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ENDS AT ODDS

A CAREFUL LOOK AT OUR RECENT GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES AND OPERATIONS WILL REVEAL THAT THEY ARE MORE OFTEN THAN NOT AT VARIANCE WITH OUR STATED TRADITIONAL VALUES AND GOALS. IN CAPSULE FORM, OUR ENDS ARE AT ODDS WITH THE RESULTS THAT WE SEEK. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A FITTING SOUND BYTE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN DEBATE, A STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH, A MAJOR CONGRESSIONAL POLICY DISCUSSION OR A PRESIDENTIAL WHISTLE-STOP TOUR TO PRESENT THE PARTY LINE TO THE PUBLIC. IT IS A SOUND BYTE, HOWEVER, THAT, DESPITE ITS TRAGIC TRUTH, YOU WILL NEVER HEAR.

WHAT'S MORE INDICATIVE OF THE INTENSITY OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS PATTERN OF CONFLICTED THOUGHT AND

BEHAVIOR IS THAT WE STEADFASTLY MAINTAIN IT IN DENIAL OF WHAT IS OFTEN SEEN BY US AND OTHERS AS ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS TRUTH OF OUR TIME. IF THESE ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR, OR ANY, SOCIETY, THE DAMAGE DONE BY OUR DENIAL IS NOW EXTENSIVE AND MAY BECOME IRREPARABLE.

ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE COURSE WILL BE MARKED BY TWIN TRUTHS. IT WILL CAUSE PUBLIC DISCOMFORT AND IT CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT A CONCERTED EFFORT OF MULTIPLE SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY EACH OF WHICH WILL BE CALLED UPON TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE WHOLE CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT PAIN TO ITS PARTS.

POPULATION

IN OUR LAST ISSUE WE IDENTIFIED OVERPOPULATION AS A MAJOR THREAT THAT WILL IMPACT ECONOMICS, RELIGION, POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGHOUT OUR PLANET. NOW, WE CONTINUE OUR EXAMINATION OF IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

OVERPOPULATION IMPERILS ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN LIFE AND SOCIETY WHEREVER THEY EXIST IN OUR WORLD. IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO ALTER AND ULTIMATELY TO DESTROY THE ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRUCTURES THAT HAVE EMERGED IN THE COURSE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT FROM ANIMALS TO SENTIENT HUMAN BEINGS.

THE IRONY HERE IS OBVIOUS. THIS EVOLUTION FROM ANIMAL TO PRIMITIVE AND THEN TO MODERN MAN COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT OUR VARIOUS FORMS OF EXISTENCE BEING ABLE TO EXTEND THEMSELVES FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT AND TO DO SO BY INCREASING THEIR NUMBERS.

BUT THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW. THE NUMBERS ARE NOT THE SAME; NOR ARE THEIR EFFECTS WHICH ARE NOW GREATLY MAGNIFIED. QUITE SIMPLY, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE MAN'S ABILITY TO MULTIPLY IS INFINITE; OUR PLANET'S RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. WHETHER ON A GLOBAL OR NATIONAL SCALE, THE PROCESS THAT CREATED BENEFITS IN A LARGELY

IN THIS ISSUE WE EXPLORE CONFLICTS BETWEEN POPULATION AND WEALTH INCLUDING CAPITALISM AND GOVERNMENT.

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL REVERSE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OF CANDIDATES MAKING PROMISES AND WILL LIST QUESTIONS FOR WHICH VOTERS SHOULD DEMAND ANSWERS.

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UNDEVELOPED WORLD NOW CARRIES WITH IT MULTIPLE FORMS OF NATURAL AND HUMAN DISLOCATION.

IN THE BEGINNING OF OUR TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY OVERPOPULATION IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST EXTENSIVE AND EFFICIENT FORM OF DESTRUCTION THAT FACES MANKIND. AND IT IS HOMEMADE.

“... BEYOND OUR REACH AND AUTHORITY.”

OVERPOPULATION EQUATES TO A MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM. IT IS POSSESSED OF THAT SAME BEAUTIFUL, AND SOMETIMES DEADLY, PRECISION THAT WE FIND IN $E=MC^2$ OR $A^2+B^2=C^2$. IT IS CONSTANT AND GRADUAL. THERE WILL BE NO BLINDING FLASH OR MUSHROOM CLOUD, BUT, LIKE ALL PROCESSES THAT LACK A NATURAL OR IMPOSED BALANCE, IT WILL HAVE ITS TIPPING POINT WHICH WE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO IDENTITY AFTER THE FACT, AS WE STRUGGLE WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES. PRESENTLY, IT IS STILL SUBJECT TO OUR CONTROL, BUT THE PASSAGE OF TIME WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING AND ACTION WILL MOVE IT BEYOND OUR REACH AND AUTHORITY.

THERE IS NO MAJOR ISSUE TODAY THAT IS NOT EXACERBATED BY THE EFFECTS OF OUR GEOMETRICALLY INCREASING POPULATION WITHIN THE CONFINES OF OUR LIMITED PHYSICAL SPACE. OUR RAPIDLY GROWING WORLD AND NATIONAL POPULATION IS THE “MOTHER OF ALL” ISSUES, AND IS REFLECTED IN ITS DERIVATIVES SUCH AS PUBLIC HEALTH, SPECIES LOSS, ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AQUIFER DEPLETION, CLIMATE STABILIZATION, ECONOMICS, DIMINISHING NATURAL RESOURCES, POPULATION MIGRATIONS, RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS, POLITICAL WARS, EXPANSION OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR GLOBAL AND LOCAL SOCIETY.

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THE POPULATION OF BANGLADESH LAST JULY, ACCORDING TO GOOGLE, WAS ABOUT 157 MILLION — APPROXIMATELY HALF THAT OF THE USA. THIS STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY ELICIT ONLY MILD SURPRISE FROM MOST READERS, BUT HERE’S THE KICKER THAT ELEVATES IT TO SHOCK LEVEL. BANGLADESH IS ABOUT THE SAME

SIZE AS IOWA, AND IT HAS BOUNDARIES. IT IS A CONFINED SPACE.

SIMILARLY, THE UK’S POPULATION IS NOW ABOUT 62 MILLION AND IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE BY 11 MILLION. HIGH GROWTH RATES ARE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING IN THE UK BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE OPEN LAND AND MOST OF WHAT APPEARS “OPEN” IS UNDER PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF WEALTHY TITLED FAMILIES, THE CROWN OR CONSERVATION INTERESTS. THE UK’S ANTICIPATED 73 MILLION WILL HAVE TO EXIST, COMPETE AND SURVIVE IN A SPACE THE SIZE OF OREGON.

UNRELENTING PRESSURE AS IN THESE EXAMPLES WILL RAISE THE COSTS FOR ALL PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES. ARABLE LAND WILL SHRINK AND BRING ABOUT HIGHER FOOD PRICES, AND THERE WILL BE FAR LESS WATER PER CAPITA COMING FROM FINITE SUPPLIES.

WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH LONG-TERM SCARCITY OF OUR BASIC NEEDS IN AMERICA. WE KNOW THAT ELSEWHERE SUCH SHORTAGES CAN PRODUCE CIVIC PROTEST AND UNREST, BUT OUR “LEADERS” VIEW THESE AS LOCAL OR REGIONAL EVENTS. THEY CANNOT SEE THEM OR FEEL THEM AS INTERRELATED BY THEIR PRIMARY CAUSE — ALL LIFE ON OUR PLANET BEING DEPENDENT UPON THE SAME SOURCES OF WATER AND AIR AND THE ANIMAL/VEGETABLE FOOD CHAIN WHICH IS THE COMMON MENU FROM WHICH ALL FORMS DERIVE THEIR SUSTENANCE.

POPULATION IS A SUBJECT THAT DOES NOT COME EASILY TO MOST AMERICANS BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED, AND EVEN CONDITIONED, BY SOME OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL CONSTITUENCIES TO VIEW IT AS REMOTE AND NOT PART OF OUR NATIONAL EXPERIENCE. THIS, COMBINED WITH OUR MORE THAN HEALTHY DEGREE OF EGOCENTRISM IN OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER, HAVE LED US TO “LOOK THE OTHER WAY” IN MATTERS OF POPULATION.

AND YET, AS A CONTINUING PRESENCE IT HAS DRAWN SOME VERY CLEAR AND STRONG LINES ACROSS THE MAP OF HISTORY. ONE OF THOSE LINES TRACES ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT, MOST IMPORTANTLY PROPOSED BY ECONOMIST AND CLERGYMAN REV. THOMAS R. MALTHUS WHO LIVED THE FIRST THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AND THE SECOND IN THE NINETEENTH.

MALTHUS STATED THAT OVER TIME POPULATION’S GEOMETRIC INCREASE WOULD FAVOR DEMAND OVER THE ARITHMETIC GROWTH OF THE SUPPLY NEEDED TO SUPPORT IT, AND HE CALLED ATTENTION TO WARS OF TERRITORIAL EXPANSION CAUSED BY THIS IMBALANCE.

ANOTHER BROAD BRUSH CONSEQUENCE

OF OUR DISREGARD OF POPULATION GROWTH IS FOUND THROUGHOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT AS WE CONSUME GLOBAL NATURAL RESOURCES FASTER AND IN GREATER QUANTITIES THAN THEY CAN BE REPLACED.

IN POLITICS, IF WE TRACE THE SURGES OF POPULATIONS IN MOTION ACROSS THE YEARS AND OUR GLOBE, THEY INVARIABLY RESULT IN POLITICAL UPHEAVAL AND CHANGE.

RELIGION, TOO, HAS BEEN GREATLY INFLUENCED BY POPULATION FACTORS. THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST RELIGIOUS GROUPS — MUSLIMS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS — PUSH FOR LARGE FAMILIES AND HIGH BIRTH RATES. POPULATION GROWTH IS DIVINELY ORDAINED IN THEIR SCRIPTURES AND HAS SERVED AS A HIGHLY EFFICIENT PROPELLANT FOR THEIR MISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS.

