

than any other branch of government.

Paul Craig Roberts has named two primary reasons we have gotten ourselves into the present situation. Pressure from FDR's courts voided the "delegation doctrine" that had prevented Congress from giving law making powers to the federal agencies. Today, Congress passes vague laws creating agencies, which then write regulations enforceable by the agency itself and outside the constitutional due process of law. The IRS is the worst example of this.

The second step, according to Roberts, occurred when the courts became activists such as in the civil rights movement. They assumed the power to write legislation and socially engineer "schools, neighborhoods, mortgage lending, university admissions, employment promotions, layoffs and disciplinary actions all in the name of desegregation."

This has been going on for four decades now and with the Congress out of touch with the people, the people have no sense of satisfaction for petitioning their members of Congress or working to get a new congressman elected. Out of frustration they support term limits, line-item vetoes, balanced-budget amendments, and various other maneuvers which really do not address the problem.

The Congress should be denying the authority to legislate to the courts. But instead they deliver more power to the presidency. A step in the right direction would be to remove jurisdiction from the federal courts on many of the important issues that we are faced with today. Congress can take that action at any time.

It shook up the leadership when a colleague said that he is more likely to trust Hamas than his own government. We have a long way to go in solving our problems, but if we don't identify the precise cause of our problems, it will be very difficult to bring about positive change.

Not Soon Enough

A recent headline read "U.N. Runs Out of Money as Crisis Worsens." Once again. It is now using "peace-keeping" funds to meet its regular expenses, including its high, tax-exempt salaries. The United States is behind on its "dues." Let's hope that continues.

Limitation of resources finally brought the Soviet Union to its knees. Economic factors will bring our bankrupt welfare state to its knees at some later date. Likewise the United Nations will suffer the same fate.

As other nations become poorer in a deep economic slump, they too will be less hesitant to send funds to the international body. More than 130 members are behind in their payments and claim that they are financially unable to meet their assessment.

The United States has the largest "obligation."

But why should we fund a United Nations which is moving toward establishing a World Criminal Court? It would be a permanent international criminal court to deal with "genocide and crimes against humanity," defined by our world masters, of course. It could be used for any domestic criminality (or opposition) in any country of the world.

Jack-Booted Thugs

The BATF has done it again. An informer claimed that a citizen was distributing illegal weapons. Based on the report, the agency raided the house. More than a dozen, heavily armed federal cops burst into the St. Louis home, and for a terrifying two hours held the couple inside at gun point while they ransacked the house.

The problem was that the informer made the whole story up. The homeowners were not involved in any illegality. The BATF found not even one gun in the home. The abused owners were convinced at the onset of the raid that they were being invaded by burglars and would both be killed.

The attack came at 9:30 pm after the couple had put their two children to bed. There was not even a knock. The doors were broken down as the army of BATF officers barged in. Although the doors were not locked, they kicked them in and broke them anyway. Because the family dog was barking, the officers threatened to shoot the dog if the couple could not quiet it. The husband was thrown on the floor flat on his face with his hands tied behind his back and a gun pointed at him.

At the outset, the agents yelled "ATF!", but the couple didn't know what they were talking about. After one hour of this terror, the agents finally showed the owners their search warrant. After finding no weapons, the BATF officers left, offered no apology. The agency did nothing to put the house back in order.

This is not Waco or Ruby Ridge, but it is the kind of incident that is becoming frequent in this country today. We are on the way—without sufficient popular protest—to allowing a violent national police force to develop in this country.

The anti-terrorism bill that recently passed enhances the power given to the federal agencies in spite of this atrocious record. The budget of the BATF is zooming.

Who Is Ralph Nader?

He's the man who killed the Corvair and has worked to expand government power for decades. But recently Nader has been looking better and better. He worked to stop the Gatt