

*The Man Who Made it Warm Again*  
*A Satirical Fable*  
*Ben Baker*

Once upon a time, there was an enormously important Legislator who lived in a small town. One day, as he was walking outside, he noticed how unpleasantly cold it was. He thought to himself, "Ah! If this cold is causing so many people so much discomfort, then it should be against the law. I'm a Legislator, and I have the power to do that." So it was that when he got home, he wrote up a bill declaring cold weather illegal, and since he was so important and had so much influence, it got passed into law the very next day.

Not long after, the Legislator was walking around town again, and noticed that it was still cold. "It is my civic duty," he thought, "to report this breach of the law to the authorities." So he went to the town's Constable, and demanded to know why the law was being so blatantly violated while the Constable sat inside, not doing anything about the problem. Since the Legislator was so enormously important, the Constable nodded solemnly and promised to fix the problem right away.

A little time passed, until once again, the Legislator found himself outside, and once again he noticed that it was still cold. This cold, however, was not merely unpleasant. It was a frigid chill, a dangerous chill, far worse than before. The Legislator was shocked and outraged at this violation of the law. "How dare it be so cold outside!" he thought to himself. He immediately went to the town Judge and demanded to know what was being done to fix the problem, and why that lazy good-for-nothing Constable had done nothing to help.

The Judge, fearing for his own job and knowing how much influence the Legislator commanded, nodded solemnly and promised to fix the problem right away, starting by firing the Constable for incompetence and dereliction of duty.

Some time passed, until once again, the Legislator found himself outside, walking through the town square. It was not merely cold, it was freezing, and in the center of the town square, there was a great gathering of People. Wondering what all the fuss was about, the Legislator made his way to the center of the mob, where there was a man selling clothing from atop a pedestal.

"Excuse me, good sir," the Legislator said. "What are you doing here, outside on such an unlawfully frigid day, that is causing such a mob to form?"

The man stood tall on his pedestal (for he was a rather proud man and impressed by his own cleverness) and said to the Legislator, "Why, I am an Inventor, and I have a wondrous new invention that I am selling." He drew a particularly fine specimen out of his box and handed it to the Legislator. "I call it a Coat. Here, try one on. It keeps out the cold, you see."

The Legislator would have none of it. "It appears to me," he said, "that this 'invention' of yours, this 'Coat,' as you call it, would not be necessary in a society that obeyed the law. No honest citizen would want one, seeing as how they only encourage the most unlawful kinds of weather."

Around the Inventor's booth, the People started to murmur. Nobody had ever thought of a Coat quite like that before, and since the man saying these things was a Legislator and well-respected, the People believed him, and the crowd dispersed.

Furious now, the Legislator went directly to the Mayor, demanding to know why the town could not uphold the simplest of laws, why the Judge, who promised to be so helpful before, had done nothing to fix the problem, and why the People were

*being conned on the street by Inventors selling devices that encouraged lawlessness.*

*Since the Legislator had so much influence and importance, the Mayor nodded solemnly, promising to put all the resources of the town to good use fixing the problem. Fearing for his own job, the Mayor fired the Judge immediately for incompetence and dereliction of duty, and ordered that the sale of Coats in the town be banned.*

*Some time passed, and yet again, the Legislator found himself outside. This time, however, it was not cold. The sun shone brightly upon newly sprouting flowers and budding trees, and the People stopped to gossip in the town square instead of hurrying back and forth in the dreary cold that had so pervaded the town before. Not a Coat was in sight, as a matter of fact.*

*The Legislator surveyed the town, feeling proud that despite the hardships, he had persisted. "This is far nicer a place now than it was with all that unlawful cold weather," he thought to himself. "Finally, at long last, I found a person willing to help me rid the town of such despicable crime."*

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*So it was that the Legislator went on with his life, proudly telling and retelling the story of how, despite all the difficulty, he made the weather warm again. The People learned of the story and respected the Legislator all the more for what he had done to help their town.*

*So it was that the Constable, the Judge, and the Inventor lost their jobs, and became homeless, and eventually left in search of another town in which there were fewer Legislators.*

*So it was that the Mayor, in helping the Legislator, gained great political favor, and eventually went on to become a Governor.*

*So it was that the People, whenever the weather grew cold, never wore Coats, but instead cursed the rotten lawlessness of the town until, as it always did, the weather grew warm again. When the warmth came, they told the story of the Legislator and how he had saved the town from lawlessness and corruption, and took comfort in the fact that someday, someone might come along and do the same thing again.*