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by Dick Pilling, Chair, Clallam County Republican Party

In the fictional Gulliver's Travels, Gulliver is captured by the diminutive Lilliputians who bind him with tiny ropes while he is sleeping. Of course, they couldn't have done it if he were awake but, asleep, he was easy prey.

And so it is with our government. While we are absorbed in making a living, caring for our families, distracted by a myriad of personal issues – sleeping as it were – our government is busily engaged in eliminating some of our most basic freedoms by enacting one law at a time.

You see, each law that they pass is like one of those small ropes used by the Lilliputians. Taken by itself, one rope – or law – would have no effect at all. Cumulatively, however, they can immobilize a person, a community, or even an entire nation.

A specific example of small ropes – laws if you will – deals with water rights in our area. Thanks to a series of laws quietly enacted in past years, we now find ourselves enmeshed in an ever-tightening net of rules, regulations and policies that our government is using to seize unto itself all water in the state of Washington.

Where were we when this was happening? How could we have willingly surrendered the right to use the water drawn from our wells that we drilled on our own land? Why didn't we rise up and defend our rights? Why not? Well, sadly, we were asleep, just like the hapless Gulliver.

Sometimes, however, the rope – or law – is so big, so heavy, so oppressive, that we somehow sense the danger and stir from our slumbers. As it is with the Obama-Care health package which will erode and/or eliminate so many of our basic personal freedoms and choices and which must be stopped at all cost.

Only some of us are stirring though; many remain asleep, soothed by the lullabies of security and safety. And only some awake is not enough. We must all awaken and confront this and the many other dangers that our government, perhaps with the best of intentions, continues to threaten us with.

Just remember that the last sentence in our National Anthem is a question... "... does that star-spangled banner yet wave over the land of the free...?" It is a question that every generation must confront. Is our land still free? More importantly, will it be free for your children? Wake up, my friends, wake up! Please....

Dick