

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE[®]

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INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE: OUR NATION'S GREATEST THREAT?

WE HAVE WRITTEN BEFORE ABOUT INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE (IF), BUT ALWAYS WITHIN THE SPECIFIC FRAMEWORK OF ONE ISSUE. AS TIME PASSES AND THE QUALITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS DETERIORATION, IF CAN BE SEEN AS ONE OF ITS PRIMARY CAUSES. IT HAS SPREAD ITS REACH AND ACCELERATED ITS PACE TO THE DEGREE THAT, IF WE ARE TO HONESTLY EVALUATE OUR PRESENT NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE, IT MUST NOW BE RECOGNIZED AS A MAJOR FORCE, RATHER THAN A FEW UNRELATED INSTANCES.

TODAY, IF HAS OCCURRED IN EVERY PART OF OUR GOVERNMENT, IN BOTH ITS ELECTED OFFICES AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUCRACIES AND DEPARTMENTS WE HAVE CREATED TO IMPLEMENT OUR POLICIES.

BUT IT IS NOT OUR GOVERNMENT ALONE THAT HAS BUILT IF TO ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF PERIL. FAR FROM IT, AS GOVERNMENT'S ROLE, PERHAPS IN A "ME TOO" RESPONSE, HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO A SURPRISING NUMBER OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS — MEDIA, ECONOMIC, AND EVEN MILITARY.

IF IN OUR SOCIETY IS UBIQUITOUS. IT TOUCHES ALL OF US, LIKE AN INVISIBLE, ODORLESS LETHAL GAS, BUT WHERE ARE THE CANARIES' WARNINGS? WE SEEM ANAESTHETIZED BY ITS FREQUENCY AND STEADY REPETITION. PERHAPS OUR NATIONAL PSYCHE BLOCKS IT OUT AND CONSIDERS THAT WE ARE IMMUNE TO ITS PRESENCE OR CONSEQUENCES.

IF SO, WE DO OURSELVES A GREAT DISSERVICE.

THERE WAS SUCH EXTENSIVE IF DURING THE TWO BUSH II ADMINISTRATIONS THAT IT WOULD BE NATURAL TO EXPECT THAT WE WOULD DO BETTER UNDER OBAMA, BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL AND EARLY INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT TREATING IF WILL NOT ENJOY PRIORITY IN HIS POLITICAL AGENDA.

IN FAIRNESS, AS HE HAS BEEN FACED WITH THE NEED TO COME UP WITH MORE DAMAGE CONTROL THAN MOST PRESIDENTS AND THE BIG ISSUES THAT LIE AHEAD ARE EXTREMELY DIVISIVE ONES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE COULD FIND THE POLITICAL WILL AND CAPITAL REQUIRED TO ENERGIZE A NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF IF.

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NO INQUIRY INTO IF COULD BE CONSIDERED MEANINGFUL WITHOUT LAYING MOST OF THE FAULT IN THE LAPS AND HALLS OF OUR CONGRESS. QUITE SIMPLY, OUR ELECTED LEGISLATIVE BRANCH HAS BEEN THE MAJOR SOURCE FOR OUR COUNTRY'S GROWING IF. NOTHING CAN COME CLOSE TO WHAT IT HAS WROUGHT, BY OMISSION OR COMMISSION. LIKE EVEREST, IT IS UNIQUE AND STANDS ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

THE CONGRESS IS CHARGED WITH HELPING TO SHAPE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND THEN TRANSLATING IT INTO

IN THIS ISSUE WE EXAMINE THE WIDESPREAD INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE THAT HAS MARKED OUR COUNTRY'S PASSAGE THROUGH THE TWO GENERATIONS OF ITS POSTWAR, COLD WAR AND SOLE SUPERPOWER PERIODS. AND ON PAGE 14 WE HAVE INCLUDED A NOTE OF SEASONAL CONVENIENCE.

OUR NEXT ISSUE ENTITLED COLLISION WILL EXPLORE THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION, POLITICS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMICS IN OUR WORLD AND WHAT MIGHT BE SOME LIKELY FUTURE CONSEQUENCES.

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LEGISLATION AND, FINALLY, ACTUAL FUNDING. THIS IS ONE OF ITS PRIMARY NATIONAL DUTIES, LIKE THE EXERCISE OF ITS TAXATION OR NATIONAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES.

IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY A VARIETY OF CONGRESSES HAS OVERSEEN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE US FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST CREDITOR TO ITS FOREMOST DEBTOR. THERE IS AN UNREAL, OR PERHAPS SURREAL, FEELING TO SUCH A MASSIVE ROLE REVERSAL. AND YET IT HAPPENED AND WE ARE WITNESSES. THERE ARE SEVERAL EXPLANATIONS, BUT THEY OFFER LITTLE SOLACE WHEN WE RECOGNIZE WHAT WE HAVE ALLOWED.

THERE IS, AS ALWAYS NOW, THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE (II) TO BE CONSIDERED. EACH POLITICAL PARTY WILL BLAME THE OTHER AND BOTH WILL CLOAK THEIR ACTIONS IN IDEOLOGY THAT IS CLAIMED TO DERIVE FROM OUR POLITICAL FOUNDING AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.

THE NEXT MOST FREQUENT AND FERVID EXPLANATION IS THAT OF REPRESENTING THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF LOCAL, STATE OR REGIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. BUT THIS IS AS HOLLOW AND EVEN MORE SELF-SERVING THAN THE II. TODAY'S TRUTH OF CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION IS THAT IT IS MOSTLY ATTACHED TO REELECTION, FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS, AND THE INCLUSION AND SERVICE OF "SPECIAL INTERESTS" IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

A BETTER, AND MORE REALISTIC, EXPLANATION IS THAT OUR MANY CONGRESSES AND THEIR MEMBERS UNDERWENT A SEPARATION FROM FISCAL REALITY AS THE SUMS UNDER THEIR CONTROL GREW FROM MILLIONS TO BILLIONS TO TRILLIONS. THEY SEEM TO HAVE OPERATED UNDER THE ILLUSION THAT AMERICA'S WEALTH WAS ENDLESS AND THEIRS TO DISBURSE IN ANY AND ALL WAYS THEY MIGHT WISH. THIS, OF COURSE, WAS GREATLY FACILITATED BY THE USE OF "EAR-MARKS" BY WHICH FUNDING IN AMOUNTS RANGING FROM SMALL TO OBSCENE WAS INSERTED IN LEGISLATION WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF ITS SOURCE.

CONGRESS' ROLE AS STEWARD OF OUR NATIONAL WEALTH WAS CHECKED IN THE CLOAK-ROOM AND NOT ALLOWED "ON THE FLOOR" EXCEPT FOR THE FLEETING AND RARE MOMENTS OF A TROPHY APPEARANCE.

WHEN WE DISCARD THE SURREAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH FIFTY YEARS OF CONGRESSIONAL MISMANAGEMENT HAS OCCURRED, WE FACE THE SHOCK OF OUR HAVING SPENT OUR WAY FROM BALANCED BUDGETS, SURPLUSES AND A DEBT-FREE ECONOMY TO CONTINUALLY INCREASING BUDGETARY AND

TRADE DEFICITS, TO A RECOGNIZED NATIONAL DEBT OF CLOSE TO \$12 TRILLION THAT IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$20 TRILLION IN THE NEXT DECADE AND TO TOTAL DEBT AND/OR UNFUNDED OBLIGATIONS IN THE RANGE OF \$50 TO \$100 TRILLION.

AS SHOCKING AS THESE AMOUNTS ARE, IN THE TALE OF OUR DESCENT INTO MANAGERIAL MADNESS THEY ARE MINOR IN RELATION TO THE SENSE OF NATIONAL BETRAYAL THAT EMANATES FROM CONGRESS' ABANDONMENT OF ITS STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITY.

LOOKING AT OUR FINANCIAL POSITION TODAY, THE US IS PROBABLY FACING INSOLVENCY. THE VOICES IN CONGRESS AND AT THE OBAMA WHITE HOUSE AND TREASURY TELL US THINGS WILL GET BETTER AND THAT IN TEN YEARS THE DEFICITS WILL HAVE SLOWED AND STOPPED, BUT SUCH PREDICTIONS ARE BASED ON EXTREMELY SERENE CIRCUMSTANCES.

REALITY IS DIFFERENT. IT MAY INCLUDE UNPLANNED WARS, PANDEMICS, NATURAL OR NUCLEAR DISASTERS OR PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES. THESE ARE NOT EVENTS THAT CAN BE FORECAST, BUT THEY ARE POSSIBLE, AS ARE OTHERS, AND COULD RENDER USELESS OUR FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS.

WITHOUT ANY CUSHION, OR RESERVES, AND WITH OUR CREDIBILITY IN DOUBT AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE OUTLINES OF OUR FUTURE MAY BE LEFT TO CHANCE, OR TO OUR FRIENDS OR ENEMIES.

IN OUR TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, WITH ITS POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL EQUILIBRIUM ALL DIMINISHING, OUR POSITION IS NOT ONE TO BE PREFERRED. THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK IT IS IMPROVED BY OUR SUPERPOWER STATUS. THE TRUTH IS QUITE THE OPPOSITE.

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ANOTHER AREA OF CONGRESSIONAL FAILURE HAS BEEN ITS TREATMENT OF THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM, MOST NOTABLY ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ENFORCE EXISTING LEGISLATION WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY SUPPORTED BY POLLS THAT SHOW A MAJORITY OF ABOUT 65%-70% IN FAVOR OF REDUCING IMMIGRATION. THIS SELECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT IS THE RESULT OF LARGE AND STEADY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BY IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS GROUPS.

ATTEMPTS WERE MADE DURING THE

BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO REWRITE PRESENT IMMIGRATION LAW, BUT A STRONG EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN OPPOSITION KILLED THAT EFFORT. AS A RESULT, THE LAW REMAINS, BUT IS NOT OBSERVED. AND IN THE PAST, EVEN WHEN LEGISLATIVE ACTION HAS BEEN POSSIBLE AS WITH BORDER ENFORCEMENT, CONGRESS HAS REFUSED TO FUND THE LAW IT HAS ENACTED.

THIS IS A POISONOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. OBAMA HAS EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO PASS A NEW IMMIGRATION BILL IN 2010. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFY AND ALIGN THEMSELVES.

