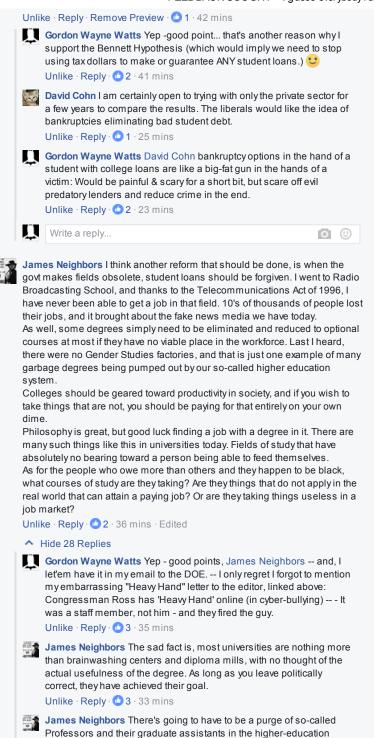


Gordon Wayne Watts Thank you for your feedback, Robert More -and





DAILYWIRE.COM



system across this nation. Replace them with people who have worked in the field of study. Kinda like how Universities once were. People who had experience in a viable field, teaching others how to be useful in society. Before universities existed, they were called apprenticeships.

Unlike · Reply · 6 2 · 31 mins



David Cohn My university was about half and half and it worked out guite well. Pretty much everyone had worked in the private sector at one time that was teaching classes for my major.

Unlike · Reply · 6 2 · 29 mins · Edited



James Neighbors David Cohn Having seen what's going on in Universities across the nation with Black Lives Terrorists and the Antifa idiots taking over entire campuses, you came out lucky.

Unlike · Reply · 6 3 · 29 mins



Patricia Killough James Neighbors, I agree with you 199% about the brainwashing. I feel that more parents (who are STILL bearing a LOT of the cost of college/university education) should be at the various places of higher education INSPECTING what they EXPECT to be taught! We have, in part, allowed this to happen and even subsidized it. It is happening in our public schools as well. If we parents and grandparents do not stay involved after our children graduate from high school, we lose great amounts of continuity and practicality in our education system.

Unlike · Reply · 6 2 · 29 mins



David Cohn Education from K to the end of college was entirely different and better when I was in school. Ateacher in K to 12 could use entirely their own books and methods and they did. It worked immensely better than today's rigid teach to the test system. We also valued and required physical education and the arts.

Unlike · Reply · @ 3 · 27 mins



James Neighbors Patricia Killough Parents should be the only people teaching children values. Education centers should only be about raw education, and nothing else.

Unlike · Reply · 6 2 · 27 mins



Gordon Wayne Watts David Cohn yeah - but currently, colleges are money-mills - to make \$\$ off of students, requiring them to buy expensive books (when online books or cheaper print copies would work just fine).

Unlike · Reply · 6 4 · 27 mins

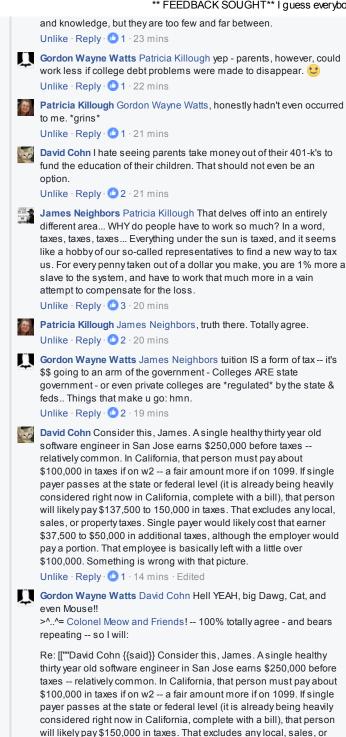


David Cohn We could legislate that PDF copies must be offered at \$50 or less a book. That would reduce costs. We also should mandate limits on revisions. Those cost an unnecessary fortune. Volume 1, 2, 10, 50, ... They still make new versions of some of my books each year. Calculus has not changed that much in twenty years!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · 23 mins · Edited



Patricia Killough James Neighbors, unfortunately, we are faced with parents who both work and come home "too tired" to care about interacting in meaningful ways with their children (amazes me that they never realized it was a 24 hour job!). Then, values are left to teachers...not all of whom really should be teaching. Some, bless their hearts, really try to pass on solid values and dependable skills



property taxes. Single payer would likely cost that earner \$37,500 to