STILL, IN SPITE OF POPULATION'S EVIDENT ABILITY TO DISTURB KEY ELEMENTS WITHIN OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY, AMERICA AND AMERICANS REMAIN LARGELY UNAWARE AND UNINFORMED OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE AROUND THEM.

WHY?

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FROM THE MOMENT OF OUR BIRTH AMERICA HAS BEEN ABLE TO CREATE ITSELF IN A WAY FAR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF ITS EUROPEAN FOREBEARS. MOST PROMINENTLY WE ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A BLANK POLITICAL SLATE AND A VAST CONTINENT WHICH COULD BE OURS FOR VERY LITTLE TAKING.

THIS ABUNDANCE OF FREE, OPEN SPACE, TIME AND RESOURCES WAS KEY TO OUR DEVELOPING OUR THROW-IT-AWAY, TEAR-IT-DOWN AND START-ALL-OVER CHARACTER AND ECONOMY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE IN EUROPE.

OVER YEARS, WE DEVELOPED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL ON HORSEBACK TO A GROUP MOBILITY WHICH PROGRESSED FROM OUR COVERED WAGONS TO RAILROADS AND THEN WAS ENSHRINED IN HENRY FORD'S AUTOMOBILE.

ALL THESE FACTORS COMBINED TO PRODUCE AN EXPANSIONIST SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY. IT HONORED GROWTH FOR GROWTH'S SAKE AND WAS GREATLY ABETTED BY THE NEW CAPITALISM OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. IT IS NEVER EASY TO ALIGN SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, BUT EMERGING AMERICA WAS A UNIQUE CASE IN WHICH ALL THREE FORCES WERE OFTEN JOINED IN THE COMMON EFFORT REQUIRED TO EXTEND OUR TERRITORIAL FRONTIER, COMPLETE OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND SETTLE THE NATION. THERE WERE FEW CRITICS AND THOSE WHO SPOKE OUT HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON THE POWERFUL FORCES THAT OPPOSED THEM.

TODAY, THE MOST POWERFUL AND WEALTHY SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETY STILL HOLD TO A BELIEF IN CONTINUAL GROWTH, SOMETIMES CALL SUSTAINABLE, OVER LONG PERIODS WHICH WILL PRODUCE PROLONGED PROSPERITY. BUT SUCH GROWTH, WHICH MUST OPERATE WITHIN THE CONFINED SPACE OF OUR PLANET AND DRAW UPON ITS FINITE RESOURCES, IS AN ILLUSION.

THE GREATER THE GROWTH IN THE PAST, THE SOONER IT WILL COME TO AN END. THIS IS TRUE OF ALL BUBBLES AND THEIR TIPPING POINTS.

“IT IS PART OF THE SYSTEM — A VERY IMPORTANT AND PROFITABLE PART.”

IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA THE VOICES THAT CALL FOR POPULATION AWARENESS ARE IGNORED AND RESISTED BY POLITICIANS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, THE MEDIA AND BOTH THE BUSINESS AND LABOR INTERESTS OF OUR COMMERCIAL SECTOR. ALL OF THESE ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE POLITICS OF “MORE”. THEY WANT MORE NUMBERS, MORE SALES, MORE SOULS, MORE CONSUMERS, MORE VOTERS, MORE VIEWERS/LISTENERS, ETC. THEY HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE STEADY ENLARGEMENT OF THEIR MARKET BASES BY MILLIONS OF ADDED POPULATION EVERY YEAR AT NO COST TO THEM. IT IS PART OF THE SYSTEM — A VERY IMPORTANT AND PROFITABLE PART.

WE HAVE JOINED WITH AUTHOR/TEACHER FROSTY WOOLDRIDGE TO FORM A GROUP OF OVER THIRTY EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENCE, GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIA TO CONDUCT PUBLIC DEBATES OR SYMPOSIA ON OVERPOPULATION IN ORDER TO MOVE PUBLIC AWARENESS AHEAD TO THE TIME WHEN OVERPOPULATION WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND DISCUSSED IN THIS COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE. (PLEASE NOTE THE MESSAGE ENTITLED “GOING PUBLIC” FOLLOWING THE TEXT ON PAGE 13.)

CHINA IS THE ONLY LARGE COUNTRY TO SUCCESSFULLY ADOPT AND ENFORCE POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES. IT DID SO WHEN IT WAS CLEARLY THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY AND WAS FACED WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF IT MADE NO EFFORT TO LIMIT ITS POPULATION GROWTH.

THE WEST WAS MOSTLY HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THIS COMMUNIST COUNTRY'S ONE CHILD PER FAMILY RULE WHEN IT WAS INITIATED, BUT IT HAS STABILIZED CHINA'S POPULATION. INDIA, WHICH USED TO RANK SECOND TO CHINA, ATTEMPTED A NATIONAL VASECTOMY PROGRAM AND THEN ABANDONED IT. TODAY IT IS QUITE CLOSE IN SIZE TO CHINA AND IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

BUT INDIA MAY ALSO BECOME THE WORLD'S POPULATION POSTER BOY AS A RESULT. IT HAS LARGE NUMBERS OF THE EXTREMELY POOR AND UNEDUCATED IN ITS SOCIETY WHICH, EVEN IN AN EXPANDING ECONOMY, WILL REMAIN A BURDEN AND WILL SUFFER MOST AS BASIC PRICES RISE.

ANOTHER PROBLEM FACING INDIA IS THE REDUCTION OF ITS WATER SUPPLY FROM DROUGHT AND FROM THE CURRENT MELTING OF THE HIMALAYAN GLACIERS. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE VAST DIVIDE BETWEEN THE WEALTHY AND THE POOR, INDIA MUST BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC UNREST.

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AROUND THE WORLD THOSE WHO FAVOR THE STATUS QUO ARE MOSTLY IN CONTROL OF ITS POWER CENTERS. BIG POPULATION NUMBERS FOR LABOR, FOR INDUSTRY, FOR AGRICULTURE, FOR ARMED SERVICES AND FOR POLITICS HAVE TRANSLATED INTO BIG MONEY AND BIG POWER.

AMERICA HAS SHARED IN THIS EQUATION AND IT HAS ALSO DEVELOPED A CULTURAL CONSCIENCE WHICH VIEWS OURSELVES AS #1 BY HAVING TAMED, SETTLED AND INHABITED A CONTINENT IN A CENTURY, AND, FINALLY, BY BEING INHERITORS OF UNLIMITED CAPABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY. IN SHORT, WE HAVE COME TO REGARD OURSELVES AS AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE.

THERE ARE THOSE IN OUR GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AREAS OF OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE WHO COMPLETELY DISREGARD THE POPULATION FACTOR, WHO ACTUALLY RECOMMEND AS MUCH GROWTH AS POSSIBLE AND BELIEVE THAT THE TRACK WE ARE NOW ON, WHICH WILL ADD ANOTHER 100 MILLION TO OUR PRESENT POPULATION BEFORE MID-CENTURY, WILL BENEFIT THE COUNTRY.

THEIRS IS A DATED MODEL FOR AN INCREASINGLY CHALLENGED FUTURE WHICH CAN BE DISPROVED IN MANY PLACES ON OUR PLANET. THE POINT THEY REGULARLY FAIL TO GRASP IS THAT THE GLOBAL FORCES OF INCREASING NUMBERS AND MEDIA-DRIVEN CONSUMERISM CANNOT BE SUSTAINED INDEFINITELY BY THE FINITE RESOURCES OF OUR WORLD. THESE TWO FORCES LIE AT THE ROOT OF THE POPULATION PROBLEM AND EACH REINFORCES THE OTHER. ADDING PEOPLE IN GEOMETRIC INCREASE APPLIES ONE PRESSURE AGAINST OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. MASS CONSUMERISM PROMOTED 24/7 BY MEDIA/MARKETING INTERESTS THEN LAUNCHES THE SECOND WAVE BY STIMULATING AND INCREASING THE APPETITES AND NEEDS OF THE WHOLE POPULATION.

THE MOST BASIC OF OUR RESOURCES — LAND, WATER, FOOD, CLEAN AIR — HAVE TO BE SHARED BY ALL OF OUR LIFE FORMS. THIS IS A SYSTEM THAT CAN ONLY FUNCTION SUCCESSFULLY IN A STATE OF BALANCE BETWEEN SELF-INTEREST AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT WHICH IT WILL FAIL.

OUR COUNTRY, MORE THAN OTHERS, DESPERATELY NEEDS A PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF OVERPOPULATION, BEARING IN MIND THAT WE ARE ONLY PART OF OUR WORLD. THE ARGUMENTS PRO AND CON SHOULD BE MADE RATIONALLY AND AS FACTUALLY AS POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH WE KNOW THAT BIG MONEY IS AT STAKE AND THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE WILL BE CALLED UPON. AT SOME POINT THIS QUESTION WILL BE ASKED: CAN BANGLADESH, OR THE UK, WITH THEIR ENLARGING POPULATION PROBLEMS, GROW THEIR WAYS OUT OF THEM?

LIKE OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES, THIS ONE ELICITS RANCOR AND HYPERBOLE, AND THE POPULATION GROWTH PROPONENTS APPLY LABELS SUCH AS ALARMIST, RACIST, ELITIST, SOCIAL DARWINIST, CONSPIRACIST, ETC. TO THOSE WHO FAVOR POLICIES OF BALANCE.

