

Subject: Monthly Column B 4-1-09
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FRANKLY QUOTED

1 April 2009 (34 entries, 3,600 words)
Leonard Roy Frank, editor

[Note: The chronologically-arranged quotes are followed by several of the editor's aphorisms and thoughts.]

1. *VIOLENCE IN THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS: THREE QUOTATIONS*

1. If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son, or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, entices you secretly, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods,"... [y]ou shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the Lord your God.

MOSES, *Deuteronomy* 13:6,10.

2. As for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.

JESUS, *Luke* 19:27.

3. When the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them.

MOHAMMAD, *Sura* 9:5.

2. *MOHANDAS GANDHI, TEACHER OF NONVIOLENCE (1869-1948): TEN QUOTATIONS*

1. If a father does an injustice, it is the duty of his children to leave the parental roof.... If the chairman of a corporation is corrupt, the members thereof must wash their hands clean of his corruption by withdrawing from [the corporation]; even so, if a government does a grave injustice, the subjects must withdraw cooperation wholly or partially, sufficiently to wean the ruler from his wickedness. (*Young India*, 16 June 1920)

2. Cooperation with good is as much a duty as is noncooperation with evil. (modified, courtroom statement, Ahmadabad, India, 23 March 1922)

3. The highest moral law is that we should unremittingly work for the good of mankind. (*Ethical Religion*, p. 36, 1930)

4. No human being is so bad as to be beyond redemption. (*Young India*, 26 March 1931)

5. It is not nonviolence if we love merely those who love us. It is nonviolence only when we love those who hate us. (letter to a friend, 31 December 1934)

6. Nonviolence is a power which can be wielded equally by all — children, young men and women or [older] people — provided they have a living faith in the God of Love and have, therefore, equal love for all mankind. (*Harijan*, 5 September 1936)

7. The principle of nonviolence necessitates complete abstention from exploitation in any form. (*Harijan*, 5 September 1936)

8. A nonviolent revolution is not a program for the seizure of power. It is a program for the transformation of relationships ending in a peaceful transfer of power. (1942, *Gandhi on Non-Violence*, edited by Thomas Merton, p. 28, 1964)

9. Given the opportunity, every human being has the same possibility for spiritual growth. (*Harijan*, 17 November 1946)

10. Rights that do not flow directly from duty well performed are not worth having. (*Harijan*, 6 July 1947)

3. No social problem is as universal as the oppression of the child.

MARIA MONTESSORI (Italian physician and educator, 1870-1952), *The Child in the Family*, ch.

1, 1956, translated by Nancy Rockmore Cirillo, 1970.

4. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH (Maine senator), speech, Westbrook Junior College, Portland, 7 June 1953, quoted in Stephen Donadio et al., editors, *The New York Public Library Book of Twentieth-Century American Quotations*, p. 245, 1992.

5. Constantly risking absurdity
and death

whenever he performs
above the heads
of his audience

the poet like an acrobat
climbs on rime

to a high wire of his own making.

LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI (San Francisco's first Poet Laureate, 1998), title poem (sect. 15), *A Coney Island of the Mind*, 1958. Ferlinghetti celebrated his 90th birthday on 24 March 2009.

6. The most important thing any teacher has to learn... can be expressed in [these] words: Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.

JOHN HOLT (educator and author of *How Children Learn*, 1983), accessed from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Holt_%28educator%29 27 February 2009.

7. If a small thing has the power to make you angry, does that not indicate something about your size?

SYDNEY J. HARRIS (English-born U.S. journalist, 1917-1986), quoted in Mardy Grothe, *Ifferisms: An Anthology of Aphorisms That Begin with the Word "If,"* forthcoming.

8. Almost every great change in expanding the dimensions of human freedom has come from very small original beginnings — somebody said no.

STEVE CARY (chairman of the American Friends Committee and president of Haverford College, Pennsylvania, 1916-2002), interview in Judith Ehrlich and Rick Tejada-Flores, *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*, television documentary, PBS, March 2009.

9. Beginning in the spring of 2002 the United States government began to torture prisoners. This torture, approved by the President of the United States and monitored in its daily unfolding by senior officials, including the nation's highest law enforcement officer, clearly violated major treaty obligations of the United States, including the Geneva Conventions and the Convention Against Torture, as well as US law.