AS IMMIGRATION HAS GROWN AND BECOME A MORE DIVISIVE ISSUE IN OUR SOCIETY, LOCAL SANCTUARY LAWS HAVE BEEN PASSED THAT OFTEN CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL LAW. IN LOS ANGELES LOCAL REGULATIONS PROHIBIT POLICE OFFICERS FROM CONTACTING FEDERAL IMMIGRATION OFFICERS REGARDING A SUSPECT'S STATUS AND OFTEN FROM MAKING A DIRECT INQUIRY TO THE SUSPECT.

SUCH POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION CAN BE READILY FOUND IN COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH IMMIGRANT POPULATION DENSITIES. WHILE IT CAN BE USEFUL "ON THE STREET", IT IS CONTRARY TO OUR CONSTITUTION. WHAT CONGRESS FAILS TO UNDERSTAND IN THE MATTER OF LOCAL LAW CONFLICT IS THAT IT IS A DIRECT RESULT OF CONGRESS' FAILURE TO HONOR ITS OWN LAWS. AND EVEN WITH AS SPECIFIC A MATTER AS IMMIGRATION, THIS FAILURE SPREADS THROUGH OUR SOCIETY AND RESURFACES IN OTHER FORMS OF CORRUPTION SUCH AS LABOR, TAX, DOCUMENTATION AND CREDIT FRAUD.

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NOT MUCH FURTHER THAN A STONE'S THROW, OR A WHISTLE'S BLOW, FROM WHERE OUR CONGRESS SITS ARE THE OFFICES OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC). THERE, WELL PAID LAWYERS PRACTICE WHAT HAS BECOME A HIGHLY SPECIFIC AREA OF OUR LEGAL CODE RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE AND TRADING OF THE NATION'S CORPORATE SECURITIES.

THE SEC WAS ESTABLISHED TO COMBAT THE LAXITY AND ABUSES IN OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS THAT HAD FLOWERED IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND WHICH CONTRIBUTED IN A MAJOR WAY TO THE SEVERITY OF THE 1929 STOCK MARKET COLLAPSE.

THE FUNCTION OF THE SEC WAS REGULATORY PROTECTION FOR THOSE WHO OWNED OR TRADED SECURITIES. CHARGED WITH LEVELING A FIELD THAT HAD A PRONOUNCED TILT, IT EARLY AND FREQUENTLY FOUND ITSELF IN CONFLICT WITH WALL STREET INTERESTS WHICH, HOWEVER, OVER TIME CAME TO ACCEPT ITS PRESENCE.

REPEAT: THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE SEC'S REGULATORY FUNCTION IS TO PROTECT THE INVESTING PUBLIC. ENTER BERNIE MADOFF WHO AIMED TO ATTRACT REAL MONEY FROM REAL INVESTORS BY OFFERING PHONY RESULTS AND RATES OF

RETURN. THE POSSIBILITY OF PROTECTIVE ACTION BY THE SEC CERTAINLY SEEMS CLEAR AND CALLED FOR, ESPECIALLY AS IT HAD BEEN CONTACTED IN WRITING AND IN DETAIL BY AN INFORMANT WHO ALERTED IT TO MADOFF'S MEANS AND METHODS.

“. . . THE SEC STRUCK OUT!"

ARMED WITH THIS INFORMATION AND THE SUBSTANTIAL REACH, STAFF AND AUTHORITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT, THE SEC STRUCK OUT! IT VISITED MADOFF'S OFFICES ON A FEW OCCASIONS, BUT ASKED NO TOUGH QUESTIONS NOR REQUESTED THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION.

MADOFF CONTINUED HIS SCAM UNTIL HIS "TAKE" REACHED ABOUT \$75 BILLION WHEN AN INVESTOR'S DEMAND FOR A RETURN OF FUNDS CAUSED A COMPLETE COLLAPSE. SO INEPT WAS THE SEC PROCEDURE THAT MADOFF WAS ABLE TO CITE ITS INQUIRY AS PROOF OF HIS OPERATION'S SOUNDNESS AND LEGITIMACY.

IN THE IF HALL OF FAME THE SEC/MADOFF AFFAIR OCCUPIES A VERY PROMINENT PLACE.

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BUT OUR CONGRESS IS NOT ALONE IN ITS FAILURE TO PROTECT. CONSIDER THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1913 TO RID THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF THE SUDDEN AND SEVERE "PANICS" THAT STRUCK OFTEN AND WITHOUT WARNING DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. THESE WERE LIQUIDITY CRISES THAT WREAKED HAVOC WITH A SYSTEM COMPOSED MOSTLY OF INDEPENDENT BANKS IN THE SMALL TOWNS AND CITIES OF OUR EMERGING NATION AND THAT HAD AT THEIR DISPOSAL ONLY RUDIMENTARY FORMS OF COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL.

"WHO WERE THESE FOUNDERS?
THEY WERE THE HEADS OF THE LARGEST
WALL STREET BANKS."

LOOKING BACK ACROSS THE CENTURY BEHIND THEM, THE FOUNDERS OF THE FED PUT TOGETHER A PROPOSED SYSTEM THAT WOULD HOPEFULLY EVEN OUT THE PAINFUL SWINGS (AND BANK FAILURES) CAUSED BY PANICS AND WOULD PROTECT BOTH THE ECONOMY AND THE PUBLIC. WHO WERE THESE FOUNDERS? THEY WERE THE HEADS OF THE LARGEST WALL STREET BANKS.

THERE WAS MUCH CONGRESSIONAL ARGUMENT AND HUFFING AND PUFFING, BUT AFTER EXTENSIVE HEARINGS AND PRESS COVERAGE LEGISLATION WAS PASSED THAT MET ALL OF

WALL STREET'S PRIMARY DEMANDS.

THE FED WAS ESTABLISHED AS AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY THAT OPERATED IN AN AREA BETWEEN THE PRIVATE BANKING SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT'S TREASURY DEPARTMENT. A READING OF ITS MISSION AND METHODS AS STATED IN ITS CHARTER REVEALS AN ORGANIZATION GRACED WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS WITH LITTLE RESTRAINT UPON THEIR USE, AND ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SUCH RESTRAINT COULD BE DEEMED AN ATTACK UPON ITS INDEPENDENCE.¹

BUT IT IS THE FED'S FUNCTION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC THAT WE ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH. G. EDMUND GRIFFIN IN THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND CITES THIS RECORD:

“SINCE ITS INCEPTION, IT HAS PRESIDED OVER THE CRASHES OF 1921 AND 1929; THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF '29 TO '39; RECESSIONS IN '53, '57, '69, '75 AND '81; A STOCK MARKET “BLACK MONDAY” IN '87 ...”²

WE CAN ADD THE BRIEF DOWNTURN AT THE BEGINNING OF G. W. BUSH'S PRESIDENCY AND THE WIDE FINANCIAL CALAMITY AT ITS END.

THESE RESULTS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FROM THE POLICIES THAT PRODUCED THEM AND IT IS IN THE POLICY AREA THAT THE FED HAS MOST CLEARLY FAILED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION BY PERSISTENTLY PURSUING AN INFLATIONARY POLICY THAT HAS ERODED THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR BY MORE THAN 90% SINCE THE PRE-WWII PERIOD.³

THE DAMAGE THAT IS DONE TO PEOPLE IN OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHOSE LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS SOLELY ON EARNED WAGES IS ALMOST TOTAL. LACKING OTHER ASSETS THAT INCREASE IN VALUE IN INFLATIONARY PERIODS, THEY ARE FIRMLY BUT GENTLY PUSHED DOWN THE FINANCIAL LADDER OF COMPETITION AND GROWTH BY WHICH OUR ECONOMY AND, IN NO SMALL MEASURE, OUR SOCIETY HAVE COME TO BE DEFINED.

THE FED, OF COURSE, WAS NOT ALONE IN CREATING AND MAINTAINING INFLATIONARY POLICY, FOR, WHILE SUSPENDED BETWEEN THEM IN ITS STATE OF “INDEPENDENCE”, IT ENJOYED THE WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT (TREASURY/CONGRESS) AND WALL STREET'S RAPIDLY GROWING BANKING/FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY THAT SERVED AS GUIDES IN OUR TRANSFORMATION FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST CREDITOR TO DEBTOR STATUS.

THIS LOW INTEREST RATES, EASY CREDIT, EXPANSIONIST MONEY POLICY FITTED AS NEATLY AS PIECES IN A JIG-SAW PUZZLE WITH THE MYTH OF ETERNAL GROWTH THAT HAS DOMINATED AND DICTATED PUBLIC, CORPORATE AND POLITICAL THOUGHT DURING THE COURSE OF OUR HISTORY.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PRECEDENT CAN BE FOUND IN THE SETTLING OF OUR LARGE AND RICH LANDMASS, BUT THAT TIME ENDED A CENTURY AGO AND WE MUST EMPLOY A MUCH GREATER ADHERENCE TO REALITY IN GUIDING OUR SOCIETY THROUGH THE NEXT CENTURY.

IT IS TRUE THAT OUR NATIONAL WEALTH HAS INCREASED GREATLY, BUT IT IS COUNTED IN DOLLARS AND, IF WE BEAR IN MIND THEIR PAST LOSS OF VALUE AND THE PROBABILITY THAT IT WILL CONTINUE WELL INTO THE FUTURE, A MORE REALISTIC FORM OF MEASUREMENT COULD PROVE HELPFUL.

FREDDIE AND FANNIE

A BIT FURTHER FROM CAPITOL HILL, IN THEIR EXPENSIVELY LANDSCAPED CORPORATE CAMPUSES, ARE THE OFFICES OF FREDDY MAC AND FANNIE MAE. THESE PUBLICLY OWNED AND TRADED ORGANIZATIONS, KNOWN AS GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES (GSEs), WERE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE LIQUIDITY TO OUR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE MARKET. WHILE NOT DIRECTLY SECURED BY THE “FULL FAITH AND CREDIT” OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE LATTER'S BACKING IS ASSUMED AND THEY ARE PLAINLY SEEN AS “TOO BIG TO FAIL”.

THEIR RATHER SPECIAL STATUS HAS ENABLED THEM TO OPERATE WITH MINIMAL REGULATION AND OVERSIGHT IN SPITE OF THEIR DEBT AND/OR GUARANTEE POSITIONS (EST. AT OVER \$5 TRILLION)⁴ AND THEIR DEBT-TO-EQUITY RATIOS THAT ARE FAR HIGHER THAN THE LARGEST OR MOST CONSERVATIVE COMMERCIAL BANKS.

