**Government**

**The Democrats are the party that says government will make you smarter, taller, richer, and remove the crabgrass on your lawn. The Republicans are the party that says government doesn’t work and then they get elected and prove it. *(P. J. O’Rourke, in The Washington Post)***

**The best defense against usurpatory government is an assertive citizenry. *(William F. Buckley, Jr., in Windfall: The End of the Affair)***

**Government can’t give us anything without depriving us of something else. *(Henry Hazlitt, in The Freeman)***

**The poor have sometimes objected to being governed badly; the rich have always objected to being governed at all. *(G. K. Chesterton, writer)***

**No man is fit to govern who hesitates about disobliging the few who have access to him for the sake of the many he will never see. *(Thomas Babington Macauley, British politician)***

**Each August the government goes on vacation and leaves us to fend for ourselves as a nation. The country, quite smoothly, remains right on track, at least – that is, till the government gets back. *(Johnny Hart, in BC comic strip)***

**Government has no more ability than individuals to create something out of nothing. Public works are not accomplished by the miraculous power of a magic wand. They are paid for by funds taken away from citizens. *(Ludwig von Mises)***

**The good sense of the people is the strongest army our government can ever have; it will not fail them. *(Thomas Jefferson)***

**Governing a large country is like frying a small fish. You spoil it with too much poking. *(Lao-tze)***

**All governments lie, but disaster lies in wait for countries whose officials smoke the same hashish they give out. *(I. F. Stone, journalist)***

**Mankind, it seems, makes a poorer performance of government than of almost any other human activity. *(Barbara Tuchman, historian)***

**Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under. *(H. L. Mencken)***

**Just be glad you’re not getting all the government you’re paying for. *(Will Rogers, Jr.)***

**Only 13 states send more money to the federal government than they receive in federal funds. In 2022, the biggest net givers to Washington, D.C., were Massachusetts ($4,846 per capita), New Jersey ($4,344), and Washington state ($3,494). The biggest net receivers of federal funds were New Mexico, Maryland, and Virginia, which each received more than $10,000 per capita. *(Axios, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 28, 2025)***

**Under a government which imprisons unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison. *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**Whenever you have an efficient government, you have a dictatorship. *(Harry S. Truman)***

**Despite a small uptick in federal hiring in recent years, the percentage of the total workforce employed by the federal government is at a historic low. About 1.9 percent of all American workers – just over 3 million people – are employed by the federal government, compared with 3.3 percent in 1980 and 4.7 percent in 1950. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 28, 2025)***

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