



three that are pure common sense. On the face of them they cannot possibly fail. But somebody will be richer if they do fail. These are the ones that spur the most controversy and in the end they haven't a hope of passing.

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With apologies to S\_w\_e\_e\_n\_e\_y\_T\_o\_d, suppose it has never been made illegal to turn stray cats into meat pies. Now somebody wants to do that in a state I will call Fritz. All of a sudden you discover there is an organization you have never heard of before called Fritziens for the Preservation of Cats, and ironically it wants to defeat the initiative to change the law in Fritz. They will claim that there are already too many cats around and it is making life miserable for all the cats. Stray cats are turning mean and turning on other cats. Also, they carry diseases that are infecting other cats. To protect cat rights it is desperately important that we continue to turn stray cats into meat pies. Further, the bill would be an absolute disaster for the state of Fritz. The wording is so loose that it will mean the veterinarians will no longer be able to treat cats.

Then there is the spectre that this really is just the thin edge of the wedge of cats' rights radicals. Their real agenda is to make it illegal for farmers to protect their sheep from bigger cats of prey. The proposition will end up costing Fritziens billions of dollars.

A huge multi-million dollar campaign will go on television telling people about the nasty future in store if the proposition passes. Billboards on highways threaten that the state of Fritz will be totally bankrupt hiring the extra law enforcement necessary for this totally unneeded bill, a bill that goes far beyond what any other state has done about the problem. Veteran congressmen will make statements that passing the bill will be playing right into the hands of the Japanese. Not only that, it will send half a million jobs to other states.

In the end, the citizens of Fritz vote overwhelmingly that they want stray cats turned into meat pies. It's the American way.

I have seen this exact campaign waged time and again over no-smoking areas in restaurants, over deposits on soda bottles, over banning steel-jawed traps, over banning dangerous insecticides, over protecting forests. They always work on the assumption that we are totally powerless to control side-effects of laws. Occasionally--rarely--this campaign fails and the proposition passes. Come back in two years and ask the people about the bill and they are really smug that the proposition has worked so well in their state and other states have been too stupid to pass similar bills.

In Arizona the current proposition was trying to ban particularly vicious animal traps. Common sense says yes, so those who want to use those traps had rolled out "the campaign." The American way of life depends on steel-jaw leg-hold traps. Barry Goldwater got on television and said that the ban was intended to end all hunting in Arizona; big billboards peppered the highways threatening dire

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results if the bill passed. Of course it failed. Hunters in Arizona who like these vicious devices can breathe a sigh of relief. But I ask you to remember "the campaign" so you will recognize it when you see it again. And I bet you will be seeing it again.

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The more one is hated, I find, the happier one is.  
-- Louis-Ferdinand Celine



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