MARK DANNER (professor of journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of *Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib, and the War on Terror*, 2004), the first of his five conclusions drawn from the International Committee of the Red Cross's *ICRC Report on the Treatment of Fourteen "High Value Detainees" in CIA Custody*, 2009, "US Torture: Voices from the Black Sites," *New York Review of Books*, 9 April 2009.

10. This is a very highly classified area, but I have to say that all you need to know: There was a before 9/11, and there was an after 9/11. After 9/11 the gloves come off.

COFER BLACK (CIA Counterterrorist Center director) referring to interrogation policy during testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate intelligence committees, 26 September 2002 (two weeks after 9/11), quoted in Dana Priest and Barton Gellman, "U.S. Decries Abuse but Defends Interrogations," *Washington Post*, 26 December 2002.

11. We knew that [Abu] Zubaydah had more information that could save innocent lives, but he stopped talking. As his questioning proceeded, it became clear that he had received training on how to resist interrogation. And so the CIA used *an alternative set of procedures* [emphasis added]. These procedures were designed to be safe, to comply with our laws, our Constitution, and our treaty obligations. The Department of Justice reviewed the authorized methods extensively and determined them to be lawful. I cannot describe the specific methods used — I think you understand why — if I did, it would help the terrorists learn how to resist questioning, and to keep information from us that we need to prevent new attacks on our country. But I can say the procedures were tough, and they were safe, and lawful, and necessary....

I want to be absolutely clear with our people, and the world: The United States does not torture. It's against our laws, and it's against our values. I have not authorized it — and I will not authorize it.

GEORGE W. BUSH, nationally broadcast speech from the White House, 6 September 2006.

12. Few banks were as high-flying as Goldman [Sachs] when Wall Street was riding high. In 2006, the bank paid more than 50 people more than \$20 million each.

LOUISE STORY (journalist), "Goldman Bailed Out 2 Executives," *New York Times*, 28 March 2009.

13. Government is always the enemy, until you need a friend.

WILLIAM COHEN (former Maine senator and secretary of defense), Wolf Blitzer television interview, *The Situation Room*, CNN, 18 September 2008.

14. To fail to experience gratitude when walking through the corridors of the Metropolitan Museum, when listening to the music of Bach or Beethoven, when exercising our freedom to speak, to give, or withhold, our assent, is to fail to recognize how much we have received from the great wellsprings of human talent and concern that gave us Shakespeare, Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, our parents, our friends. We need a rebirth of gratitude for those who have cared for us, living and, mostly, dead. The high moments of our way of life are their gifts to us. We must remember them in our thoughts and in our prayers and in our deeds.

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR. (writer and founder of *National Review*, 1925-2008), speech, quoted by Richard Lowry, panel discussion, *The Reagan I Knew*, Manhattan Institute, New York City, 27 January 2009, television broadcast, C-SPAN2, 8 March 2009.

15. You know, Dick, I don't wanna just be president. I wanna be a great president.

BARACK OBAMA, remark during the 2008 presidential campaign to Richard Goodwin (former presidential speechwriter for John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson), Charlie Rose television interview, PBS, 28 March 2009.

16. Judges do not hear cases in which they have a financial interest. Reporters do not write stories about companies in which they have a financial interest. By the same token, doctors should not have a financial interest in treatments they are evaluating or accept gifts from the makers of drugs they prescribe.

MARCIA ANGELL (physician, first woman editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Harvard Medical School lecturer and author of *The Truth About the Drug Companies*, 2004), "Drug Companies & Doctors': An Exchange," *New York Review of Books*, 26 February 2009.

17. The central issue in American politics now is whether the country should reverse a three-decade-long trend of rising inequality in incomes and wealth.

E. J. DIONNE JR. (journalist and author of *Stand up Fight Back: Republican Toughs, Democratic Wimps, and the Politics of Revenge*, 2004), "The Re-Redistributor," *Washington Post*,

2009

18. [On 2 March] the Obama Treasury Department — sounding a lot like the Bush Treasury Department — promised another \$30 billion to the American International Group, the giant insurer.

