

change the brains of biconceptuals, and win a lot of elections for conservatives and move the country radically to the right.

The Hobby Lobby and Wheaton cases were conservative victories as well. The Hobby Lobby verdict granted First Amendment freedom of religion rights to corporations that are tightly held and operated by a family or small group (more than half controlled by at most five persons). The right given is a *new right*: to ignore a provision of a law applying to a corporation if the small group of individuals owning or controlling the corporation feel that the law violates their religious principles.

This is a new, and very different, metaphorical extension of Corporations Are Persons to First Amendment rights and it opens the floodgates to a huge range of claims to be exempt from provisions of the law on grounds of religious principle as self-defined. In short, it puts corporations above the law. It is a step toward legalizing government by corporations.

This is a radical conservative political decision. Why? Because radical conservatives want to eliminate public resources and public aspects of government—that is, government by laws passed by human legislators. At once, this shifts government from the public to the private sphere and from the human to the nonhuman sphere.

This brings us to another truth unframed in public discourse.

- Corporations govern our lives.

There have been many great innovations made by corporations when they have invested their exponentially accumulated wealth in innovations that improve people's lives—in useful computer technology, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, transportation—in area after area.

To my knowledge, in all cases, these innovations that have improved our lives were ultimately made possible by public resources: Government-sponsored research and university training made possible computer science, satellites, medical research and training, and so on in case after case. Every great corporate innovation story simply burnishes the truth that the private depends on the public.

But what is left conceptually unframed and therefore unspoken are the