OUR RECENT BAILOUT LEGISLATION INCLUDED UP TO \$100 BILLION FOR THEM, BUT WHAT THEY NEED MOST IS A NEW OPERATING MIND-SET.

MANAGEMENTS AT BOTH HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE OF EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION AND SELF-DEALING, MOST NOTABLY MANIPULATING THEIR PUBLIC EARNINGS STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY UNDESERVED EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION BONUSES. MANY MILLIONS OF UNWARRANTED DOLLARS WERE PAID IN THIS WAY AND EVEN MORE IN SEPARATION PAY WHEN THE PARTICIPATING EXECUTIVES WERE DISCOVERED AND FORCED TO LEAVE.

“AFTER ALL, THEY WERE TAX PAYER DOLLARS
AND UNCLE SUGAR WAS
KNOWN TO CAST A LAX EYE.”

IT WAS A HONEY POT WAY OF LIFE. STICK YOUR FIST IN THE JAR AND WHATEVER YOU WERE ABLE TO WITHDRAW WAS YOURS. AFTER ALL, THEY WERE TAX PAYER DOLLARS AND UNCLE SUGAR WAS KNOWN TO CAST A LAX EYE.

WHEN WE MENTION CORRUPTION, OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION REGARDING F & F, WE ARE ENTERING AN AREA OF CONTRADICTION AND DENIAL THAT TESTS OUR CREDIBILITY. THE TRAIL OF MALFEASANCE EXTENDS BACK TO THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TWO OF WHOSE APPOINTEES MADE \$100M AND \$75M IN FRAUDULENT BONUSES.⁵

AND IT'S NOT AS IF CONGRESS DIDN'T KNOW. IN THE LAST DECADE F&F HAVE SPENT MORE THAN \$180 MILLION TO LOBBY CONGRESS, AND FANNIE MAE ON ITS OWN MADE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMPAIGNS OF 354 REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS FROM BOTH PARTIES.⁶

THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO RECEIVED THE MOST MONEY FROM FANNIE MAE WERE SENATORS DODD, OBAMA AND SCHUMER AND REPRESENTATIVE BARNEY FRANK ALL OF WHOM SERVED ON KEY COMMITTEES THAT DEALT WITH FINANCIAL LEGISLATION.⁷ THEN REP. RAHM EMMANUEL RECEIVED A LESSER AMOUNT BUT ALSO WAS PAID \$250,000

IN 2000 AND 2001 FROM FREDDIE MAC AS A MEMBER OF ITS OVERLY ACQUIESCENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS.⁸

THIS PATTERN OF CORPORATE CORRUPTION, AND CONGRESSIONAL CLOSENESS TO IT, HAS CAUSED MANY COMMENTS AND CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION, BUT CONGRESS PROTECTS ITS OWN AND HAS SUCCEEDED IN AVOIDING ANY SIGNIFICANT INQUIRY.

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ONE OF THE MORE PUZZLING ASPECTS OF OUR CONGRESS IS ITS HANDLING, OR MORE ACCURATELY NON-HANDLING, OF ETHICAL PROBLEMS OF WHICH IT CERTAINLY HAS MORE THAN ITS SHARE. BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE HAVE COMMITTEES ON ETHICS, BUT ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN MATTERS ARE REFERRED TO THEM IT IS HARD TO DISCERN ANY EVIDENCE OF ACTION.

THERE HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN NO OPEN HEARINGS ON MEMBERS' ETHICALLY QUESTIONABLE CONDUCT, NO DISCUSSION ON THE FLOOR AND LITTLE IN THE WAY OF COOPERATION WITH MEDIA REQUESTS. THE COMMITTEES ON ETHICS ACT LIKE ASTRONOMY'S BLACK HOLES. NO MATTER WHAT GOES IN, NOTHING COMES OUT.

WE ARE SO ACCUSTOMED TO THE ABSENCE OF ANY FUNCTIONAL ETHICAL MECHANISM THAT WE TEND TO ACCEPT IT. THIS IS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, AS IT ONLY MAKES US LESS LIKELY TO SEEK AND DEMAND THE GOOD GOVERNMENT THAT WAS PROMISED IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

UNFORTUNATELY, CONGRESS DOES NOT SEE THAT ITS ABDICATION OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AT THE TOP OF OUR GOVERNMENT CREATES A NUMBING EFFECT WHICH SPREADS TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, ETC.

“STRIKE NOT; LEST YE BE STRUCK!”

WITHIN ITS OWN HALLS AND WALLS, IT SEEMS THAT CONGRESS ATTEMPTS TO COVER ITSELF WITH A PATINA OF DECORUM AND RESPECTABILITY BY REFERRING TO EACH OTHER AS “MY HONORABLE FRIEND”, “MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE” OR SOME SIMILARLY FRIENDLY TITLE, BUT THAT’S A TOUGH SELL. IT’S BEEN ARGUED THAT CONGRESS OPERATES ON A “DON’T TELL” SCHOOLBOY SENSE OF HONOR, BUT EVEN THAT FALLS FLAT IN FACE OF THE RECORD. MOST LIKELY, UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN CONDONED FOR SO LONG AND IS SO WIDESPREAD BECAUSE ANY ACCUSATION WOULD ENGENDER A COUNTER-ATTACK. BETTER NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT; THERE ARE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PENSIONS, OUTSIDE COMPENSATION, SENIORITY, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ALL TO BE CONSIDERED. STRIKE NOT; LEST YE BE STRUCK!

YOU MAY RECALL THE SILENCE AFTER REP. WM. JEFFERSON (D-LA) WAS CAUGHT ON CAMERA IN AN FBI STING TAKING A \$100,000 BRIBE (\$90,000 WAS FOUND IN HIS FOOD FREEZER) AFTER WHICH THE FBI OBTAINED A WARRANT TO SEARCH HIS OFFICE AND FILES. THIS SET OFF A PANIC ALARM IN CONGRESS AND THE CHARGE BY BOTH PARTIES THAT THE FBI’S ACTION VIOLATED THE GOVERNMENT’S SEPARATION OF POWERS!

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NO VOICE SPEAKS WITH AS MUCH AUTHORITY IN THE ARGUMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AS THAT OF PENSION HOLDERS. THEY ARE A RECENT (MOSTLY POST-WWII) ADDITION TO THE CONTRACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT OR CORPORATE EMPLOYERS, AND THEIR GROWING DEMAND AND ACCEPTANCE CAN BE SEEN AS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE PAIN CAUSED BY THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF THE 1930s.

REGULAR, REPEATED PAYMENTS BY MANY EMPLOYERS/EMPLOYEES CAN QUICKLY BUILD LARGE ACCUMULATIONS OF CAPITAL WHICH THEN HAVE TO BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE LONG TERM FUTURE BENEFITS.

WITH THE READY PARTICIPATION OF LABOR UNIONS, INDUSTRY AND LOCAL/STATE/FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS A MAJOR NEW ELEMENT WAS ADDED TO OUR ECONOMY. BUT WITH MAJOR MONEY MORE OFTEN THAN NOT COMES MAJOR ABUSE OR ERROR, AND PENSIONS WERE NO EXCEPTION.

“PEOPLE DIE. GREED LIVES.”

THERE IS ALWAYS THE QUESTION, BEYOND HUMAN CONTROL, OF WHETHER THE PENSIONER WILL BE AROUND TO ENJOY HIS BENEFITS AT THE TIME THEY COME DUE, AND THEN ITS OPPOSITE, WHICH IS VERY MUCH SUBJECT TO HUMAN CONTROL, OF WHETHER THE PROMISED MONEY WILL BE THERE. THE PROCESS OF ACCUMULATING MONEY OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD UNDER SOMEONE ELSE’S CARE REQUIRES TRUST. AND TRUST CAN BE BROKEN, ESPECIALLY WHEN LARGE SUMS ARE INVOLVED. PEOPLE DIE. GREED LIVES.

THE GENERATION OF THE ‘50s THRU THE ‘70s WERE GLORY DAYS FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRY. WE MADE AND SHIPPED PRODUCTS TO ALL PARTS OF OUR GLOBE. IN THIS PERIOD, AS PENSIONS BECAME MORE WIDESPREAD, THEY ALSO BECAME ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, AS THEY ALLOWED UNION LEADERSHIP TO CLAIM THAT IT HAD SECURED ITS MEMBERS FUTURES FAR BEYOND THE 65 YEAR RETIREMENT AGE. THIS WAS AN ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT BENEFIT FOR BOTH THE PRACTICE AND PSYCHOLOGY OF AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISM.

BUT THE GROWTH OF PENSIONS IN LABOR CONTRACTS BECAME AN INCREASING COST FACTOR TO MANAGEMENT. PENSION EXPENSES WERE CALCULATED ACCORDING TO LONG-TERM ACTUARIAL FORECASTS WITH REMOTE RESULTS, AND THEY REDUCED PRESENT PROFITS. PROFITS FED THE FLAMES ON WALL STREET AND DEFINED THE VALUE OF SALARIES, BONUSES, CORPORATE RETIREMENT AND INCENTIVE PLANS, ETC.

ACCORDINGLY, MANY EMPLOYERS ENGAGED IN ONLY PARTIAL FUNDING OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS, THEREBY PERMITTING BOTH LARGER PRESENT PROFITS AND LATER PENSION PAYMENTS. THIS PRACTICE, AS TIME PASSED, LED TO MORE AND MORE COMPANIES REPORTING INCREASING AMOUNTS OF UNFUNDED PENSION COST LIABILITIES.

IN 1974 CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION CREATING THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORP (PBGC) TO ASSURE PAYMENTS TO WORKERS ENROLLED IN DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS IN THE EVENT OF INSOLVENCY OR SOME OTHER CATASTROPHE OCCURRING TO THE EMPLOYER.

NOTABLE BANKRUPTCIES SUCH AS BETHLEHEM STEEL IN 2002⁹ AND THIS YEAR'S GENERAL MOTORS TRANSFERRED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF UNFUNDED PENSIONS TO PBGC WHICH NOW CARRIES HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF CORPORATE PENSION FUND OBLIGATIONS.

BANKRUPTCY COURTS REGULARLY MOVE THESE PENSION LIABILITIES FROM THEIR PETITIONERS TO THE GOVERNMENT VIA PBGC IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE AND THEREBY PROVIDE SOME HOPE OF AN ORDERLY DISSOLUTION OR REBIRTH.