It was the fourth time since September that taxpayers have been called upon to rescue A.I.G. from collapse. It brings the bailout commitment for that one company to some \$160 billion....

The serial A.I.G. bailouts are especially problematic for their connection to the Wall Street bank Goldman Sachs. At the time of the first A.I.G. rescue last fall, it was reported by Gretchen Morgenson in *The Times* that Goldman was A.I.G.'s largest trading partner, with some \$20 billion of business tied into the insurer. Goldman has said that its exposure to risk from A.I.G. was offset, or hedged, by other investments.

What is certain is that Goldman has lots of friends in high places — yet one more reason why this bailout has to be as transparent as possible. Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman's chief executive, was the only Wall Street executive at a September meeting at the New York Federal Reserve to discuss the initial A.I.G. bailout. Also involved in the discussion was the then head of the New York Fed, Timothy Geithner, who is now President Obama's Treasury secretary.

NEW YORK TIMES, "The Never-Ending Bailout" (editorial), 3 March 2009. Unmentioned in the editorial was Henry Paulson, Blankfein's predecessor at Goldman and Geithner's predecessor at Treasury. Paulson is widely believed to have been calling the shots for the Bush administration during the first bank-bailout round.

19. If only I had followed CNBC's advice, I'd have a million dollars today — provided I started with one hundred million dollars.

JON STEWART (humorist and television fake-news program host), comment after showing several clips of upbeat reports on the plunging stock market by CNBC's "experts" during the financial crisis, *The Daily Show*, Comedy Central, 4 March 2009. CNBC is the popular business news channel.

20. Emerging market crises are marked by an increase in tunneling — i.e., borderline legal/illegal smuggling of value out of businesses. As time horizons become shorter, employees have less incentive to protect shareholder value and are more inclined to help out friends or prepare a soft exit for themselves.

Boris Fyodorov, the late Russian Minister of Finance who struggled for many years against corruption and the abuse of authority, could be blunt. Confusion helps the powerful, he argued. When there are complicated government bailout schemes, multiple exchange rates, or high inflation, it is very hard to keep track of market prices and to protect the value of firms. The result, if taken to an extreme, is looting: the collapse of banks, industrial firms, and other entities because the insiders take the money (or other valuables) and run.

This is the prospect now faced by the United States.

SIMON JOHNSON (professor of entrepreneurship at MIT's Sloan School of Management, cofounder of the Baseline Scenario website and former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund), opening paragraphs, "Confusion, Tunneling, and Looting," *Baseline Scenario*, 5 March 2009.

21. The Washington Post [Dan Eggen and Ceci Connolly, "In Health Plan, Industry Sees Good Business," 5 March 2009] suggests that the chance for success in overhauling U.S. healthcare depends on President Obama's ability to keep the major — discordant — players on board.

"President Obama's opening gambit to dramatically expand the health-care system has attracted surprising notes of support from insurers, hospitals and other players in the powerful medical lobby who are set to participate in an unusual White House summit on the issue this afternoon. The lure for the industry is the prospect of tens of millions of new customers: If Obama succeeds in fulfilling

his pledge to cover many more Americans, those newly insured people will get checkups, purchase medicine, undergo physical therapy and get surgeries they cannot afford today.”

However, expanded health care coverage without major cost-cutting measures, without systemic changes to ensure that prescribed treatments are guided by honest science untainted by industry influence, will likely provide huge profits for the pharmaceutical industry — as did the Medicare Prescription Drug Act of 2003. That Act saddled taxpayers into subsidizing an industry — i.e. “Socialized medicine” — an industry that needed no subsidy as it is already more profitable than any other.

VERA HASSNER SHARAV (president of the Alliance for Human Research Protection, New York City), opening paragraphs, “Obama’s Health Plan Could Be Hijacked by Industry Which Sees Good Business,” accessed from <http://www.ahrp.org/cms/content/view/533/101/> 5 March 2009.

22. Federal prosecutors say that a Massachusetts General Hospital psychiatrist became a “star spokesman” in helping a pharmaceutical company promote its drugs for treating depressed children, even though the medications were not approved for pediatric use by the US Food and Drug Administration.

