

HAINES *Alaska* NEWS

All the news the other paper forgot to print

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Alaska Alliance for Commerce
P.O. Box 784
Haines, AK 99827

Editor:
Roger Maynard
Email: roger@fiddlestix.biz

Happy Thanksgiving

What did we learn from the Pilgrims?

First, let's be clear that the pilgrims were thanking God, not the Indians, for their prosperity. They were grateful to the Indians for their role in the survival of the colony, but there was no doubt in the Pilgrim's minds that their destiny was up to God.

But there's another part of the Pilgrim story that is not taught in today's schools: Their experiment in capitalism is one of the foundations on which we built our free-market economy.

The Pilgrim Charter: An Experiment in Socialism

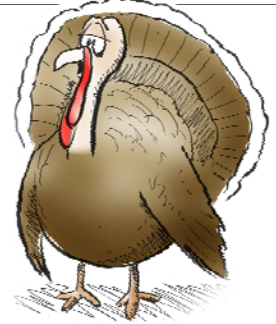
The first charter of the Pilgrims in 1620 provided for the fruits of their labor to be placed in a central storehouse to be distributed to each family according to their numbers. The first two har-

vests were mediocre, at best.

Regarding this system the colony's leader, [William Bradford](#) wrote:

"The experience that was had in this common course and condition, tried sundry years and that amongst godly and sober men, may well evince the vanity of that conceit of Plato's and other ancients applauded by some of later times; and that the taking away of property and bringing in community into a commonwealth would make them happy and flourishing; as if they were wiser than God. For this community (so far as it was) was found to breed much confusion and discontent and retard

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Senator Mark Begich on Health Care

An Anchorage news media poll today shows that 91 percent of Alaskans who responded oppose the Senate Majority's Health Care Plan.

Yet Mark Begich voted "yes," along with all of the other Democrats in the Senate.

Who is he representing?



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Pilgrims...

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much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort. For the young men, that were most able and fit for labor and service, did repine that they should spend their time and strength to work for other men's wives and children without any recompense."

The Capitalism Experiment

During the third year, after consulting with other elders in the community, Bradford decided to divide up the land, giving ownership to each family. The owners of the land could keep whatever they produced, selling or trading the excess. This experience in capitalism resulted in production far beyond that of the first two years.

In Bradford's words:

"At length, after much debate of things, the Governor (with the advice of the chiefest amongst them) gave way that they should set corn every man for his own particular, and in that regard trust to themselves; in all other thing to go on in the general way as before. And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the pro-

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portion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content."

What It Means for Haines

Today we tend to perceive the profit motive as "selfish," and "taking money from others." In reality, it's the profit that drives business. Without it, business doesn't exist.

Those who condemn capitalism must assume that every transaction is a zero-sum game, with a winner and a loser. In reality, business provides a good or service, and the customer pays an agreed price – a win-win transaction in most cases.

Only government, on the other hand, can take our money without giving us something of value in return. Government does not create wealth and has no money of its own. It can only take money

"As the twentieth century drew to a close, the connection between hard scientific fact and public policy became increasingly elastic. In part this was possible because of the complacency of the scientific profession; in part because of the lack of good science education among the public; in part, because of the rise of specialized advocacy groups which have been enormously effective in getting publicity and shaping policy; and in great part because of the decline of the media as an independent assessor of fact."

Michael Crichton

"Aliens Caused Global Warming"

(taxes) from one person or group and transfer it to another.

Therefore, if we are to grow our local economy, every decision of our local government needs to favor the growth of business in the borough by lowering business costs, creating fewer restrictive regulations, limiting governmental growth, and creating infrastructure that encourages business and commerce.

The pilgrims led the way, and for two hundred years our nation prospered.

Let's not forget the lesson of the Pilgrims.

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