IN FAIRNESS, THE PBGC WAS A WELL INTENDED EFFORT TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO A LARGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DOLLARS. TODAY IT APPEARS THAT IT MAY SOON QUALIFY FOR ANOTHER MASSIVE TAXPAYER BAILOUT.

THE REASON FOR THIS DISCREPANCY, AS IN MANY OTHER INSTANCES, IS THAT THE LEGISLATION'S INTENTION WAS NOT ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES APPLIED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CRITICAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS PENALTIES, VESTING, FIDUCIARY REQUIREMENTS AND OTHERS. BECAUSE SO MANY OF THE PBGC'S OBLIGATIONS ARE LONG-TERM, IT CAN CONTINUE TO EXIST WITH OCCASIONAL INFUSIONS OF ADDED FUNDS, BUT EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS A TIME BOMB — SLOWLY TICKING, PERHAPS, BUT STILL VERY MUCH A BOMB!

WE MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT PENSION PROBLEMS CAN CUT BOTH WAYS, AS MANY COMMUNITIES, ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN BOTH MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND LABOR PEACE, SIGN OFF ON ABSURDLY RICH CONTRACTS THAT ENCOURAGE EXCESSIVE OVERTIME ACCUMULATION, EARLY RETIREMENT AT OR AROUND AGE 50 AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS AT FULL OR NEARLY FULL COMPENSATION.

MANY OF THE BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO APPROVE UNWORKABLY RICH CONTRACTS SERVE SHORT TERMS AND WILL NOT BE IN OFFICE WHEN THE RESULTS ARE FELT. THEN, IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE PERSONNEL TO COMMENCE RETIREMENT WITH PAYMENTS IN THE \$100,000 TO \$400,000 RANGE. THE IMPACT OF THESE POLICIES GROWS MARKEDLY AS COMMUNITY POPULATION AND SERVICE PERSONNEL EXPAND AND IMPOSE

LARGER PAYMENTS.

MEDICAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS CONSTITUTE ANOTHER SERIOUS DRAIN ON COMMUNITY FINANCES, AS POLICE AND FIREMEN CAN BE GUARANTEED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES AFTER FIVE YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT.

IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW THESE CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS CAN QUICKLY INCREASE WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, AND CREDIT SUISSE HAS ESTIMATED "THAT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE A CUMULATIVE \$1.5 TRILLION SHORTFALL IN COMMITMENTS FOR RETIREE HEALTH CARE".¹⁰

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MEDIA MADNESS

THIS BETRAYAL VISITED UPON OUR COUNTRY IS LIKE NO OTHER. IT SPARES NO ONE TODAY AND REACHES DOWN TO GENERATIONS TO COME. IT IS A PROFIT MOTIVATED PARTICIPATION IN A BROAD DUMBING DOWN OF OUR POPULATION, ESPECIALLY YOUTH, SPONSORED BY OUR EDUCATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS AND OTHER "SPECIAL" INTERESTS.

RATHER THAN SERVING AS AN ELEVATOR, IT IMPOSES ACTUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS THAT INHIBIT UPWARD MOBILITY BY THOSE AT THE LOWER LEVELS OF OUR SOCIETY. AND ITS VIEW OF OUR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES EVEN CREATES A DRAG ON OUR LEADERSHIP.

TIME WAS WHEN OUR PUBLIC MEDIA CONSISTED ONLY OF PRINT PUBLICATIONS — NEWSPAPERS IN EVERY CITY AND TOWN AND A FEW MAGAZINES WITH MOSTLY LOCAL READERS. MASS MARKETING TECHNIQUES AND MAILING METHODS EXPANDED OUR PRINT MEDIA TO NATIONAL REACH WHICH FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF OUR POSTWAR CONSUMER ECONOMY. WITH THE ADDITION FIRST OF RADIO, AND THEN TV, WE ENGAGED IN A MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION EXPLOSION OF ENORMOUS VARIETY THAT CONTINUES TODAY AND ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF OUR GDP.

WHY DO WE INCLUDE IT HERE? UNLIKE IN MANY OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OUR BROADCAST MEDIA ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND OPERATED, AND YET OUR MEDIA SECTOR IS VERY MUCH A NATIONAL INSTITUTION IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT CONTACT WITH OUR SENSIBILITIES. IT IS PRIVATE AND YET IT DEPENDS UPON USE OF OUR PUBLIC AIR WAVES TO DELIVER ITS MESSAGE.

THE DIVIDING LINE, OR THE LINE WHERE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEET, IS THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) THAT IS CHARGED VERY SPECIFICALLY WITH SOME FUNCTIONS SUCH AS DETERMINING TRANSMISSION FREQUENCIES, GRANTING AND RENEWING LICENSES AND COLLECTING THE REVENUES THEREFROM.

IT IS ALSO CHARGED FAR MORE BROADLY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BROADCAST MEDIA'S PRODUCT CONTENT SO THAT IT MEETS STANDARDS OF DECENCY AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST. THE KEY QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHOSE

STANDARDS?

WITH THE EXCEPTION, PERHAPS, OF THE FEDERAL DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA), WHOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IS NOTORIOUSLY CLOSE, IT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND A GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT HAS SHOWN MORE SUPINE DEFERENCE TO THE INDUSTRY IT REGULATES. UNTIL RECENTLY, FINES WERE INFREQUENT AND FOR ONLY TOKEN AMOUNTS THAT LACKED ANY DETERRENT EFFECT.

THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS AWASH IN MONEY AND CAN SPEND MILLIONS IN LEGAL CHALLENGES TO FCC RULINGS. NOT SURPRISINGLY CONSIDERING THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED, THE LATTER ARE FREQUENTLY OVERTURNED ON APPEAL.

THE CONTENT OF MOST TV ENTERTAINMENT IS NOW BUILT AROUND SEX AND VIOLENCE OF ANY AND ALL KINDS. THERE IS A DECIDED MAJORITY OF PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT HOLDS THAT REPEATED EXPOSURE TO HIGHLY GRAPHIC AND DETAILED IMAGES OF SEXUALITY AND BRUTALITY HAVE HAD A VERY UNHEALTHY CUMULATIVE EFFECT ON OUR CULTURE, AND ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN. HOLLYWOOD AND ITS COUNTERPARTS BLOW AWAY SUCH CRITICISM AND CONTINUE TO TRY TO STRETCH PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE TO EMBRACE EVER HIGHER LEVELS OF SHOCK VALUE.

THERE IS ONE QUESTION, HOWEVER, BEHIND WHICH BOTH SIDES GATHER THEIR WEAPONS AND MOUNT THEIR ATTACKS OR DEFENSES.

READ THE ACCOUNTS OF YOUTH GANG TRIALS, OR YOUNG HOMICIDE/RAPE/ASSAULT CASES. DENIAL IS ALWAYS PRESENT, BUT VISIBLY DIMINISHES AS PROSECUTORS MAKE THEIR CASES. AT THE END, THE CONTEST BETWEEN TRUTH AND PRETENSE CAN OFTEN APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED.

THE ORIGINS OF OUR PUBLIC MEDIA LIE IN THE FREE PRESS THAT IS GUARANTEED BY OUR CONSTITUTION. THIS IS THEIR FIRST TIE TO GOVERNMENT. THE SECOND IS THAT OF THE POWER OF ENFORCEMENT LODGED IN THE FCC. AND THE THIRD IS THAT CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO CREATE THE LEGISLATION THAT COULD STRENGTHEN BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND INDUSTRY STANDARDS FOR ITS PRODUCTS.

CONGRESS, HOWEVER, LACKS THE ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE CONSTANT PRESSURE APPLIED BY THE LOBBYISTS WHO REPRESENT THE MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX. MONEY TALKS AND CONGRESS LISTENS. AND THAT IS WHY ONE OF OUR GREAT NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FAILS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND WHY OUR GOVERNMENT IS COMPLICIT IN THIS FAILURE.

WATCH THE MAYHEM, RAPE, INCEST, SODOMY, DECAPITATION AND TORTURE THAT APPEAR ON TV 24/7 AND THEN ASK WHETHER, FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR SOCIETY, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO INSIST THAT GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS CONTROL OF THE BROADCAST SPECTRUM, TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION.

PART PRIVATE AND PART PUBLIC, OUR PUBLIC MEDIA SECTOR IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL INSTITUTIONS IN OUR COUNTRY — NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS WEALTH, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS REACH. IT HAS ACCESS TO MOST OF OUR NATION’S HOUSEHOLDS, AND PRESENTS AN IMAGE OF OUR CULTURE TO OURSELVES AND TO OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD. BUT BY PRESENTING OUR CULTURE IT ALSO CREATES IT, AND IT

IS THIS RESULT THAT ENSURES OUR MEDIA A PROMINENT PLACE AMONG OUR INSTITUTIONAL FAILURES.

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PERHAPS NO FAILURE OF PROTECTION IS AS BROAD AS THAT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN UNION WHICH WAS INITIATED BY PRES. BUSH II AND HAS BEEN CONTINUED BY HIS SUCCESSOR.

THIS PLAN ESTABLISHES A UNION OF CANADA, MEXICO AND THE US WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE THE PHYSICAL BORDERS ON OUR NORTH AND SOUTH THAT NOW SEPARATE THESE THREE COUNTRIES.

PHYSICAL SEPARATION, HOWEVER, IS NOT ALL THAT IS SCHEDULED FOR ELIMINATION. OUR CURRENCY WOULD BE REPLACED BY A NEW COMMON UNIT. AND THE EFFECT UPON OUR JUDICIARY SYSTEM WOULD ALSO DO AWAY WITH MANY TRADITIONAL PROTECTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS STATED IN PRESENT NAU REGULATIONS THAT ANY LITIGATION OR DISAGREEMENT INVOLVING ANY ASPECT OF NAU’S OPERATION WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL NAU COURTS WHOSE JUDGES OR ARBITERS WOULD BE APPOINTED, NOT ELECTED, AND FROM WHICH THERE COULD BE NO APPEAL. UNDER SUCH A STRUCTURE THE US WOULD BE PERPETUALLY FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY, IF NOT THE REALITY, OF A 2 TO 1 OPPOSITION.