BUT POPULATION IS NOT ABOUT LABELS. IT'S ABOUT NUMBERS. BOTH ITS TRUTH AND ITS WARNING ARE IN ITS NUMBERS, AS THOSE WHO CARE WILL SEE. IT CAN OCCUR ANYWHERE AND SPREAD FROM ONE REGION TO ANOTHER. FOR AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS IT OCCURS MOSTLY OUT OF THE REACH OF OUR EYES AND EARS IN PLACES SO WIDELY SPREAD

AROUND OUR WORLD THAT ONLY THE CONCERTED ACTION OF MANY CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN COMBATING IT.

POPULATION'S NUMBERS PLAY A UNIQUE STATISTICAL ROLE AND ARE CENTRAL TO OUR UNDERSTANDING (AND OFTEN MISUNDERSTANDING) OF THEIR BROAD CONSEQUENCES. GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STATISTICS ARE FREQUENTLY ISSUED IN PER CAPITA FIGURES, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEM AND TO EMPHASIZE WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

BUT THIS FOCUS ON THE ADMITTEDLY MORE EASY TO GRASP HUMAN SCALE OFTEN CONFLICTS WITH TOTAL RESULTS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE PEAK PERIOD OF ITS GASOLINE AND ELECTRIC POWER CRISES, CA EMPHASIZED LONG TERM PER CAPITA USAGE DECREASES WHEREAS TOTAL CONSUPTION INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO ADDED POPULATION.

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IT IS WITHIN BOTH THE INTERESTS AND INTENTIONS OF MOST NATIONS TO PRODUCE POLICIES THAT ARE CLEARLY STATED, READILY ENFORCEABLE AND CAPABLE OF DELIVERING EFFECTIVE RESULTS, AND POPULATION IS NO EXCEPTION, BUT IN MANAGING SOME OF OUR OTHER MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS HEALTH CARE, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND IMMIGRATION WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS. THESE ARE CLASSIC EXAMPLES OF HOW WE HAVE CHOSEN AND PURSUED ENDS THAT ARE AT ODDS WITH OUR HISTORICAL NATIONAL VALUES AND INTERESTS.

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CAPITALISM IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA

NO DISCUSSION OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM CAN BE MEANINGFUL UNLESS WE DECLARE IN ADVANCE WHAT IT IS AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IT IS NOT. OTHERWISE, THE EMOTIONAL COMPONENTS OF GREED AND POWER WILL DOMINATE OR PRECLUDE OBJECTIVE CONSIDERATIONS.

“. . . INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS COMMITTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF SPENDING.”

CAPITALISM IS AN ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY FOR THE CREATION OF WEALTH AND, THROUGH THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN WAYS THAT MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY AND PROFIT VIA PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

AND UNREGULATED MARKETS. TO WORK MOST EFFICIENTLY IT REQUIRES MASS MARKETS AND CONSUMPTION — LARGE, MOBILE POPULATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS COMMITTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF SPENDING.

IT ESTABLISHED ITS PRESENCE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND HAS PUT TO ITS USE AND PURPOSE FOUR CRITICAL MASSES — MASS POPULATION, MASS COMMUNICATIONS, MASS CONSUMPTION AND MASS DISTRIBUTION. THE COMBINATION OF THESE FACTORS PROVIDED A KIND OF “PERFECT STORM” WHICH TRANSFORMED OUR COMMERCIAL WORLD. CAPITALISM WAS NEVER FREE OF FAULT OR EXCESS OR ERROR, BUT WAS BUILT UPON A LACK OF REGULATION THAT APPEALED TO THE ENTREPRENEURIAL ZEITGEIST AND PRODUCED ENORMOUS PROFITS THAT WERE ABLE TO CONTROL POLITICAL MACHINERY WHEREVER AND WHENEVER NECESSARY.

AGAIN, CAPITALISM IS AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROFITABLY CONVERT NATURAL RESOURCES INTO WEALTH AND TO FACILITATE BROAD COMMERCE (ENTER THE MIDDLEMAN) IN GOODS AND SERVICES. IT HAS FOREBEARS TO WHICH IT IS INDEBTED IN VARYING DEGREES. THESE ARE BARTER, FEUDALISM, MERCANTILISM AND THE ISOLATED ECONOMIC LANDSCAPES OF THE RUSSIAN CZARS, INDIAN MAHARAJAS AND THE MUSLIM CALIPHATES.

ALL OF CAPITALISM’S PREDECESSOR SYSTEMS HAVE DROPPED AWAY INTO OBSCURITY. THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, ONLY SYSTEMS TO WHICH WE WERE ATTACHED BY TIME AND TECHNOLOGY. THERE IS NO NEED TO MOURN THEM; THEY “WERE”, BUT NO LONGER “ARE”. THE SAME FATE PROBABLY AWAITS CAPITALISM, AS IT MAY SELF-DESTRUCT OR EVOLVE OR BECOME IRRELEVANT. IT WILL BECOME THE PAST, AND WE WILL NEED ALL OUR ENERGIES FOR THE PRESENT THAT WILL THEN FACE US AND COMMAND OUR EFFORTS.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, WE MUST ASSUME THAT, AS TECHNOLOGY BUILDS UPON TECHNOLOGY, PROGRESS AND CHANGE IN THE NEXT CENTURY WILL BE EVEN GREATER. CAN WE IMAGINE OUR CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM TRANSPORTED TO AND FUNCTIONING IN AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL ECONOMIC SPACE? CAN WE IMAGINE A JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE KIND THAT CAPITALISM RELIES ON FOR ITS PROTECTION OPERATING ON SOME OTHER PLANET? CAN WE IMAGINE AN ORDERLY RESIDENT WORK FORCE, A SENSIBLE FORM OF COMPENSATION OR, CONSIDERING THE COST OF BUILDING AND SUPPLYING OFF-PLANET PRODUCTION FACILITIES, THE COST PER UNIT OF PRODUCTION THAT WOULD RESULT?

THESE THINGS MAY COME INTO BEING EVENTUALLY, BUT THEY WILL NOT COME FROM A WORLD OR AN ERA THAT THINKS AS WE DO.

EMPIRE EVENTUALLY BECOMES TOO EXPENSIVE. FOR CENTURIES WE HAVE SEEN THIS PLAY OUT. THE MORE TERRITORY AND PEOPLE THAT ARE ABSORBED, THE MORE EXPENSIVE THEIR POLITICAL, PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC MAINTENANCE BECOMES.

OUR CAPITALISTS, AND THEIR POLITICIANS IN HAND, ALREADY TOUT OUTER SPACE EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION AS MEANS OF SOLVING SOME OF OUR PRESENT SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS IS PART OF THEIR COMMITMENT AND VISCERAL

ATTACHMENT TO THE PROCESS OF CONTINUAL GROWTH. IT IS DELUSIONAL. THERE ARE TOO MANY WEAK LINKS TO SUPPORT SUCH THEORY — HUMAN NATURE, UNITS OF POPULATION, MONEY, SOCIAL INERTIA, RELIGIOUS CONFUSION, ETC.

ALL OF CAPITALISM’S FORBEARS WERE EFFICIENT FOR THEIR TIME AND PLACE. BARTER? ONE-ON-ONE; AS NO MONEY WAS INVOLVED, THERE WAS NO PRICE AND VALUE WAS SET BY THE QUALITY OF THE GOODS AND THE NEED OF THOSE INVOLVED. FEUDALISM? WITH LAND THE PRIMARY RESOURCE AND MEANS OF WEALTH, WHAT COULD BE MORE USEFUL THAN HAVING IT CONTROLLED BY FEW PEOPLE WHO COULD TRANSFER IT INTACT TO THEIR INHERITORS? BEAR IN MIND THAT THOSE WHO WORKED THE LAND LIVED ON IT AND RAISED THEIR FAMILIES TO DO THE SAME. FEUDALISM HAD A CERTAIN EFFICIENCY TO IT, BUT WAS UNABLE TO SURVIVE THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION AND WEAPONRY TECHNOLOGY.

THE LIST GOES ON. CAPITALISM IS A SYSTEM AND, LIKE ANY OTHER, IT WILL HAVE TO ADAPT TO SURVIVE. IT IS HERE NOW BUT IT IS NOT A FIXTURE OF OUR TIME OR TECHNOLOGY AND, AS THE LATTER CHANGE, SO WILL WE AND OUR SYSTEMS.

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STILL, THE CALCULATION OF THE CAPITALIST EQUATION IN AMERICA HAS BEEN NEITHER COMPLETE NOR ACCURATE AND LEAVES US WITH THE AGE-OLD QUESTION OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

IT HAS BEEN A NATURAL PROGRESSION FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION’S MACHINE AGE, HIGH VOLUME PRODUCTION TO TODAY’S GLOBAL MASS MARKETS AND MASS CONSUMPTION BY LARGE, MOBILE POPULATIONS COMMITTED TO 24/7 SPENDING ON NECESSITIES, LUXURIES AND THE MASS OF MEDIA-MARKETED PRODUCTS PORTRAYED AS BOTH. IN THE PROCESS, CAPITALISM HAS BEEN ABLE TO REWARD THOSE WHO PURSUE/CONTROL MONEY/POWER AND THOSE WHO WISH TO BE VIEWED AS CLOSE TO THEM.

OUR PRESENT CAPITALISM IS FAR DIFFERENT THAN ITS NINETEENTH CENTURY PEAK. THEN, WITH LITTLE SUPERVISION, IT INDULGED IN EXCESSES WHICH ENTAILED SOCIAL AND POLITICAL COSTS IN THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AND PUBLIC RESISTANCE. IT ALSO ENJOYED STEADILY AVAILABLE SOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS AND ORDERLY MEANS OF DISTRIBUTION WHICH CANNOT BE ASSURED GIVEN THE RAPIDLY, CHANGING ECONOMIC/POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR WORLD.

“IT IS LIKELY THAT NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME.”