In a complaint unsealed last week in US District Court in Boston, prosecutors allege that New York-based Forest Laboratories Inc. illegally marketed the drugs Celexa and Lexapro for use in children by paying kickbacks, including lavish meals and cash payments disguised as grants and consulting fees, to induce doctors to prescribe the drugs. They also say the company misled doctors and the public by failing to disclose the results of a negative study.

In the 34-page complaint, prosecutors said that from 1999 to 2006, Dr. Jeffrey Bostic, director of school psychiatry at the hospital, gave more than 350 Forest-sponsored talks and presentations in 28 states, many of which addressed pediatric use of Celexa and Lexapro.

LIZ KOWALCZYK (journalist), opening paragraphs, “US Cites Boston Psychiatrist in Case vs. Drug Firm Complaint Alleges Kickbacks to MDs,” *Boston Globe*, 6 March 2009. Kowalczyk reported that between 2000 and 2006 Forest Laboratories paid Bostic \$750,000 for his presentations promoting Celexa and Lexapro. Massachusetts General Hospital is a teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School.

23. Earlier this week, Ben Bernanke, the Federal Reserve chairman, was asked about the problem of “zombies” — financial institutions that are effectively bankrupt but are being kept alive by government aid. “I don’t know of any large zombie institutions in the U.S. financial system,” he declared, and went on to specifically deny that A.I.G. — A.I.G.! — is a zombie.

This is the same A.I.G. that, unable to honor its promises to pay off other financial institutions when bonds default, has already received \$150 billion in aid and just got a commitment for \$30 billion more.

PAUL KRUGMAN (Princeton University economist, winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2008 and author of *The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008*, 2008), “The Big Dither,” *New York Times*, 6 March 2009.

24. If you want a crash course in the mechanics of feedlots, confinement pens and “manure lagoons,” [Nicolette Hahn Niman’s *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms*] is a good place to start, though you’re sure to learn things you’d rather not....

Will it surprise you, for instance, that when researchers from the University of Maryland sampled packages of ground meat, they found salmonella in 16 percent of the pork, 24 percent of the turkey and 35 percent of the chicken?

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has apparently decided that chickens aren’t really animals, since they’re not covered by laws relating to humane slaughter? Consequently, Niman tells us, “spent hens are frequently vacuumed up into trucks and dumped into a rotating blade chopper while still alive and conscious.”

Perhaps quite a few people are already aware that cattle, natural herbivores, are fed the bones,

organs and skin of other animals, along with beef tallow, but surely it's a shock to discover that agribusiness is addressing the problem of excess manure production in cattle by feeding it back to them.

GEOFF NICHOLSON (British journalist and author of *The Lost Art of Walking: The History, Science, and Literature of Pedestrianism*, 2008), "On Factory Farms, It's Far from Hog Heaven," *San Francisco Chronicle*, 8 March 2009.

25. Regarding Bernie Madoff's possible 150-year sentence: Hey Bernie — your mistake was in ripping off the rich. If you had been stealing from the poor, you'd be getting a taxpayer-funded bonus right now.

LORI ALBEE (Salinas, California), complete letter to *San Francisco Chronicle*, 13 March 2009.

26. NEW DELHI — Small, sick, listless children have long been India's scourge — "a national shame," in the words of its prime minister, Manmohan Singh. But even after a decade of galloping economic growth, child malnutrition rates are worse here than in many sub-Saharan African countries, and they stand out as a paradox in a proud democracy. [opening paragraph]...

Here in the capital, which has the highest per-capita income in the country, 42.2 percent of children under 5 are stunted, or too short for their age, and 26 percent are underweight. A few blocks from the Indian Parliament, tiny, ill-fed children turn somersaults for spare change at traffic signals.

SOMINI SENGUPTA (journalist), "As Indian Growth Soars, Child Hunger Persists," *New York Times*, 13 March 2009.

27. An influential Harvard child psychiatrist told the drug giant Johnson & Johnson that planned studies of its medicines in children would yield results benefiting the company, according to court documents dating over several years that the psychiatrist wants sealed.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Joseph Biederman, outlined plans to test Johnson & Johnson's drugs in presentations to company executives. One slide referred to a proposed trial in preschool children of risperidone [Risperdal], an antipsychotic drug made by the drug company. The trial, the slide stated, "will support the safety and effectiveness of risperidone in this age group." [opening paragraphs]...

