

CONNECTICUT STANDARD TIME.
No “Shades of Gray” Here – a Guest Rant
by Vic’s Kid in Connecticut

Since my Dad is away doing whatever bloggers do when they are not blogging, I took up his offer to contribute a “guest rant” to his page. Although I mostly agree with his belief that the answer usually lies somewhere in the middle of an issue, there are times that we do need to go “all or nothing.”

In a recent very unscientific workplace survey, 10 people were asked, “Why do we have Daylight Savings Time?” Two people replied, “To save energy.” One replied, “So kids would not be at the bus stop in the dark.” The other seven replied something to the effect, “I don’t know, but it is a huge pain in the ass.”

Originally, Daylight Savings Time was enacted to save energy during the World Wars. Which leads to the question, “If this is true, why don’t we do it year round?”

In 1966, federal legislation standardized the practice of Daylight Savings Time (this was altered with legislation that took effect in 2007). That original legislation made Daylight Savings Time optional. If Daylight Savings Time is to exist, it must follow these guidelines -- but it is optional.

One of the problems with the present system is the difference in geography within a time zone. Both Maine and Ohio are in the same time zone. Seven thirty A.M. in Bangor will have a totally different light situation than 7:30 A.M. in Cleveland. This is why I propose that each state establish its own time zone. Pick the span of the day that would allow for the most energy savings and the most optimal enjoyment of daylight hours and plan your state’s times around that information.

People will argue, “What about big states like Texas?” My answer is to let them figure out for themselves what makes sense for them. Others will say, what about the airlines? What about people who commute to different states? Others will say how will I know when to watch *Two and a Half Men*? We have all lived with a clock or watch that was off in its timekeeping capabilities and what did we do? We learned to adapt and adjust. Too much is done for us, Americans do not need to be babied; we can adapt and adjust.

So here is the question that I know is on everyone’s mind, “Why, in this time of world unrest and economic difficulty, is this guy attacking Daylight Savings Time?”

If a law was passed tomorrow that every American would have to take off their shoes and socks at 2:00 P.M., once in October and once in March for reasons not understood by the general populace, there would be a nationwide revolt. Yet, we change our clocks around with the same frequency and disrupt our sleep patterns in the same manner.

Our existence would be a little less stressful if we just got rid of some archaic practices and laws; that way we could truly concentrate on the more important issues of the day.

... this is Vic’s kid... signing off at 5:30 P.M. Connecticut Standard Time.