LOOKING AHEAD A CENTURY, THE CONDITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE TO CAPITALISM IN THE PAST MAY NO LONGER EXIST, AND ANYONE WHO THINKS THAT IT CAN CONTINUE UNCHANGED IS BOUND TO BE WRONG. IT IS LIKELY THAT

NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME.

FOR INSTANCE, ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN POPULATIONS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT COULD TOTALLY ALTER WHAT HAVE COME TO BE RECOGNIZED VALUES OF SUCH BASICS AS LAND, WATER, AIR, FOOD, SHELTER, ETC. WHILE SUCH CHANGES ARE NOT ASSURED, BUT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED, THEY COULD DO AWAY WITH MUCH OF CAPITALISM'S NECESSARY SOCIAL AND STRUCTURAL SUPPORT. AT A TIME OF PUBLIC DISASTER AND PERIL WHEN BASIC GOODS/SERVICES ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE, AS IN NEW ORLEANS, HAITI, ETC., WE ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GOODS AND SERVICES BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY FORCE LARGE ENOUGH TO ACTIVATE THE REQUIRED MONEY, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. IN SPITE OF CAPITALISM'S MANY BENEFITS, CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC CATASTROPHE ARE NOT THOSE THAT WOULD BE BEST SUITED TO ITS PURSUIT OF PROFITS. AND ROVING GROUPS OF MIGRANT POOR SEPARATED FROM THEIR ACCUSTOMED SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SPACE DO NOT MEET CAPITALISM'S REQUIREMENT OF A "MOBILE POPULATION".

LIKE ANY OTHER SYSTEM, CAPITALISM CONTAINS ITS OWN CONTRADICTIONS. IN ITS EARLY STAGE IT DEPENDS UPON AGGRESSIVE AND COMPETITIVE PRICING TO OBTAIN AND EXPAND MARKETS. ONCE THIS HAS TAKEN PLACE AND COMPETITION HAS BEEN DIMINISHED OR ELIMINATED, PRICES INCREASE AND SERVICE CAN BE CONSOLIDATED AND/OR REDUCED. THE DEFINITIVE EXAMPLE OF THE OPERATION OF THIS CYCLE IS PROVIDED BY THE GROWTH OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S STANDARD OIL CO. THE MULTIPLE EXECUTION OF THIS TECHNIQUE WAS FLAWLESS AND WELL SERVED ROCKEFELLER'S GOAL OF EFFICIENCY.

ONE CONTRADICTION THAT DOGGEDLY TRAILS CAPITALISM IS THAT ITS STATED GOALS OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, LACK OF REGULATION AND OPEN MARKETS LEAD IT EVENTUALLY TOWARDS LESSER COMPETITION, MONOPOLY AND THE CONCENTRATION OF GREATER WEALTH IN FEWER HANDS. THIS SHRINKAGE OF THE PURCHASING POOL WILL THEN PRODUCE A DECLINE IN GOODS SOLD. A CONSTANTLY INCREASING POPULATION, OF COURSE, CAN SUSTAIN DEMAND.

THERE CAN BE NO HIGHER TESTAMENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPITALISM THAN THE DEVELOPMENT IN LESS THAN A CENTURY OF OUR PETROLEUM, ELECTRIC UTILITY AND RAILROAD SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER, BUT THEY WERE OF ANOTHER AGE. IN THE INTERIM, WHAT SEEMS TO RESUGGEST ITSELF IS THAT THE CLOSELY WOUND CIRCLE OF CAPITALISM HAS TROUBLE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE HUMAN OR PRACTICAL FORCES THAT SURROUND IT. CERTAINLY THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE UN, THE COLD WAR AND OUR PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC GLOBALISM HAVE REWRITTEN MANY ECONOMIC RULES. THE COLD WAR, THEN A MAJOR STRUGGLE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE U.S. TO PROVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPREMACY FOR THEIR DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, IS NOW AN HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND MILLIONS OF LIVES WERE LOST IN ITS PURSUIT.

THE CHEMISTRY OF COMING CHANGE WILL ALTER OUR VALUES, PRACTICES AND MEASUREMENTS OF EVERYTHING FROM SUCCESS TO SURVIVAL, AND CAPITALISM WILL NOT BE SPARED.

“ . . . FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE PAST AND THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE.”

THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED — FOR CAPITALISTS, SOCIALISTS AND TERRORISTS; FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS; FOR LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES; FOR PRIVATE SECTORS AND PUBLIC CITIZENS; FOR RELIGIONS OF ALL KINDS AND FOR THOSE WHO DENY RELIGION; FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE PAST AND THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE.

THE SKELETONS OF PRIOR SYSTEMS LIE AT OUR FEET. THEIR EYES ARE LONG GONE, AND YET THEIR SIGHTLESS SOCKETS STARE QUESTIONINGLY UP AT US, BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT IN THEIR TIME THEY WERE SOURCES OF ANSWERS, NOT QUESTIONS.

IF WE DO NOT MAKE AN EFFORT TO VIEW THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM, OF OUR COUNTRY AND OF OUR WORLD THRU THE LENSES OF GREATLY INCREASED POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES, IT IS LIKELY THAT OUR RESPONSES WILL BE TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. UNFORTUNATELY, OUR GOVERNMENT SHOWS NO ABILITY TO EITHER UNDERSTAND OR REACT TO EMERGING PARADIGMS. WE HAVE MANAGED TO "PLAY CATCH-UP" BEFORE AND HAVE PULLED IT OFF, BUT SUCH SUCCESS BECOMES INCREASINGLY MORE IMPROBABLE AS OUR AND OTHERS' ROLES CHANGE.

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IN DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON EXPLORED THE CO-EXISTENCE OF EVIL AND GOOD IN ONE MAN. ISLAM IS A TRANSLATION OF THIS METAPHOR INTO A RELIGIOUS TEXT. CAPITALISM, AS WELL AS OTHER SYSTEMS, PERFORMS THE SAME FUNCTION FOR ECONOMICS.

THESE TWO IMPORTANT AREAS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE, RELIGION AND MONEY, ARE AT THE ROOTS OF MANY OF THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. THERE, WIDESPREAD EXTREMES OF RELIGIOUS FAITH AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION MARK THEIR SOCIETIES IN A WAY THAT IS GENERALLY UNKNOWN IN OURS.

MEMBERS OF OUR STATE DEPT. AND CONGRESS REGULARLY MAKE THE CASE FOR DEMOCRACY BY RAMBLING ON ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF CAPITALISM'S FREE MARKETS AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AS IF TELLING IRAQIS AND AFGHANS HOW RICH AND SUCCESSFUL WE ARE WILL PROVIDE THE STIMULUS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES. THERE IS A VERY REAL DISCONNECT HERE BECAUSE OUR REAL MESSAGE OF FREEDOM IS NOT ONLY BURDENED BY ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY BUT IS DELIVERED BY OUR MILITARY FORCES.

CAPITALISM HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC SYSTEM SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. IT HAS SERVED NATIONS AND CREATED GREAT

PERSONAL WEALTH THROUGHOUT OUR WESTERN WORLD, BUT MOST NOTABLY HERE, WHERE WE COULD PRETTY MUCH START FROM SCRATCH AND WRITE OUR OWN RULES AS WE GREW.

THAT TIME IS NOW OVER, AND CAPITALISM MUST ABIDE BY RULES OF OUR STATE, LOCAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IMPOSED BY OUR JUDICIAL, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES. FOR THE DETERMINED CAPITALIST, EVEN THOUGH THE OLD IDEOLOGY CALLS AND COMMANDS, THIS IS THE NEW REALITY.

IN FAIRNESS, IT MAY BE SAID THAT WE HAVE DONE MORE DAMAGE TO CAPITALISM THAN IT HAS DONE TO US. WE EXALTED IT AND WORSHIPPED AT ITS ALTAR TO VALIDATE OURSELVES, TO MAKE US APPEAR BETTER, STRONGER, LARGER THAN LIFE. AS FREEDOM'S MESSAGE IS BURDENED BY CAPITALISM, SO CAPITALISM'S MESSAGE HAS BEEN BURDENED BY OUR NEED TO INFLATE IT (AND US) TO AN ALL CONQUERING IDEOLOGY. ECONOMICS ARE TOUGH ENOUGH WITHOUT HAVING TO CARRY IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE — PERSONAL, CORPORATE OR POLITICAL.

IN THE DESERTS, MOUNTAINS, JUNGLES, ISLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND IN THE CORRIDORS AND CONFERENCE ROOMS OF THE UN IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE SCENT OF THE OLD COLONIALISM IS BEING RAISED AGAIN.

IN ITS TIME IT BROUGHT SOME GOOD, TOOK A LOT AND DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH. THE NEW COLONIALISM GOES UNDER THE NAME OF GLOBALISM AND EMPLOYS DIFFERENT METHODS OF FUNDING, OF MANAGEMENT AND OF OWNERSHIP.

THE OLD SYSTEM AT ITS PEAK LASTED FOR ABOUT A CENTURY FROM THE MID NINETEENTH CENTURY TO ITS POST WWII BREAK-UP WHEN THE WORLD'S CUMULATIVE POLITICAL CHANGES COULD NO LONGER BE RESISTED. THAT PACE MAY SEEM LEISURELY AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT CENTURY, FOR, AS THE WORLD SPEEDS UP IN EVERY WAY, WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE MORE SUDDEN AND SEVERE CHANGE — IN POLITICS, IN ECONOMICS, IN COMMERCE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND, OF COURSE, POPULATION.

UNFORTUNATELY, TIME AND PRESSURE LEAVE MESSY MARKS ON OUR POLITICAL LEADERS AND, UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO NOTABLY IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY AND REDEFINE OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS, OUR RANGE OF RESPONSE WILL BE LIMITED AND INADEQUATE TO THE TASKS AHEAD. TO AVOID SUCH A FAILURE WE MUST REGULARLY ASK OURSELVES WHETHER THE ENDS WE CHOOSE TO IMPLEMENT OUR POLICIES ARE IN KEEPING OR CONFLICT WITH OUR HISTORICAL VALUES.