Dr. Biederman has become a key witness in a series of lawsuits filed by state attorneys general claiming that makers of antipsychotic drugs defrauded state Medicaid programs by improperly marketing their medicines. His work helped fuel a rapid rise in the use of these medicines in children....

In a contentious Feb. 26 deposition between Dr. Biederman and lawyers for the states, he was asked what rank he held at Harvard. "Full professor," he answered.

"What's after that?" asked a lawyer, Fletch Trammell.

"God," Dr. Biederman responded.

"Did you say God?" Mr. Trammell asked.

"Yeah," Dr. Biederman said. [closing paragraphs]

GARDINER HARRIS (journalist), "Drug Maker Told Studies Would Aid It, Papers Say," *New York Times*, 20 March 2009. According to Harris, "An inquiry by Senator Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, revealed last year that Dr. Biederman earned at least \$1.6 million in consulting fees from drug makers from 2000 to 2007 but failed to report all but about \$200,000 of this income to university officials."

28. Eating red meat increases the chances of dying prematurely, according to a large federal study that offers powerful new evidence that a diet that regularly includes steaks, burgers, and pork chops is hazardous to your health.

The study of more than 500,000 middle-age and elderly Americans found that those who consumed the equivalent of about a small hamburger every day were more than 30 percent more

likely to die during the 10 years they were followed, mostly from heart disease and cancer. Sausage, cold cuts, and other processed meats also increased the risk.

ROB STEIN (journalist), opening paragraphs, “Red Meat Linked to Premature Death,” *Washington Post*, 24 March 2009. The article was based on a study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* (23 March 2009). Rashmi Sinha of the National Cancer Institute led the study.

29. Elite business interests — financiers, in the case of the U.S. — played a central role in creating the crisis, making ever-larger gambles, with the implicit backing of the government, until the inevitable collapse. More alarming, they are now using their influence to prevent precisely the sorts of reforms that are needed, and fast, to pull the economy out of its nosedive. The government seems helpless, or unwilling, to act against them.

SIMON JOHNSON (for identity information, see entry #20 above), “The Quiet Coup,” *Atlantic*, May 2009.

30. We learn from history that nations with sufficient power to exploit other nations seldom miss an opportunity to do so.

31. The seed of deed is creed; the seed of creed is need.

32. In matters of conscience, no human court has jurisdiction.

33. Proposed one-word addition to the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of *BELIEF*, speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

34. There are silences that speak louder than words.

About this posting: Leonard Roy Frank edits “Frankly Quoted” which has been distributed free of cost to a small Listserv on the first day of the month since October 2004. It consists of 35-45 entries, mostly quotes drawn from his readings and his probe of the print and electronic media during the previous month, together with several of his own aphorisms and thoughts.

Frank is the editor of *Random House Webster’s Quotationary* (20,000 quotes arranged in 1,000 alphabetized categories; published hardcover in 1998 and paperback in 2000). His *Random House Webster’s Wit & Humor Quotationary* was published in 2000. In 2003, Random House published his *Freedom: Quotes and Passages from the World’s Greatest Freethinkers* and 5 gift books titled *Inspiration, Love, Money, Wisdom, and Wit*, each subtitled *The Greatest Things Ever Said*. *The Electroshock Quotationary*, which he edited, was published on the Internet in 2006. The book is an illustrated, 154-page collection of chronologically arranged quotations, excerpts, and short essays about the history and nature of the controversial psychiatric procedure known as electroshock (electroconvulsive treatment, ECT). The book may be downloaded free of cost at http://endofshock.com/102C_ECT.PDF

Born in Brooklyn in 1932, Frank has lived in San Francisco since 1959. To add your name and e-mail address to the “Frankly Quoted” Listserv (or have them removed), notify him at lfrank@igc.org. Comments and criticisms are always welcome. And if, by chance, you run across a quote (or have an original thought or observation) which you think others would find interesting, amusing, instructive, or inspiring, please send it along and it will be considered for inclusion in a future posting.