THE NAU IS AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD INTENDED ELIMINATION OF MANY OF OUR NATION’S CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES. IT STRIKES EQUALLY AT OUR CULTURE, OUR CURRENCY, OUR SECURITY, OUR JUDICIARY AND OUR REPRESENTATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND, AS IF THESE WERE NOT ENOUGH, THROUGHOUT ITS LANGUAGE THERE IS THE SPECTRE THAT THE US WILL FIND ITS RANGE OF CHOICE GREATLY COMPROMISED.

QUITE CONSISTENT WITH THESE FUTURE PROSPECTS IS THE WAY THE NAU HAS BEEN SPONSORED SO FAR. IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENTS BUSH II AND FOX OF MEXICO AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER HARPER IN 2005 WITHOUT ANY PRIOR PUBLIC EXPOSURE. SINCE THEN, EACH COUNTRY HAS ESTABLISHED AND FUNDED VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS TO “HARMONIZE” THE NECESSARY OPERATING ELEMENTS. THESE GROUPS ARE ALSO NOT AFFORDED ANY CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC.

THEY EXIST IN OUR BUREAUCRATIC SHADOWS AND ARE SPREAD THROUGH VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. IT IS INTENDED THAT THEY REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL THEY CAN “GO PUBLIC” IN THE FORM OF A FAIT ACCOMPLI. THIS STRATEGY PROBABLY RECOGNIZES THE AMOUNT OF OPPOSITION FROM AMERICAN VOTERS/TAXPAYERS THAT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE AROUSED.

THE POLITICAL FOOTWORK WILL BE TRICKY. THE RHETORIC WILL BE SLY AND FALSE. CONGRESS HAS AVOIDED ANY MEANINGFUL OVERSIGHT AND WILL PROBABLY FAIL IN ITS DUTY WHEN THE TIME COMES. SO, THE ANSWER FOR US, AS WITH OTHER CRISES WE FACE, IS “WILL THERE BE TIME?” AND

ALSO, “WILL WE HAVE THE MEANS?”

IF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO ENGAGE IN A THREE-WAY MERGER WITH OUR NEIGHBORS WITH A RESULTANT CHANGE IN OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND IF THEY EXPRESS THAT WISH THROUGH A PUBLIC VOTE, OR REFERENDUM, WE WOULD HAVE TO TRY TO BE GUIDED BY SUCH A DECISION. THE NAU PROJECT HAS BEEN WRAPPED IN SECRECY AND DECEPTION. ON THOSE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN IT IS MENTIONED PUBLICLY IT IS REFERRED TO AS A “TRADE AGREEMENT”.

IT MAY WELL BE THAT, BUT IT IS ALSO MUCH MORE WITH, BEHIND ITS MASKS, THE POWER TO ALTER AND DO AWAY WITH MUCH OF OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC’S STRUCTURE AND HISTORY. NAU IS A CAUTIONARY TALE IN THE MAKING WHICH VERY CLEARLY REVEALS THE WILLINGNESS OF OUR CONGRESS AND TWO PRESIDENTS TO ABDICATE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES.

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MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST CENTURY AND A HALF AMERICA HAS FOUND ITSELF FIGHTING IN MANY DIFFERENT FOREIGN LANDS WHERE ECONOMIES AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES WERE MUCH LESS DEVELOPED THAN OURS AND WHERE, WHATEVER THE PROXIMATE REASON FOR OUR PRESENCE, OUR EFFORTS CAME TO INCLUDE NATION BUILDING.

THIS HAS BEEN SPECTACULARLY AND EXPENSIVELY TRUE IN IRAQ AND THE PATTERN SEEMS TO BE ABOUT TO REPEAT ITSELF IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THERE, WHEN THINGS PROVE MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED, THE LACK OF STRONG, FUNCTIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS IS OFTEN CITED AS A COMPLICATING FACTOR THAT WORKS AGAINST OUR “SUCCESS”.

WHILE WE MAY SINCERELY DENOUNCE NATION BUILDING AS OF NO INTEREST TO US IN OUR EARLY COMMENTS ABOUT MILITARY VENTURES, IT SEEMS TO HAVE AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR APPEARING LATER AND JOINING THE MISSION. IT IS A TASK THAT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT TO AVOID BECAUSE IT CAN BE USED TO DEFINE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “SUCCESS”, OR THE LACK OF IT.

TRANSPLANTING HOME-GROWN INSTITUTIONS TO FOREIGN SOIL IS A TRICKY BUSINESS AND REQUIRES A DEFT TOUCH. THE BRITISH WERE MASTERS AT THE GAME IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY COLONIAL ERA. OUR TURN COMES IN A DIFFERENT WORLD, BUT, EVEN SO, WE DO NOT FUNCTION AT THE SAME LEVEL OF COMMITMENT OR SKILL.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? IT IS BECAUSE AMERICANS TALK KNOWINGLY, AND SOMETIMES GLOWINGLY, ABOUT NATION BUILDING AND THE INSTITUTIONS IT REQUIRES TO FAVOR SUCCESS FOR A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

WE SPEND \$800 MILLION ON AN EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD AND A BILLION IN ISLAMABAD. WE HAVE TRIED TO HELP THE IRAQIS FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT AND TO REBUILD ITS

STRUCTURE ALONG MANY OF OUR OWN LINES. ALL OF THESE ARE MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND RECORD.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN ENORMOUS DISCONNECT HERE. THE NATION BUILDING IN WHICH AMERICA SHOULD BE MORE PRESSINGLY ENGAGED IS ITS OWN. INSTITUTIONS THAT FAIL TO PROTECT FALL SHORT IN OUR COUNTRY ON THE SAME SCALE, IF NOT MORE, THAN THOSE IN THE LANDS WHERE OUR TROOPS ARE SENT TO FIGHT.

BUT HERE IS THE CRITICAL DIFFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT OR MEMBER OF CONGRESS. WHO FREQUENTLY CITES OUR DUTY OR SUCCESS IN THESE MATTERS ABROAD, SAYS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT THE FAILURE OF SPIRIT AND PERFORMANCE IN OUR PROTECTIVE INSTITUTIONS! THEY FAIL, AND CONTINUE TO FAIL, OUR HISTORY AND OUR PEOPLE IN WAYS THAT ARE MEAN, MISERABLE, UNFAIR, CRUEL, CHEAP AND DISHONEST.

SADLY, OVER TIME THEY HAVE DEVELOPED ACCEPTANCE FOR THESE WAYS AMONG THEMSELVES AND AMONG THE PEOPLE. THE RESULT IS THAT IN OUR GOVERNMENT PERVASIVE CORRUPTION IS JOINED TO PERVASIVE CYNICISM. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTELY LETHAL COMBINATION WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, WILL DESTROY WHATEVER WE HAVE CREATED AND BUILT, WHETHER IN THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTORS, AND LEAD US TO A DREADFUL END, WHETHER AT OUR OWN OR OTHER HANDS.

OUR ENEMIES ARE MANY. REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. THE SAME FOR THE OVER 90% REELECTION RATE OF INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THE EXTREME RIGHT OR LEFT FRINGES? THERE’S NO HELP THERE. THE MONEY GANG — WALL STREET, THE FEDERAL RESERVE, THE GLOBALIST CROWD? NO, THEY’RE TOO BUSY MAKING MONEY! THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE? AFRAID NOT; TOO MANY MISCONCEPTIONS THERE, ALTHOUGH THE FBI HAS DONE SOME REALLY FINE COUNTER TERRORISM WORK.

NO, IF AMERICA IS GOING TO CURE ITSELF, ITS PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO DO IT. AND THEREIN LIES ANOTHER PROBLEM. THE VOX POPULI IN AMERICA HAS BEEN MUTED BY TWO GENERATIONS OF DUMBING DOWN OF ITS PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND MEDIA. IT IS NOT THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON’T HAVE GREAT ENERGY AND GOOD INTENTIONS. THEY DO, BUT THEY NO LONGER HAVE THE SENSE OF POLITICAL INITIATIVE THAT THEY ONCE DID. FOR THE MOST PART THEY ARE WILLING TO LET THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES SET BOTH THE PACE AND THE GOALS OF PUBLIC POLITICS.

“ . . . THE VOLUME IS TURNED ON “HIGH”
AND THE SOUND OVERWHELMS THE MESSAGE.”

THE TWO PARTIES WERE QUICK TO EXPLOIT THIS MOVE AWAY FROM INDIVIDUAL TO MASS GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS. THEY NOW SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON MANY FORMS OF PROMOTION — MEANINGLESS DEBATES, ADVERTISING AND, OF COURSE, PARADES, CROWD CONTROL AND OTHER FORMS OF MANIPULATIVE HOPLA. WHAT IS MISSING IS

FACTUAL EXPLANATION, BUT TODAY ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, AS IN CONGRESS AND THROUGHOUT OUR GOVERNMENT, THE VOLUME IS TURNED ON "HIGH" AND THE SOUND OVERWHELMS THE MESSAGE.

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IN OUR WORLD OF IF CONGRESS, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, DOMINATES THE CONTAMINATION AND EROSION OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

TO ACHIEVE THE WIDESPREAD FAILURE TO PROTECT THAT MARKS ITS ACTION TAKES POWER. CONGRESS HAS THAT POWER. IT CAN LEGISLATE; IT CAN EXCUSE; IT CAN CONCEAL; IT CAN PARDON; IT CAN SPECIFY REWARDS AND PENALTIES; AND, PERHAPS MOST CYNICALLY, IT CAN DELAY, DENY, DEFLECT AND IGNORE ANY REASONABLE CRITICISM OR REQUEST FOR RESPONSIBLE OVERSIGHT OR INQUIRY.

IN THE EARLY '30S REPRESENTATIVE ARSENE PUJO OF LA WITH THE SOLE ASSISTANCE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY ATTORNEY, FERDINAND J. PECORA (LATER A DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL JUDGE IN NY), HELD HEARINGS TO DETERMINE THE CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES OF THE 1929 STOCK MARKET CRASH. THE HEADS OF ALL THE MAJOR WALL STREET BANKS APPEARED UNDER SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY. THE QUESTIONS WERE POINTED AND NOT ALLOWED TO GO UNANSWERED. IT WAS A UNIQUE EXERCISE IN THE QUESTIONING OF ENORMOUS POWER IN A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

TODAY, ONE YEAR AFTER WALL STREET'S SECOND MELTDOWN IN THE PAST CENTURY, THERE IS NO CONTEMPLATION, LET ALONE MENTION, OF ANY PUBLIC CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE COLLAPSE THAT REQUIRED HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF TAXPAYER MONEY TO REPAIR. THERE WILL BE NO QUESTIONS AND THERE WILL BE NO ANSWERS. THE SIGNS THAT MARK THE WAY FROM WALL STREET TO WASHINGTON AND BACK ARE DOLLAR SIGNS.