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MEN AND MONEY; MONEY AND MEN

THESE ARE NOT ISOLATED ISSUES. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, MANY OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE RESULTED IN LEGISLATION OR OTHER

ACTIONS THAT CHALLENGE OUR TRADITIONAL ROLES OR BELIEFS. AT ANY POINT IN THEIR TRANSIT THROUGH CONGRESS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED AND IDENTIFIED AS BEARING THE RISK OF QUESTIONABLE RESULTS.

BUT IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON, CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST OTHER THAN BY OVERBLOWN RHETORIC IS A NON-STARTER. THERE ARE TOO MANY LOBBYISTS WORKING THE CONGRESSIONAL CORRIDORS. THE ROT IS DEEP AND IF YOU PENETRATE THE SURFACE, YOU'LL FIND IT UNDERLIES ALL OF OUR ELECTED, AND A GOOD PART OF OUR APPOINTED, OFFICES.

AARP RECENTLY DISCLOSED THAT FIVE INDUSTRY GROUPS WITH IMPORTANT STAKES IN THE PASSAGE OF PRES. OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE BILL HAVE SPENT JUST OVER \$600 MILLION IN THEIR LOBBYING EFFORTS.¹ WITH 535 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT AVERAGES OUT TO OVER \$1.1 MILLION FOR EVERY SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE. WE KNOW, HOWEVER, THESE FUNDS WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY TO EACH MEMBER, AS SOME MEMBERS WHO HOLD KEY COMMITTEE POSITIONS RELATIVE TO A PARTICULAR BILL ARE MORE GENEROUSLY FUNDED THAN OTHERS.

THIS \$600 MILLION WAS DIRECTED TO JUST ONE BILL. IF WE CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL INTERESTS WHICH TARGET EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS, WE CAN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE SCALE OF SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY AT WORK IN OUR GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH IT CANNOT HELP BUT DISTURB OUR POLITICAL CONSCIENCE, IT DOES OFFER AN EXPLANATION OF WHY OUR GOVERNMENT ENTERTAINS POLICIES OR LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY VARY FROM, OR RUN COUNTER TO, OUR STATED GOALS AND/OR CHARACTER.

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THE TWO EXAMPLES OF "ENDS AT ODDS" THAT WE HAVE COVERED SO FAR, POPULATION AND OUR CAPITALISTIC ECONOMIC FOUNDATION, ARE OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. BUT THEY DO NOT STAND ALONE OR EXIST ONLY IN THEIR OWN POLITICAL ISOLATION. THE ERROR THEY SHARE AND DISPLAY SO CLEARLY ENCOMPASSES A WIDE RANGE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WE EXPERIENCE OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

TWO OTHER MAJOR ISSUES OF OUR TIME THAT THREATEN OUR POLITICAL WILL AND ABILITY TO FUNCTION ARE IMMIGRATION AND OUR OUT-OF-CONTROL NATIONAL DEBT. WITH THE FORMER WE ARE TREATED TO A VIEW OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT ITS WORST. THIS IS BECAUSE OUR POLICY HAS BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM OUR LEGISLATION AND THE CONGRESS REFUSES TO ENFORCE ITS OWN LAWS. IN GOVERNMENT, THIS IS A DOUBLE WHAMMY THAT OVER TIME CAN BRING ABOUT COMPLETE COLLAPSE.

IMMIGRATION, AS AN ISSUE, IS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO WHAT SLAVERY WAS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, AS IT INVOKES CONSTITUTIONAL, SOCIAL, MORAL, ECONOMIC, SECURITY, RELIGIOUS, FAIRNESS AND ELECTORAL CONSIDERATIONS. IF WE WISH TO SEE ENDS THAT CONFLICT WITH OUR OWN PROFESSED

INTERESTS, WE NEED TO GO NO FURTHER.

OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY UNDERWENT ENORMOUS CHANGE WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE 1965 REFORM ACT — FAR MORE THAN WAS INTENDED BY MANY IN CONGRESS WHO VOTED FOR ITS PASSAGE. THIS IS BECAUSE ITS PROPONENTS SOLD IT ON THE BASIS OF FALSE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION WHICH TURNED YEARS OF IMMIGRATION LAW UPSIDE DOWN.

CONGRESS DID NOT REVISIT THE SUBJECT UNTIL TWENTY-ONE YEARS LATER DURING REAGAN’S SECOND TERM WHEN A “ONE TIME” AMNESTY WAS PASSED FOR ILLEGALS THEN LIVING/WORKING IN THE US. AGAIN THE “ONE TIME” CLAIM TURNED OUT TO BE FALSE AS THE 1986 ACT WAS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL MORE. WHETHER CORRECT IN THEIR PURPOSE OR FAIR IN THEIR FUNCTION, THESE FURTHER AMNESTIES EXTENDED THE REACH AND RESULTS OF THE 1986 ACT.

THE HORRENDOUS HYPOCRISY WE FACE TODAY, AND WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENTS BUSH I, CLINTON, BUSH II AND OBAMA DURING THEIR TWENTY YEARS IN OFFICE, IS THAT OF THE CONGRESS REFUSING TO TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO FUND AND ENFORCE ITS OWN LEGISLATION.

THIS IS TELLINGLY SYMPTOMATIC OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA. WHAT IT SAYS TO ALL WHO CAN VOTE, OR WRITE CHECKS, IS “WE CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. WE’LL PASS A LAW TO APPEAL TO SOME VOTERS AND THEN WORK THE OTHER SIDE AND NOT ENFORCE IT TO PLEASE OTHERS”. THIS MAY BE A WIN/WIN SITUATION FOR CONGRESS AND ITS MONEY SOURCES, BUT IT’S LOSE/LOSE FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY.

AFTER THE HEALTH CARE SQUEAKER IN THE HOUSE, IMMIGRATION MAY BE THE NEXT BIG AND BITTER PIECE OF LEGISLATION PRES. OBAMA CHOOSES TO PURSUE. IT IS HIGHLY CHARGED WITH MONEY AND EMOTION, AND IT’S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IN NUMBERS AND INTENSITY ITS PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS WILL SURPASS THOSE OF THE HEALTH CARE ARGUMENT. OUR FEELING IS THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO MOVE IMMIGRATION REFORM THROUGH CONGRESS WILL PRODUCE EVEN MORE ACRIMONY AND PARTISAN IDEOLOGY THAN HEALTH CARE. AND AT ITS END, THERE WILL STILL BE THE PROBLEM OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.

THIS FORCES OUR ATTENTION TO ANOTHER FAILED ASPECT OF OUR GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE CONGRESS, AND RIGHTLY SO, BUT THEY ARE NOT ALONE. THE IMMIGRATION MESS HAS BEEN LARGELY PERMITTED AND CONTINUED BY EACH OF THE PRESIDENTS WE NAMED. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS INVOLVED — NOT ONLY BY THE DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ROLE, BUT ALSO BY THE MANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE FIELD AND AT HEADQUARTERS BY ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE AND HOMELAND SECURITY, THE BORDER PATROL, THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, CUSTOMS, COAST GUARD, TREASURY DEPT., ETC. TODAY ALL OF THESE AGENCIES OPERATE IN A KIND OF NETHER LAND IN WHICH ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE FIELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH OUR LAWS CAN BE IGNORED, SUBVERTED OR OVERTURNED AT ANY POINT UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND INCLUDING CABINET LEVEL SECRETARIES AND THE WHITE HOUSE. THIS IS A “SUCKERPUNCH” ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ON THE PUBLIC. IT IS WHAT IT IS.

NOR IS OUR JUDICIAL BRANCH FREE OF CRITICISM IN MATTERS OF OUR IMMIGRATION INTENTION. IT IS CUSTOMARY

FOR MOST ILLEGAL ENTRANTS, UNLESS THEY POSE SECURITY RISKS, TO BE RELEASED UNTIL SOME FUTURE TRIAL DATE BY WHICH TIME THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED OR OBTAINED NEW IDENTIFICATION PAPERS, OR BOTH. OUR LOCAL IMMIGRATION COURTS OPERATE UNDER THE COMBINED WEIGHT OF VOLUMINOUS PAPER WORK AND THE BROKEN SYSTEM ABOVE THEM. IN SPIRIT AND PERFORMANCE THEY REFLECT THE FAILED BUREAUCRACY OF WHICH THEY ARE A PART.

“THIS IS POLITICAL GANGRENE IN THE MAKING.”

THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR SOCIETY BY OUR PRESENT IMMIGRATION POLICY OF NOT AFFIRMING OR ENFORCING OUR LAW IS SUBSTANTIAL AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR STRUCTURE AND PROCESS. IF WE DO NOT DEAL WITH IT DECISIVELY, EFFECTIVELY AND PERMANENTLY, THE ROT WILL SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THIS IS POLITICAL GANGRENE IN THE MAKING.

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IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER ANYONE FROM EVEN THE FRINGES OF THE RIGHT OR LEFT OVER THE PAST GENERATION WOULD HAVE WANTED OUR COUNTRY TO BE IN ITS PRESENT STATE OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY. AND YET THAT IS THE SHORE UPON WHICH OUR SHIP OF STATE HAS DEPOSITED US, AND IT IS NOW AND HERE THAT WE MUST SET ABOUT FINDING OUR WAY HOME.

IN A HALF CENTURY OR LESS WE WERE TRANSFORMED FROM THE WORLD’S RICHEST LENDER TO ITS LARGEST DEBTOR, MUCH LIKE DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE. FROM THOSE IN BOTH PARTIES WHO ORCHESTRATED THIS NEEDLESS TRANSITION WE HAVE LITTLE IN THE WAY OF EXPLANATION OR RESPONSIBILITY. THEIR ENDS WERE NOT OUR ENDS; NOR THEIR PURPOSES; NOR THEIR VALUES.

