**Imposition of Liberalism: Warm Up**

**Bill 16 - Distracted Driving Legislation**

Driver distraction is a growing traffic safety concern among policy makers and the public. International studies have shown that 20 to 30 percent of collisions involve driver distraction. Alberta has taken a leadership role to address this serious traffic safety issue by recently passing Bill 16- *the Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving) Amendment Act, 2010*-to help make our roads safer.

**Highlights:**

* Restricts drivers from:
  + using hand-held cell phones
  + texting or e-mailing
  + using electronic devices like laptop computers, video games, cameras, video entertainment displays and programming portable audio players (e.g., MP3 players)
  + entering information on GPS units
  + reading printed materials in the vehicle
  + writing, printing or sketching, and
  + personal grooming
* Complements the current driving without due care and attention legislation
* Applies to all vehicles as defined by the Traffic Safety Act including bicycles
* Applies to all roads in both urban and rural areas of the province

The distracted driving law could be in effect by the middle of 2011, and the proposed fine for this new offence is $172.

In the coming months, the province will launch a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign to help Albertans understand the details of the new legislation.

**Questions:**

1. Is this law necessary?
2. Is the punishment necessary? Sufficient?
3. What is the desired result?
4. Is there an alternative way to achieve the desired result?
5. What will the effect of this legislation be?
6. Is this an example of classical or modern liberal thinking?
7. Should liberalism be imposed on everyone?