"AND, IT IS NOW A LAW UNTO ITSELF!"

REGARDING CONGRESS, WHICH IS AT THE CENTER OF OUR WIDENING CIRCLE OF INSTITUTIONAL FAILURES, THERE ARE TWO THINGS WE MUST UNDERSTAND. CONGRESS HAS LONG BEEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. AND, IT IS NOW A LAW UNTO ITSELF!

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GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT LIVE BY LEGISLATION ALONE. IT DEPENDS UPON AN INCREASINGLY

LARGE WEB OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT ITS POLICIES. WASHINGTON OFFERS THESE IN ABUNDANCE. SOME ARE WELL KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC; OTHERS OPERATE IN CONSIDERABLE SECRECY.

THEORETICALLY, THEY EXIST TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, OR SOME PART OR PARTS OF IT. THIS CONCEPT OF SERVICE OFTEN INCLUDES PROTECTION OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER, AND IN THE MATTER OF BUREAUCRATIC PROTECTIVE FAILURE THE RECORD OF THE DEPT. OF INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) IS NOTABLE BY ANY STANDARD.

WE HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS IN DETAIL BEFORE¹¹ AND WILL NOT DO SO AGAIN HERE. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY THE BIA, WHICH WAS FORMED TO PROTECT OUR NATIVE AMERICANS' INTERESTS, ENGAGED IN A MASSIVE, PURPOSEFUL PROGRAM OF FRAUD, DECEPTION AND THEFT CLAIMED BY THE INDIAN TRIBES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS TO EXCEED \$130 BILLION. IT IS A GRIMLY FASCINATING TALE WHICH, BY THE NATURE OF ITS EXTENT, INTEREST AND RESULT, ASSIGNS TO THE BIA UNCHALLENGED LEADERSHIP IN INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIVE FAILURE WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT'S MANAGERIAL BUREAUCRACY.

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IF TO PROTECT DOES NOT OCCUR ONLY IN OUR LARGE OR IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ENTITIES. IT IS CARRIED OUT ON A DAILY BASIS IN TRANSACTIONS LARGE AND SMALL (BY GOVERNMENT STANDARDS) AT ALL LEVELS.

A DECADE AGO CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE USE OF GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS TO PAY FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' WORK-RELATED TRAVEL. WHILE THE CARDS WERE INTENDED TO REDUCE WASTE AND ABUSE, THE RESULT WAS QUITE THE OPPOSITE, AS CHARGES HAVE ALMOST DOUBLED FROM \$4.4 BILLION IN 1999 TO \$8.3 BILLION IN 2008.¹²

OTHER CHARGES WHICH HAVE WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH OUR SYSTEM UNIMPEDED INCLUDE \$1,100 FOR INTERNET DATING SERVICES BY A US POSTMASTER; \$642,000 BY A DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE EMPLOYEE FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES IDENTIFIED AS CAR LOANS, GAMBLING, ETC.; AND \$3,700 FOR LASER EYE SURGERY.¹³

EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE AMONG A LIST OF INCREDIBLE ITEMS WAS \$100 MILLION OF UNCLAIMED REFUNDS FOR AIRLINE TICKETS THAT HAD BEEN PURCHASED, BUT NOT USED.¹⁴ ALL IN ALL, THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE (GAO) AUDIT THAT PROVIDED SOME OF THESE FIGURES REVEALED THAT 41 PERCENT OF ALL CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS WERE QUESTIONABLE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.¹⁵

SADLY, OTHER AUDITS OR INVESTIGATIONS CONFIRM THIS PATTERN OF GROSS NEGLECT AND ABUSE. THE INFORMATION IS ROUTINELY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CONGRESS, BUT THE PRACTICE CONTINUES.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ARE ALSO AN AREA OF FAULTY MANAGEMENT AND UNNECESSARY EXPENSE. ALL GOVERNMENT

CONTRACTS OVER \$100,000 ARE SUPPOSED TO BE EVALUATED FOR PERFORMANCE, BUT THE GAO, IN A SURVEY OF 23,000 SUCH CONTRACTS, DISCOVERED THAT LESS THAN A THIRD HAD BEEN REVIEWED,¹⁶ AND FOUND THAT MULTIPLE CONTRACTS HERE AND IN IRAQ, INCLUDING ONE FOR \$280 MILLION, HAD BEEN AWARDED TO CONTRACTORS WITH RECORDS OF PRIOR DEFAULTS.¹⁷ AS GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AMOUNTED TO OVER \$500 BILLION LAST YEAR, ITS FAILURES IN THIS AREA ARE OF REAL CONSEQUENCE.

IN ITS STEWARDSHIP ROLE, CONGRESS OFTEN ACTS WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT BECAME EVIDENT AS WE DEVELOPED INCREASING NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING CAPACITY THAT WE WERE CREATING A POLLUTED WASTE PROBLEM THAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH. A JOINT STUDY BY OUR ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (AEC) AND CONGRESS' NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED ABOUT A DOZEN SITES FOR WASTE STORAGE. THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM INVITED A STRONG PUBLIC RESPONSE. AFTER MANY HEARINGS AND CONFERENCES WITH THE STATES INVOLVED, YUCCA MOUNTAIN IN NV WAS CHOSEN. MORE HEARINGS AND LEGAL ARGUMENTS FOLLOWED, BUT EVENTUALLY THE PROCESS WAS COMPLETED AND CONSTRUCTION COMMENCED ON AN ENORMOUS UNDERGROUND STORAGE FACILITY FOR THE NATION'S RADIOACTIVE WASTE. IT IS NOW COMPLETED AT A COST OF \$13.5 BILLION, BUT HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSAFE AND WILL NOT BE USED, AT LEAST FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC COMMENT BY THE AEC OR CONGRESS AS TO WHETHER AN ALTERNATE USE WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

“. . . THESE INCURSIONS ARE NEVER REPORTED AND ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT OBJECTION.”

ANOTHER PRIME AREA OF GOVERNMENT'S PROTECTIVE FUNCTION IS THAT OF THE SECURITY OF OUR TERRITORY AND BORDERS. A REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HAS STATED THAT OVER THE PAST DECADE THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 215 INSTANCES OF MEXICAN ARMED TROOPS ENTERING THE US.¹⁸ THEIR PRESENCE USUALLY SERVES TO PROTECT SMUGGLERS OF ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALIENS. IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE, AS BOTH ARE ILLEGAL, BUT WHAT SHOCKS THE MOST IS THAT THESE INCURSIONS ARE NEVER REPORTED AND ARE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT OBJECTION.

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THERE IS A MOVEMENT AFOOT TODAY IN OUR COUNTRY TO GRANT VOTING RIGHTS TO NON-CITIZENS. THIS HAS COMMENCED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES, NOTABLY TAKOMA PARK, MD; AND THE CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES REPORTS THAT "LEGISLATION HAS BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED IN A NUMBER OF CITIES, INCLUDING NYC AND WASHINGTON, DC, AND IN AT

LEAST TWO STATES — NEW YORK AND MINNESOTA — TO ALLOW NON-CITIZENS TO VOTE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS".¹⁹

OUR VOTING PRIVILEGE IS ONE OF OUR EARLIEST AND MOST TREASURED INSTITUTIONS, AND IT IS EASY TO SEE WHERE THESE EFFORTS TO WEAKEN IT ARE COMING FROM AND WHAT THEY HOLD FOR THE FUTURE. FOR, ONCE NON-CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED ON LOCAL VOTING ROLLS, PRESSURE FOR STATE AND NATIONAL ACCEPTANCE IS SURE TO FOLLOW, MOST LIKELY UNDER THE ARGUMENT THAT THEIR EXCLUSION WOULD CONSTITUTE DISCRIMINATION AND A DENIAL OF "HUMAN RIGHTS".

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A MAN AND HIS DOG

AND, FINALLY, ONE LAST POIGNANT IMAGE WHICH AT THE INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL REVEALS AN EXERCISE OF CONTEMPORARY CRUELTY THAT WE HAVE COME TO ACCEPT IN OUR SOCIETY AND WHICH FOR THE VICTIM IMPOSED GREAT PERSONAL PAIN AND HELPLESSNESS:

TYLER HURD WAS A STUDENT LAST YEAR AT ST. CLOUD UNIVERSITY (MN). BECAUSE A CHILDHOOD INJURY HAS LEFT HIM SUBJECT TO FREQUENT BRAIN SEIZURES, HE IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS BLACK LAB SERVICE DOG, EMMIT, WHO CARRIES A POUCH WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANYONE WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP TYLER IN THE EVENT OF A SEIZURE.

ST. CLOUD'S STUDENT BODY ALSO INCLUDED SOME MUSLIM SOMALI IMMIGRANTS WHO, FOLLOWING THE ISLAMIC LINE, CONSIDERED DOGS "UNCLEAN" AND TAUNTED AND THREATENED TO KILL EMMIT. HURD WAS DEEMED UNABLE TO CONTINUE IN HIS CLASSES BECAUSE OF THE SOMALIS' RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AND THE SCHOOL HAS REPORTED IT WAS TRYING TO REACH A COMPROMISE SO THAT HE COULD COMPLETE HIS STUDIES WITHOUT ATTENDING CLASSES WITH THE OFFENDED SOMALIS. THE DEAN OF EDUCATION REFERRED TO THIS CIRCUMSTANCE AS "PART OF THE GROWTH PROCESS WHEN WE BECOME MORE DIVERSE".²⁰

IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE IF TYLER HURD AND MANY OTHER AMERICANS HAD A TAKE ON THIS MATTER THAT CENTERED MORE ON OUR SENSE OF HISTORY AND FAIRNESS.

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OUR INSTITUTIONS NOW AND THEN

WE DID NOT COME EASILY TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT DEFINE AND SOMETIMES PROVIDE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. WE TEND TO TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED TODAY, BUT MANY OF THEM WERE CREATED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OUR COUNTRY, AND HAVE HAD TO GROW, SURVIVE ATTACKS, GAIN EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP THE

CHARACTER AND CREDIBILITY NECESSARY TO JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE. OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT HAS, FOR THE MOST PART, BEEN HELPFUL IN THIS PROCESS.