ON A DAILY BASIS, THEY REGULARLY, QUIETLY AND PURPOSEFULLY CONSTRUCTED A HABIT AND LEVEL OF DEBT THAT HAS PUT OUR COUNTRY AT GREAT RISK AND WILL KEEP IT THERE, IF WE SURVIVE IN OUR PRESENT FORM, FOR MANY YEARS AND, UNLESS WE CAN CONTRIVE A MEANS OF ESCAPE, PERHAPS FOREVER.

CONGRESS RECENTLY APPROVED AN INCREASE IN OUR NATIONAL DEBT LIMIT TO ABOUT \$14 TRILLION DOLLARS SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE RED UNTIL WE ARE PAST THE MID-TERM CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER. IF PAST IS PROLOGUE, THE LIMIT WILL HAVE TO BE RAISED AGAIN BEFORE YEAR-END.

AT \$14 TRILLION OUR ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENT AT LAST YEAR’S RATE OF 3.3% WILL BE ABOUT \$448 BILLION².

THIS IS MORE THAN THE COMBINED TOTAL OF WHAT WE SPEND ON OUR DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, HOMELAND SECURITY, STATE, HOUSING/ URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND A FEW OTHERS.

BUT THIS IS ONLY OUR "OFFICIAL" NATIONAL DEBT. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF UNFUNDED OBLIGATIONS WHICH COULD INCREASE OUR EXPOSURE TO OVER \$50 TRILLION.

AS STARTLING AS THE AMOUNT OF OUR DEBT IS THE FACT THAT IT HAS GROWN TO ITS CURRENT SIZE IN THE SPAN OF ONLY ONE GENERATION, FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY TO NOW. IN THIS BRIEFEST OF HISTORICAL MOMENTS, FOUR PRESIDENTS, TWO POLITICAL PARTIES AND FIFTEEN SITTING CONGRESSES UNDERTOOK TO REVERSE MANY OF OUR TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC CONCEPTS ABOUT OUR SECURITY, RISK, FUTURE, THRIFT, DEBT, CURRENCY, GOVERNMENT'S ROLE AND HOW THEY COMBINE TO FORM OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER.

DAY BY DAY, IN AN APPARENTLY ENDLESS SEQUENCE, VOTES WERE TAKEN; FUNDING WAS APPROVED; PROJECTS WERE INITIATED, AUTHORIZED AND ASSIGNED TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; LOANS WERE GENERATED OR STRUCTURED FOR DIRECT PAYMENT; BUDGET INCREASES WERE PROPOSED, REVISED AND ALWAYS APPROVED; GRANTS WERE MADE; SOCIAL PROGRAMS WERE CREATED; EARMARKS WERE INSERTED; HIRING EXPANDED; OPERATING EXPENSES GREW; ETC.

AN OCCASIONAL VOICE WAS RAISED AS ELECTIONS DREW CLOSE, BUT THE PEOPLE WE HAD ELECTED TO RUN AND BE OUR GOVERNMENT WERE MENTALLY ELSEWHERE. OUR GOVERNMENT NO LONGER HAD ITS TRADITIONAL SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP.

WE USED TO TALK ABOUT AMERICA BEING EMBARKED UPON A WONDERFUL AND UNIQUE POLITICAL EXPERIMENT. NOT SO; WHAT WE ARE EMBARKED UPON IS A FINANCIAL DEBACLE SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT HAVE BEFALLEN MANY OTHER NATIONS AND FORMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

THIS MAY SOUND LIKE THE DESPERATE CRY OF THE LONELY PESSIMIST IN THE TIME OF PLENTY. IT IS NOT. IT IS BASED ON NUMBERS WHICH PROVIDE THE STRUCTURE AND ARCHITECTURE FOR ALL OUR POLICIES — SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND FOREIGN. AS WITH POPULATION, IT'S NOT ABOUT LABELS. IT'S ABOUT NUMBERS.

WE MUST FACE THE TRUTH THAT FROM 1980 TO THE PRESENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A BRIEF PERIOD OF SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY, WE HAVE PERSISTED IN A PROGRAM OF WIDENING DEFICIT SPENDING. ALTHOUGH OCCUPANTS OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CONGRESS OFTEN SIGNALLED THAT THEY WERE TEMPORARY AND WOULD SOON BE SUCCEEDED BY BALANCED BUDGETS AND EVEN "SURPLUSES AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE", THESE GROWING DEFICITS REACHED THEIR HIGHEST LEVELS DURING THE EIGHT YEARS OF BUSH II AND THEN ESCALATED SHARPLY AGAIN UNDER PRES. OBAMA'S STIMULUS PROGRAM TO SLOW THE RECESSION AND AVOID A MAJOR DEPRESSION.

THERE ARE ALWAYS MECHANISMS AT HAND TO INCREASE DEFICITS. THE ACT OF SPENDING IS A FINELY DEVELOPED SKILL IN WASHINGTON WITH NO NEED FOR RESTRAINT IF REELECTION IS ASSURED. BUT TURNING DEFICITS INTO SURPLUSES IS SOMETHING ELSE. LIKE A SPEEDING CAR, YOU FIRST HAVE TO

DECELERATE, THEN APPLY BRAKES AND, FINALLY, ACTUALLY SHIFT INTO REVERSE.

AND THE "CROWD" MENTALITY IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT, AS ONE CONGRESSMAN LOOKING AROUND AND SEEING MOST OF HIS COUNTERPARTS COMMITTED TO POPULAR SPENDING PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY ONES THAT MAY IMPACT HIS/ HER HOME DISTRICT, IS UNLIKELY TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF THE LONE VOICE OF REASON.

THE KEY TO OUR PRESENT FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE LIES IN OUR THREE STAGE AUTOMOBILE ANALOGY. FIRST, WE MUST DECELERATE, SLOW THE FLOW OF DOLLARS. THEN WE MUST HIT THE BRAKES WITH NEW AND REDUCED BUDGETS AND CUTTING OR ELIMINATING THE SCOPE OF MOST PROGRAMS. FINALLY, WE MUST SHIFT HARD INTO REVERSE BY CHANGING BOTH THE NUMBER AND METHOD OF FUNDING PROCEDURES IN CONGRESS AND ESTABLISHING EFFICIENT WAYS TO ASSURE THAT OUR INTENDED ECONOMIES ARE TARGETED AND CARRIED OUT IN THE MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF OUR BURGEONING BUREAUCRACY.

NONE OF THIS WILL COME EASILY. IT IS TOO ABRASIVE, AND GRINDS AGAINST THE GRAIN OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST HURDLE TO OVERCOME INVOLVES THE IMMENSITY OF THE SCALE OF OUR MULTI-TRILLION DOLLAR DEBT WHICH DEFIES OUR HUMAN AND POLITICAL COMPREHENSION.

IN EARLY MARCH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE (CBO) INCREASED ITS ESTIMATE OF BUDGET DEFICITS IN THE NEXT DECADE TO \$9.8 TRILLION, OR \$1.2 TRILLION MORE THAN THE WHITE HOUSE'S FEBRUARY PREDICTION.³ THIS IS ONE SCALE.

HERE'S ANOTHER: FREDDIE MAC AND FANNIE MAE, WHICH SERVE AS NATIONAL MORTGAGE MARKET MAKERS AND HAD TO BE TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 2008, HAVE RECEIVED \$111 BILLION OF TAXPAYER FUNDS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, BUT ARE NOT YET STABILIZED AND ARE ANTICIPATED TO RECEIVE \$77 BILLION MORE IN THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF AND TO EVENTUALLY REACH \$400 BILLION.⁴ THE SECURITIES MARKETED BY THESE TWO VERY POWERFUL COMPANIES USED TO BE REGARDED AS INFORMALLY GUARANTEED BY THE GOVERNMENT. TODAY THEY POSE TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER A FORMAL AND UNLIMITED RISK EXPOSURE.

WHILE THE FREDDIE AND FANNIE FIGURES ARE ONLY BILLIONS, EVEN THEY TEST OUR ABILITY TO COMPREHEND THEIR RELATIVE SIZES. HERE'S A BASIS OF COMPARISON:

ONE BILLION SECONDS EQUALS ALMOST 32 YEARS.

ONE TRILLION SECONDS EQUALS ALMOST 32,000 YEARS.

AND IF YOU SPENT ONE MILLION DOLLARS EVERY DAY SINCE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, YOU WOULD STILL NOT HAVE SPENT ONE TRILLION DOLLARS.⁵

IT IS ONLY WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO CONVERT GOVERNMENT SPENDING INTO A HUMAN SCALE AND EXPERIENCE THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO REALIZE THE SENSELESS RECKLESSNESS OF OUR POLITICAL CLASS. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE PERMITTED AND WHAT WE MUST NOW FACE IF WE ARE TO REPAIR OUR COUNTRY, AND WE SHOULD NOT COUNT ON HELP FROM EITHER PARTY.

THE LANGUAGE OF POLITICIANS TENDS NOT TO BE

PRECISE. THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE PUBLIC TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE BEHIND THE WORDS. FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S TAKE THE PRESENT CONVERSATION ABOUT DEFICITS WHICH IMPLIES THAT BY ELIMINATING DEFICITS WE WILL SOLVE OUR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

THIS IS ONLY PARTIALLY TRUE. WE WILL IMPROVE OUR POSITION IN ONE WAY BUT WILL NOT ACCOMPLISH A CURE-ALL. LET'S SUPPOSE WE START WITH A TRILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT AND REDUCE IT BY \$200 BILLION EACH YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS. AT THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR WE WILL HAVE LOWERED OUR ANNUAL DEFICIT TO \$800 BILLION WHICH IS THEN ADDED TO OUR NATIONAL DEBT. AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS OUR ANNUAL DEFICIT THEORETICALLY WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED WHILE OUR NATIONAL DEBT WOULD HAVE GROWN BY \$2 TRILLION.

