

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Short Films on Bureaucracy

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

These short videos show aspects of government bureaucracy.

Time

15-20 minutes

Instructions

1. Play the short film “Milton Friedman: The Problem with Bureaucracy” (4:22):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViAT1TxhBk4>

Get students’ thoughts on this film. Key questions to ask:

- What does Friedman say happens to the cost and quality when government takes over a responsibility?
The cost goes up; the quality goes down.
- What numbers that Friedman points out about the cost of trash collection and the cost of the private fire department in Scottsdale, Arizona? How does this relate to the numbers in the book section about the average salaries of bureaucrats?
Trash collection and fire departments cost roughly twice as much when government does it, compared to the private sector. The book points out that government bureaucrats make roughly twice as much as private sector employees.

2. Play the short film “Why Government Can’t Build Broadband or Charging Stations...or Anything!” (5:32):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9ZzN3OTPHk>

Get students’ thoughts on this film. Key questions to ask:

- What about bureaucracies makes them almost completely unable to complete any project successfully?
There is no accountability like there is in the private sector, which serves customers without unlimited money whom they must please to continue to get business.
- How many charging stations did the U.S. government build for \$7.5 billion? What does this say?
Seven! It’s just a testament to the staggering inefficiency of government, and it almost surely means that there is a great deal of theft, in which many got rich by stealing from taxpayers.

3. Play the short film “Postmaster General Covers Ears During Oversight Hearing” (1:06):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl7Gfvzav3c>

Get students’ thoughts on this film. They should be entertaining!