INSTITUTIONS AS A FORM OF PROTECTION, HOWEVER, ARE A RELATIVELY RECENT EMERGENCE. BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL, GOING BACK IN HISTORY, MAN OBTAINED PROTECTION FROM MONARCHS, TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS, AND DEITIES, WHETHER CHRISTIAN MONOTHEISM OR THE EARLIER MULTIPLE DEITIES OF THE GREEK, ROMAN, AND EGYPTIAN ERAS.

PRIOR TO CHRISTIANITY THE INNUMERABLE WARS THAT WERE WAGED THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD WERE OFTEN CLAIMED BY THEIR SPONSORS AS MEANS OF PROTECTING THEIR PEOPLE EVEN WHEN TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS WERE ALSO IN PLAY.

BUT THE CHRISTIAN MONOTHEISM OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE INTRODUCED A NEW ELEMENT IN THAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT CAME TO BE SEEN AS HAVING BEEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ORDER, FAIRNESS, JUSTICE, MERCY AND OTHER QUALITIES OF LIFE BY GOD IN RETURN FOR WORSHIP.

THIS PACT THAT OFFERED PROTECTION IN RETURN FOR FAITH THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF GOVERNMENT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS ROLE IN GOVERNMENT.

ALTHOUGH HEREDITARY MONARCHIES WOULD REMAIN THE DOMINANT FORM OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, MOST MONARCHS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT WITH A DIVINE FLAVOR AND MADE APPROPRIATE RELIGIOUS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THEIR RELIGIONS AND THEIR THRONES.

AS BLOODLINES PROVED TO BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN ERROR-FREE IN THE SELECTION OF HEADS OF STATE, INSTITUTIONS GRADUALLY ASSUMED A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN TRANSFERRING THE CIVIL BENEFITS FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT, PROVIDING CONTINUITY AND, THEN, TRADITION THAT COULD SURVIVE THE EXCESSES AND INADEQUACIES OF MONARCHIC PROCREATION.

WHEN OUR COLONISTS CAME TO CREATE A GOVERNMENT FOR OUR NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE, IT HAD ON HAND THE BENEFITS OF BOTH CENTURIES OF CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT TRADITION AND THE YEARS OF ERRATIC RULE BY GEORGE III. THIS TEMPLATE PROVED USEFUL IN FORMING INSTITUTIONS AND IN NOURISHING THEIR EARLY GROWTH.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER ELEMENT THAT SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTIONS MUST DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN, IF THEY ARE TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT AND STAY TRUE TO THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE. THIS IS A SENSE OF SHARED MISSION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, THE INSTITUTION AND THE PUBLIC. LOOKING BACK OVER THE INSTITUTIONS WE HAVE CITED HERE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT WHAT IS SHARED IS NOT MISSION, BUT RATHER ITS ABSENCE. WITHOUT THIS SHARED SENSE OF MISSION, AS WE HAVE SEEN, OUR INSTITUTIONS ARE BOUND TO FAIL IN THEIR PROTECTIVE FUNCTION AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PASS THEIR HISTORIC VALUES ON TO THEIR SUCCESSORS.

WE ARE NOW AT THAT STAGE WHERE TOO LITTLE IS DEMANDED OF THEM, WHERE FORMER GOALS MAY NO LONGER SERVE AND NEW ONES MAY NOT BE ENUNCIATED AS THE RESULT

OF OUR POLITICAL POLARIZATION. THIS IS A DANGEROUS TIME FOR OUR REPUBLIC, IF ITS INSTITUTIONS CANNOT PROVIDE THE STRENGTH AND SUPPORT THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

* * *

IF PLAYS NO FAVORITES; IT CUTS BOTH WAYS, WITH DOUBLE EDGES. WHETHER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR (WALL STREET AND OUR MEDIA, FOR EXAMPLE) OR IN GOVERNMENT (CONGRESS, THE BIA) ITS EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE AND OUR GOVERNMENT IS EQUALLY DAMAGING.

THE PROBLEM COMES PARTIALLY FROM THE DUALITY OF OUR INSTITUTIONS. TO SOME DEGREE THEY ARE MONOLITHIC WITH DISTINCTLY INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY DEPEND UPON GOVERNMENT TO FEED (I.E. FUND) AND STAFF THEM AND TO DETERMINE THEIR RELEVANCE THROUGH ENABLING LEGISLATION THAT ISSUES LICENSES OR CREATES CHARTERS.

“ . . . BUT THEIR MEALS COME FROM THE SAME KITCHEN.”

WHAT OUR INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT TODAY IS THE SAME FUEL THAT POWERS GOVERNMENT — CORRUPTION, FRAUD, LACK OF ETHICS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CONTROL BY SPECIAL INTERESTS/ LOBBYISTS. IS IT ANY WONDER THAT SO MANY OF OUR INSTITUTIONS FAIL IN THEIR PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS? OUR GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONS MAY BE EATING AT DIFFERENT TABLES, BUT THEIR MEALS COME FROM THE SAME KITCHEN.

WE ARE FACED AGAIN, AS WE HAVE BEEN BEFORE REGARDING IMMIGRATION LAW AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR DEMOCRACY, WITH AMERICA'S DUAL PERSONALITY, SPLIT SCREEN AND OFTEN SCHIZOPHRENIC TENDENCY TO SPEAK ONE WAY AND ACT ANOTHER. WE SEE OUR INSTITUTIONS AS NOBLE, INDEPENDENT, FAIR AND STRONG PUBLIC BENEFACTORS, AND YET HAVE TURNED THEM INTO COMPROMISED EXTENSIONS OF ALL THAT IS WRONG AND REGRETTABLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH IS ONLY INDIRECTLY FINANCED BY GOVERNMENT, BUT MAKES USE OF THE SAME LOBBYISTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL, ITS LEADERS ARE ABLE TO FIND THEIR WAY TO AVOID PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE. AGAIN; DIFFERENT TABLES, BUT THE SAME KITCHEN.

ONLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE VOX POPULI, CAN BRING ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY. IT MAY BE TIME TO OPEN ALL THE ELECTORAL DOORS AND WINDOWS, TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND YELL “FIRE” TO HAVE A NEW BEGINNING.

POLITICAL GPS

AMERICA CONFRONTS A SERIES OF MAJOR ISSUES ANY ONE OF WHICH COULD BRING DISASTER ON A GRAND SCALE. THE FAILURE OF OUR PROTECTIVE INSTITUTIONS IS ONLY ONE OF THESE. WE ARE ALSO EXPOSED TO DANGERS FROM POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, RELIGIOUS JIHAD, EXCESSIVE NATIONAL DEBT AND OTHERS.

IN THE BEST OF TIMES ANY ONE OF THESE WOULD BE FORMIDABLE. WE ARE NOT IN THE BEST OF TIMES. MR. OBAMA MADE MANY PROMISES IN HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, BUT PURPOSEFULLY DID NOT INDICATE HOW THEY WOULD BE KEPT. HE HAS HAD A BRIEF HONEYMOON IN CONGRESS WHICH WILL NOT GET EASIER. SOME OF HIS METHODS HAVE DISAPPOINTED, BUT HIS WEAKEST EFFORT HAS BEEN THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF.

REGARDLESS OF HOW THE HEALTH BILL NOW TURNS OUT, HE HAS LOST SUPPORT AMONG INDEPENDENTS AND MODERATES OF BOTH PARTIES. THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR WILL BRING SOME WIDE-OPEN RACES AND INFLAMED RHETORIC.

OUR PRESENT VIEW IS THAT THE DEMOCRATS WILL BE NET LOSERS OF SEATS — PERHAPS NOT ENOUGH TO SWING NUMERICAL CONTROL, BUT CERTAINLY LIKELY TO TIGHTEN VOTES ON KEY ISSUES, FAIL TO KEEP CONTROL ON OTHERS AND, AS A RESULT, MAKE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS MORE POLARIZED AND CONTENTIOUS.

GOOD GOVERNMENT COMES FROM POLICIES FAIRLY AND CAREFULLY CRAFTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. POLICIES, WHEN ORDERLY ENACTED, PRODUCE CONSEQUENCES THAT ARE BENEFICIAL AND, UNLESS CONFUSED BY EXTERNAL FORCES, CONTROLLABLE. AMERICA HAS NOT HAD SUCH GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME.

* * *

THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

DEMOCRACY DOES NOT STRIVE TO MAKE EVERY COMMONER A KING, BUT IS DESIGNED TO SPREAD EVENLY AMONG THE PEOPLE THE BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT. THIS, OF COURSE, IS NOT POSSIBLE IN OUR PRESENTLY POLARIZED STATE RULED BY THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE (II).

THE LATTER IS HOW WE ARMOR OURSELVES AGAINST CHANGE, HUMANITY, REASON AND RATIONALITY. AS OUR RESISTANCE TO THESE VALUES GROWS, SO DOES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL DAMAGE OUR CULTURAL AND SOCIETAL MACHINERY BEYOND REPAIR.

IT USED TO BE THAT SCIENCE PROVIDED US WITH BROAD PROOF THAT WE ACCEPTED, BUT NOW EVEN SCIENCE IS CHALLENGED BY IDEOLOGY. WILL OUR POLITICAL INSECURITIES NOW DENY SCIENCE, AND US, THAT COMFORT?

THE PATH TO POLITICAL POWER IN OUR COUNTRY IS NOT MARKED BY NUANCES. THIS IS BECAUSE OUR POLITICAL PROCESS IS DOMINATED BY OUR TWO PARTY SYSTEM WHEREBY ACCESS TO THE BALLOT FOR ALL ELECTIONS IS CONTROLLED AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. IT IS THERE WHERE MONEY, EFFORT AND ORGANIZATION HAVE THEIR GREATEST IMPACT, WHERE CANDIDATES ARE SELECTED AND WHERE BALLOT CONTENT IS DETERMINED.

THE TWO PARTIES ARE MEETING PLACES DESIGNED TO ATTRACT VOTES, MONEY AND POLITICAL EMOTION BY FORGING ONE IDENTITY WITH THE BROADEST POSSIBLE APPEAL. THEIR MESSAGES REQUIRE THE CONTINUOUS EXPOSURE THAT ONLY BROADCAST MEDIA CAN PROVIDE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

THIS IS A MATCH MADE IN MARKETING HEAVEN. THE POLITICAL PARTIES ARE ABLE TO REACH ALMOST EVERY SEGMENT OF OUR NATIONAL AUDIENCE WITH MESSAGES THAT CAN BE SPECIFICALLY TAILORED TO LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES. AND THE BROADCASTERS ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF ENORMOUS REVENUES FROM THE FREQUENTLY REPEATED, 24/7 COMMERCIALS.