POLITICIANS AVOID THIS TRAP BY RARELY EMBRACING SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS IN ECONOMIC MATTERS OR, IF THEY DO, EXTENDING THEM SO FAR THAT PROJECTIONS ARE MEANINGLESS. WE HAVE SEEN THIS IN THE HEALTH CARE BILL DEBATE'S CLAIM BY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT WE WILL EXPERIENCE TEN YEARS OF RISING DEFICITS FOLLOWED BY BALANCED BUDGETS.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS ARE SO COMPLEX AND SUBJECT TO SO MANY VARIABLES THAT THEY OFFER LITTLE CHANCE OF ACCURACY BEYOND THREE YEARS. TO SUGGEST THAT THE CBO, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT BUREAU, CAN PROVIDE ACCURATE FORECASTS OF EVENTS AND RESULTS A DECADE OR TWO AHEAD IS SIMPLY NOT CREDIBLE.

THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT TO SUCH PROJECTIONS THAT IS NOT MENTIONED BUT SHOULD BE QUESTIONED. GIVEN THAT THE NUMBERS MIGHT WORK OUT AS PROJECTED, WHAT WOULD BE THE BASIS OF THEIR SUCCESS? WHAT WOULD BE THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL FORCE, THE ENGINE, THAT WOULD DRIVE AND ENABLE SUCH A BROAD RECOVERY FROM OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE?

WHAT WILL BE THE MECHANISM THAT WILL PERMIT US TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONGRESS? TERM LIMITS? ELIMINATING GERRYMANDERING AND REMOVING THE REDISTRICTING FUNCTION FROM THE CONTROL OF THE TWO PARTIES, AS CA HAS DONE? IN WASHINGTON, ALL ARE POSSIBLE, BUT NONE IS POPULAR, OR PROBABLE.

THE TIME-TESTED WAY OF DIGGING OUT OF A MESS IS TO PULL OURSELVES UP BY OUR OWN BOOTSTRAPS (I.E., TAXES), BUT WITH TAXES WE MAY BE REACHING A TIPPING POINT. WE HAVE HEARD THE CRY OF "WOLF, WOLF" TOO MANY TIMES.

WE HAVE SPENT \$800 MILLION ON A NEW EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD CITED BY OUR STATE DEPT AS BEING NECESSARY FOR OUR SECURITY AND THE PROTECTION OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND THIS COST MUST BE PAID BY THE US TAXPAYER. SUPPOSE WE WERE TO TAKE TO THE STREETS AND RANDOMLY ASK 16 MILLION PEOPLE TO PAY FIFTY DOLLARS EACH FOR THE SECURITY PROVIDED BY THE NEW EMBASSY. NO NAMING RIGHTS; JUST CASH. SIXTEEN MILLION PEOPLE — ABOUT 5% OF OUR POPULATION — WOULD CONSTITUTE A VALID SAMPLE, BUT THE RESULTS WOULD PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTING.

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THERE IS ANOTHER AREA OF FAILED GOVERNMENT WHICH MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND CHANGED. IT IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH OUR BUREAUCRACIES ACHIEVE A KIND OF PERPETUAL GROWTH BY INCREASING THEIR BUDGETS AND EMPLOYEES. IT'S A CHICKEN/EGG PROCESS WITHOUT AN INTENDED BALANCE. BUDGETS ARE PROPOSED, EMPLOYEES HIRED AND RESULTS CLAIMED THAT SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOLLOWED BY MORE HIRING, ETC.

IN THE WAYS OF BUREAUCRATIC GOVERNMENT, MOSTLY STAFFED BY CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES, DISTINCTION DOES NOT COME FROM RESULTS OR INDIVIDUAL EFFORT, AS IT DOES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT MORE FROM THE SIZE OF THE ENTITY'S BUDGET AND STAFF. THIS CAN RESULT IN EXCESSIVE REAL ESTATE, OVEREMPLOYMENT WITH INSUFFICIENT PRODUCTIVITY, OVERSPENDING ON OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH LABOR COSTS.

THE CONGRESS WOULD MOST LIKELY BE UNSUITED AND UNWILLING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN ANY EFFORT TO CURE WASHINGTON'S MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS. AND YET IT MAKES THE NATION'S LAWS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, CONTROLS THE FUNDING FOR THE MANY AND VARIED ELEMENTS OF OUR NATIONAL BUREAUCRACY.

MANAGERIAL INEFFICIENCY IS A NETTLE THAT NEITHER THE EXECUTIVE NOR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH WANTS TO GRASP. AND SO IT WILL CONTINUE, AS IT HAS IN THE PAST, TO BE LARGELY IGNORED. BUT IT IS EXPENSIVE, ALTHOUGH NOT PERHAPS BY CONGRESSIONAL STANDARDS, AND IT GATHERS MOMENTUM WHICH AT SOME POINT WILL PROVE CAPABLE OF DEFLECTING OUR OCCASIONAL EFFORTS TOWARDS CHANGE OR IMPROVEMENT.

* * *

POPULATION AND WEALTH AT ONE LEVEL OF LANGUAGE TRANSLATE INTO PEOPLE AND MONEY AT ANOTHER. EITHER WAY, CONSTRUCTING A VALID EQUATION BETWEEN THESE TWO ELEMENTS IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING TASKS FACED BY ALL SOCIETIES, AND MANY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO.

WE HAVE DEVOTED MOST OF THIS ISSUE TO THEM BECAUSE OUR POPULATION AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS SEEM TO BE MOVING ON PARALLEL TRACKS AND APPROACHING TIPPING POINTS BEFORE MID-CENTURY. AND BECAUSE OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE (I.E., PARTIES, "LEADERS", CLASS, ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, OR WHATEVER LABEL YOU PREFER) IS BOTH UNAWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THESE THREATS AND UNABLE TO TAKE SENSIBLE ACTION BECAUSE OF ITS TIES TO A VARIETY OF SPECIAL INTERESTS.

THIS LATTER OBLIGATION HAS DEVELOPED SUCH WIDE ACCEPTANCE WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT THAT IT CASTS SERIOUS AND EQUAL DOUBT ON BOTH THE PERFORMANCE AND THE VALUE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. THIS IS NOT DOOMSDAY PESSIMISM; IT IS A PLAUSIBLE (WHETHER PROPHETIC OR NOT

REMAINS TO BE PROVED) VIEW OF IMMENSELY IMPORTANT EVENTS OVER WHICH, DUE TO OUR LACK OF ATTENTION AND INTEREST, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE THE CONTROL REQUIRED BY AN ORDERLY SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT OBAMA MADE EXTENSIVE PROMISES DURING HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN REGARDING ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE AND REGULATION OF OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS/PRACTICES. IN OFFICE, HE HAS TURNED AWAY FROM MANY OF THESE POSITIONS AND, IN SOME CASES (I.E., HEALTH CARE), REVERSED HIMSELF.

THE HEALTH CARE BILL THAT PASSED IS A MIXED BAG — SOME PLUSES AND SOME MINUSES. OVERALL, WE SEE IT AS A NEGATIVE BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR UNWANTED FINANCIAL RESULTS, MOST PARTICULARLY THE FAILURE TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY'S ABILITY TO GENERATE REVENUES AND PROFITS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN ORATORY.

“. . . OUR LONG-RUNNING IDEOLOGICAL WARS AND THE CHOKING GRIP OF THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE ON OUR DEMOCRACY.”

IT IS EVIDENT TO US THAT IN OTHER AREAS, AS WELL AS HEALTH CARE, PRES. OBAMA HAS MISREAD THE VOTERS' MANDATE AND EXTENDED IT TO AREAS THEY DID NOT ANTICIPATE. YES, THOSE WHO PROVIDED THE “SWING” VOTES FOR OBAMA VOTED FOR CHANGE, BUT CHANGE OF THE KIND THAT MOVED AWAY FROM THE ERRORS OF TWO BUSH II TERMS TO A MORE MODERATE GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD OPERATE IN A RANGE FROM CENTER RIGHT TO CENTER LEFT. AT HIS INAUGURATION, PRES. OBAMA HAD A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM CENTER GOVERNMENT AND EVEN TO LAUNCH A COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST OUR LONG-RUNNING IDEOLOGICAL WARS AND THE CHOKING GRIP OF THE IDEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE ON OUR DEMOCRACY.

THE HEALTH CARE BILL JUST PASSED IS NOT WHAT HALF OF OUR COUNTRY WANTS, NOR WHAT CANDIDATE OBAMA OFFERED. IT MAY BE AMENDED AND IMPROVED IN TIME, BUT, LOOKING AHEAD, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES LOOK LIKE THE BIGGEST WINNERS.

AGAIN, AS A MATTER OF SCALE, CONSIDER THESE NUMBERS. IN 2009, WASHINGTON'S ARMY OF LOBBYISTS RECEIVED \$200 MILLION FROM THE BANKING SEGMENT OF OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER ENTITIES SUCH AS INSURANCE COMPANIES, HEDGE FUNDS, VENTURE CAPITAL GROUPS, ETC.⁶ AND FURTHER, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE BANKING COMMITTEES AS A GROUP HAVE RECEIVED AROUND \$60 MILLION⁷. THESE COMMITTEES USUALLY CONSIST OF ABOUT 20 MEMBERS EACH.

IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR NATION'S LIFE, AS IT HAS GROWN LARGER, SCALE BECOMES MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT. AS IT CHANGES AND IS ENLARGED BEYOND OUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE, OUR ETHICAL, SOCIAL, HISTORICAL, POLITICAL

AND EVEN SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES ARE ALTERED.