EVERYTHING OPERATES ON A MASS SCALE WHEN OUR TWO PARTY SYSTEM SHIFTS INTO ITS ELECTORAL MODE. EACH PARTY HAS REPEATEDLY PROCLAIMED, AND ACTUALLY BELIEVES, THAT ONLY IT CAN PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS. THIS IS NONSENSE, OF COURSE. WE GO FROM BILL CLINTON TO BUSH II AND THEN TO PRES. OBAMA WITHOUT ANY REAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

LEADING UP TO LAST YEAR'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WE WERE TREATED TO A SERIES OF TELEVISED "DEBATES" AMONG THE MULTIPLE CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION. THERE WAS A LOT OF RHETORIC ABOUT ISSUES, SOME REAL AND SOME NOT, AND ABOUT CLAIMS AS TO WHAT HE/SHE WOULD DO, OR NOT DO. THERE WAS NO STATEMENT BY ANY CANDIDATE THAT EMBRACED A COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

THIS ATTITUDE READILY TRANSFERS ITSELF TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE FORM OF A WIDELY HELD, CYNICAL BELIEF THAT WE ARE CAPTIVE TO THE ETHICS, PATTERNS AND STRUCTURES THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO SHAPE OUR GOVERNMENT.

ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF OUR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN PROCESS IS TO KEEP THE VOTERS OF EACH PARTY IN THEIR OWN TENTS — NO CROSSING OVER, NO LEAKAGE. THIS ATTEMPTS TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDEPENDENT VOTER, AND HAS PROVED IN RECENT YEARS, AS CAMPAIGNS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY EXPENSIVE, TO LESSEN OUR DEMOCRACY.

HOWEVER, THE RECENT OBAMA/MCCAIN CAMPAIGN WAS MARKED BY SEVERAL IMAGE FACTORS WHICH ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT AND CROSS-OVER VOTES. THESE FACTORS WERE THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN YOUNG/OLD, BLACK/WHITE AND CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL IMAGES.

MR. OBAMA CREATED AND CARRIED A LARGER THAN USUAL INDEPENDENT BLOCK WHICH FOUND HIS PROMISE OF CHANGE APPEALING AND MOVED THE ELECTION TO HIS FAVOR.

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE HAS OVERESTIMATED HIS MANDATE AND ALLOWED THE POLITICAL PENDULUM TO MOVE

ALONG ITS ARC BEYOND THE POINT OF NATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE II. IT DRIVES US IN TOO MANY WRONG DIRECTIONS AND THE ONLY WAY WE WILL SHAKE IT LOOSE IS FOR BOTH PARTIES TO FIND WAYS TO BRING BACK CENTRIST, MODERATE ELEMENTS TO OUR POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

“ . . . AND LEAVES US TO THE NOT SO TENDER MERCIES OF THE WORST AMONG US.”

ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE II IS SO DAMAGING TO OUR GOVERNMENT IS THAT IT ENCOURAGES THE EROSION OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION. THIS FAILURE IS A TERRIBLE THING. IT IS A FORM OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT WHICH SEPARATES US FROM OUR HISTORY. IT ENGENDERS FEAR AND LEAVES US TO THE NOT SO TENDER MERCIES OF THE WORST AMONG US.

* * *

OUR WORLD ROTATES SMOOTHLY IN ITS MAJESTIC ORBIT OF THE SUN, BUT OUR HISTORY MOVES IN FITS AND STARTS — A WAR HERE, A PLAGUE THERE, A WELL-TIMED ASSASSINATION SOMEPLACE ELSE. IT IS A MOVING MASS OF TECHNOLOGY, PERSONALITIES, WEALTH, FEAR, AMBITION, NATURAL RESOURCES, POLITICS AND CHANCE ALWAYS READY TO DEFY PREDICTABILITY.

LEADERS COME AND GO; NATIONS APPEAR AND VANISH; EMPIRES EMERGE AND DOMINATE, BUT THEY, TOO, WIND DOWN AND RECEDE INTO THE PAST. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PERMANENT SUPERPOWER. THE GLOBAL GREATNESS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE LASTED A CENTURY. HITLER’S THOUSAND YEAR REICH CAME AND WENT IN TWELVE YEARS. NAPOLEON WAS THE SCOURGE OF EUROPE, BUT ONLY FOR A DECADE.

TWENTY YEARS AGO AMERICA WAS THE SOLE SUPERPOWER; TODAY WE ARE NOW THE LEADING SUPERPOWER, AS CHINA AND RUSSIA PUSH THEIR CHALLENGES. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT BEING SOLE SUPERPOWER IS A TERM-LIMITED STATUS. THE “WE’RE #1” CROWD CANNOT ACCEPT THIS FACT OF HISTORY, AND THEIR DENIAL IS COMBINED WITH A POTENTIALLY FATAL SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT.

MANY OF THE POLICIES WE ADOPT REQUIRE CHOICES THAT SET SHORT TERM GOALS AGAINST LONG ONES, AND VICE-VERSA, AND THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WHETHER ECONOMIC, POLITICAL OR MILITARY, TEND TO FAVOR TERM LIMITS. ERROR IS NEVER MORE THAN A PHRASE OR PHONE CALL AWAY. THE CALCULATIONS REQUIRED OF A SOLE SUPERPOWER IN OUR NUCLEAR ARMED, COMPUTERIZED, INSTANT EVERYTHING AND GLOBALIZED WORLD ARE SO COMPLEX AS TO BE UNIMAGINABLE AS RECENTLY AS A GENERATION AGO.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AMERICA’S PLACE IN HISTORY’S FLUX, WE WILL NEED OUR INSTITUTIONS’ PROTECTIONS MORE

THAN EVER. THEY WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE, NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE, BUT ALSO TO SUPPORT OUR GOVERNMENT, TO MAINTAIN THEIR MISSIONS. IN RETURN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO CLEAN ITS OWN STABLES, TO DO AWAY WITH ITS EXTENSIVE CORRUPTION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

FEW PEOPLE IN AMERICA TODAY KNOW/UNDERSTAND OUR HISTORY/CONSTITUTION. IN POLITICS THIS MEANS THAT ARGUMENTS ARE NOT GROUNDED IN A COMMON IDENTITY AND PEOPLE BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ARE EASILY LED TO EXTREMES — I.E. POLARIZATION, THE II.

THE CYCLE CONTINUES, FOR, AS THE QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT IS REDUCED BY CONFLICT, SO IS THE MISSION IT CAN CONVEY TO THE PUBLIC AND OUR INSTITUTIONS.

THIS IS A KEY MOMENT FOR OUR COUNTRY. IT WILL REQUIRE A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC, THE CONGRESS, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OUR GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

WE HAVE TO ASK A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF EVERYONE MENTIONED ABOVE. ARE WE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT? IF WE ARE, THEN WE CAN SIT BACK AND CONTINUE TO SLIDE ALONG AS WE NOW ARE. IF NOT, WE HAD BETTER GET THE REPAIR PROGRAM STARTED. WE SHOULD NOT LEAVE THIS TO HISTORY; FOR, IF WE DO, THE OUTCOME COULD BE MOST UNHAPPY.

TODAY. AMERICA FINDS ITSELF HAVING ITS GOVERNMENT, ITS POLITICS AND ITS CULTURE PUSHED, PULLED AND STRETCHED INTO FORMS IT HAS NOT KNOWN BEFORE. AS THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN MOSTLY UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT EXPOSURE TO THE PUBLIC (I.E., THE NAU, FOR EXAMPLE), ITS LEGITIMACY IS QUESTIONABLE.

FURTHER DRIFT WILL ONLY SERVE THOSE INTERESTS WHO HAVE TAKEN US THIS FAR. WE HAVE CREATED A MASSIVE KLEPTOCRACY BY WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT HAS QUIETLY TAKEN FROM US MANY OF OUR HISTORICAL IDEALS AND VALUES. THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE AND ACCELERATE UNLESS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE TO REVERSE IT.

ECD 10/25/09

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

END NOTES

¹ READERS INTERESTED IN AN EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FED'S ORIGINS AND HISTORY SHOULD REFER TO THE CREATURE FROM JEKYLL ISLAND BY G. EDMUND GRIFFIN, AMERICAN MEDIA, WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 1994. THIS FASCINATING ACCOUNT HAS HAD 24 PRINTINGS IN 4 US AND 3 FOREIGN EDITIONS.

² IBID

³ THE AMERICAN SENTINEL, CHARLOTTE, NC — "...MORE THAN 90-PERCENT OF THE DOLLAR'S VALUE SINCE 1933 HAS BEEN ERODED THROUGH INFLATION..." THE McALVANY INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR — "IN THE US THE DOLLAR HAS LOST 98% OF ITS PURCHASING POWER VIA INFLATION FROM 1940 TO 2005. IN 1940 DOLLARS, \$1 IS NOW WORTH A PALTRY 2 CENTS."

⁴ CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

⁵ JUDICIAL WATCH, LETTER 4/10/09 FROM CHRIS FERRELL, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS

⁶ IBID

⁷ IBID

⁸ IBID

⁹ CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE, LETTER 9/3/04

¹⁰ PALM BEACH POST, 9/12/08 IN EXTREMIS ... BY GEORGE WILL

¹¹ MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE, AUG., 2005 AND EMINENT DISDAIN. AUTHOR HOUSE, BLOOMINGTON, IN; 9/09, CHAPTER 8

¹² PARADE, 7/5/09, P.6

¹³ MIDDLE AMERICAN NEWS 8/08, P. 6

¹⁴ CF. #12

¹⁵ CF. #13

¹⁶ PARADE, 7/19/09, P.6

¹⁷ IBID

¹⁸ AMERICAN BORDER PATROL - LETTER 10/2/09

¹⁹ BACKGROUND, 4/08

²⁰ MIDDLE AMERICAN NEWS, 8/08

EDITOR'S BIO

MR. AULT IS RETIRED FROM BUSINESS, A GRADUATE OF YALE UNIVERSITY, AND THE AUTHOR OF A RETAIL FOOD STUDY (LA ROCHE & Co. NYC, NY 1957) WHICH DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE AND GROWING DOMINANCE OF THE SUPERMARKET IN AMERICAN FOOD RETAILING.

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