FOR INSTANCE, THE LOBBYING EXPENDITURES QUOTED ABOVE WERE RECEIVED FROM ONLY OUR FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR. THERE ARE OTHER GROUPS WITH EXTENSIVE INTERESTS AND FUNDS THAT ARE APPLIED TO OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. THESE INCLUDE AGRICULTURE, RETAIL, MINING, PHARMACEUTICAL, APPAREL, APPLIANCE, CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, UTILITIES, COMMUNICATION AND MANY MORE.

NOW THE TRUE SCALE OF CONGRESS' RECEIPT OF LOBBYING FUNDS IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. IT SURELY RUNS INTO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY. BUT, IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS OFFICIALLY REPORTED, THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF FAVOR THAT ARE NOT OFFICIAL AND EXIST IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN. FINALLY, WE MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT MAKE THEIR WAY INTO THE SYSTEM BY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AMERICA THIS IS THE TRUTH OF MONEY PUSHING POLITICS. IT IS NOT PRETTY, BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS. IT WORKS WONDERFULLY WELL FOR THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE, AND IT WILL NOT BE DISLODGED EASILY.

* * *

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

THE ABOVE COMMENTS REGARDING LOBBYING ARE PROLOGUE TO THE ISSUE OF FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM AND THE INTENSE LEVEL OF VOTER EMOTION RAISED BY THE COLLAPSE OF OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND THE ACTIONS OF ITS LEADERS. THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT EBBS AND FLOWS IN THE PUBLIC CONSCIENCE BUT WHICH, EVEN WHEN IT LIES DORMANT BENEATH THE SURFACE, CAN BE RECALLED BY THE FAILURES OF FAIRNESS OF OUR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL “LEADERS”, INCLUDING OUR FEDERAL RESERVE CENTRAL BANK.

IN THE RUN-UP TO THE '08 ELECTIONS ALL OF THE NINE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ENGAGED IN THEIR MULTI-CITY “DEBATE” PROFESSED THEIR UNDYING LOVE FOR OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT INCLUDING REGULATION, WHEN EXCESS CALLED FOR IT, OF OUR FINANCIAL MARKETS. AS MARKETS, DETERIORATED AND CORPORATE AND BANKING FAILURES REQUIRED BAIL-OUTS, REGULATION BECAME A PRIME ISSUE. IT WAS PROMISED TO AN ANGRY ELECTORATE, BUT TIME PASSES AND IT HAS JUST BEGUN TO RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION.

“. . . THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY IS CALLING IN ITS MANY MARKERS”

THE PARTY LINE IS THAT HEALTH CARE IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S FRONT LINE, AND THAT OTHER ISSUES HAVE

HAD TO WAIT UNTIL ITS PASSAGE IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM ITS POLITICAL MOMENTUM. A WIDER TRUTH IS THAT THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY IS CALLING IN ITS MANY MARKERS (OF WHICH IT SEEMS TO HAVE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY) IN ORDER TO SLOW, WEAKEN, NEUTRALIZE AND, HOPEFULLY, DEFEAT ANY MEANINGFUL REFORM.

IN ANY DEFINITIVE RECORD OF QUID PRO QUO FINANCING THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S REPEAL OF THE GLASS-STEAGALL ACT WOULD PROBABLY RANK SOMEWHERE BETWEEN OVERNIGHT RENTALS OF THE LINCOLN ROOM TO PARTY DONORS AND THE TRANSFER OF OUR MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA. GLASS-STEAGALL SEPARATED COMMERCIAL FROM INVESTMENT BANKING AND FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY PROVIDED DISCIPLINE OVER SOME OF THE FORCES THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE 1929 CRASH.

ITS REPEAL WAS MET WITH DELIGHT ON WALL STREET WHERE CHANGES IN MARKET PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS TO REFLECT THE NEW FREEDOM SOON APPEARED. TODAY, A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER OUR RECENT MELTDOWN, THE PUBLIC'S MOOD IS STILL ONE OF STRONG ANGER AND BETRAYAL.

HAS THE TIME COME FOR THE RETURN OF GLASS-STEAGALL? WE MAY BE APPROACHING A FRANKENSTEIN MEETS WOLFMAN MOMENT — THE POWER OF PUBLIC ANGER AROUSED AGAINST THE EVER INCREASING FLOW OF PRIVATE PURPOSE FUNDS THROUGH CONGRESS. PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS SPOKEN FREQUENTLY OF FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM, AND IT SEEMS THAT HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE A POLITICAL EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION.

THE SYSTEMIC QUESTION THAT BEGS AN ANSWER HERE IS "CAN CAMPAIGN ORATORY SURVIVE LEGISLATION?" THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IF, IN FACT, IT CAN'T, THEN VOTER DISILLUSION AND DISTRUST IS BOUND TO INCREASE AND OUR SYSTEM WILL BE DIMINISHED. AND HERE AGAIN, OUR POLITICAL ENDS SEEM TO BE AT ODDS WITH OUR CLAIMED VALUES.

* * *

ODDS AND ENDS

THERE IS PROBABLY NO AREA OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN WHICH THE PUBLIC INTEREST SUFFERS MORE THAN IN OUR MILITARY PROCUREMENT PROCESS. ITS FAULTS AND TRAPS ARE MANY, AND ARE SHARED BY CONGRESS AND THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE (DOD). LIKE SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS⁸, THEY OFTEN TRANSFORM OR DESTROY THE PROJECTS THAT MUST PASS THEIR SCRUTINY IN ORDER TO SATISFY CONGRESS' LOCAL POLITICAL INTERESTS AND THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY CONTRACT BIDDERS TO ACT AS CONSULTANTS IN MATTERS AS VARIED AS DESIGN, ENGINEERING, PRICING AND ESPECIALLY PURCHASING, WHERE THEY ARE LIABLE TO BE DEALING WITH COMRADES OR

ASSOCIATES FROM THEIR MILITARY SERVICE DAYS.

THE DOD IS PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR A NEW AIRCRAFT NAMED THE JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER FOR WHICH BOTH GENERAL ELECTRIC (GE) AND PRATT & WHITNEY (PW) ARE DESIGNING AN ENGINE WITH A DETERMINATION NOW SCHEDULED FOR 2016.

THE GE ENTRY HAS SUFFERED AN UNUSUALLY HIGH RATE OF TEST FAILURES WHICH HAVE CAUSED MULTIPLE DELAYS AND INCREASED THE COST OF THE PROGRAM. IT IS DESIGNATED AS "THE ALTERNATE ENGINE" AND WILL REQUIRE ITS OWN SPARE PARTS, MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES⁹ WHICH WILL ADD TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO THE SYSTEM'S COST.

DEFENSE PROGRAMS HAVE A WAY OF DEVELOPING LIVES OF THEIR OWN WHICH CAN DEFY SENSIBLE JUDGMENT. IN THE CASE OF "THE ALTERNATE ENGINE" OPPOSITION HAS BEEN VOICED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND EVEN SOME PARTS OF THE PENTAGON, BUT CONGRESS PUSHES AHEAD USUALLY CITING "NATIONAL SECURITY" AS ITS JUSTIFICATION.

EVEN PASSING REFERENCE TO OUR PROCUREMENT PROCESS SHOULD INCLUDE MENTION OF CONGRESS' RECENT ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFER \$23.5 BILLION FROM OUR DEFENSE BUDGET TO THE AIR FORCE FOR THE LEASE OF 100 BOEING 767 CIVILIAN AIRLINERS WHICH WOULD THEN BE CONVERTED TO MILITARY TANKERS AT THE EXPENSE OF U.S. TAXPAYERS.

FORTUNATELY, THIS EFFORT WAS BLOCKED, WITH SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN LEADING ITS OPPOSITION. MCCAIN IS A MAN OF MANY POLITICAL PARTS AND DIRECTIONS NOT ALL OF WHICH APPEAR TO BE SYNCHRONIZED. HIS EXCEPTIONAL MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH INCLUDES YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE BY THE VIET CONG, GIVES HIM A UNIQUE AUTHORITY WITHIN CONGRESS ON MILITARY MATTERS. HE HAS REFERRED TO THE AIR FORCE/BOEING LEASE DEAL AS "ONE OF THE GREATEST RIP-OFFS OF TAXPAYERS AND THE NATION'S DEFENSES IN HISTORY"¹⁰

THE AIRCRAFT THAT THE CONVERTED BOEING 767 WAS INTENDED TO REPLACE IS OUR C-130. A \$50 MILLION PROPELLER DRIVEN PLANE THAT CAN CARRY TROOPS, SUPPLIES AND LIGHT FIELD WEAPONS AND TRANSPORT VEHICLES, IT HAS BEEN A MAINSTAY OF OUR GLOBAL MILITARY ROLE.

IN THE LAST TWO DECADES OF THE LAST CENTURY THE AIR FORCE REQUESTED FIVE OF THESE PLANES BUT RECEIVED 262 OF THEM! "THEY ARE BUILT IN THE HOME DISTRICTS OF SOME OF CONGRESS'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS"¹¹, AND THE CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER MILITARY NEEDS. IN SUCH CASES THE FAILURE OF THE CONGRESS TO ARTICULATE AND PURSUE OUR NATIONAL INTEREST IS ALL TOO EVIDENT.

* * *

READING REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ON A STEADY BASIS USUALLY REVEALS THE EXISTENCE OF A SUBTLE

FORM OF DECEPTION WHICH SHADES THE TRUTH AND OF WHICH M.O.C.'S READERS SHOULD BE AWARE.

“ . . . THEY PROVIDE A WAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DISCLOSE THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IT SPENDS”

FIRST IS THE USE OF EMERGENCY SPENDING BILLS DESIGNED TO COVER THE COSTS OF UNFORESEEABLE INTERNAL CATASTROPHES SUCH AS FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, FIRES, TORNADOES ETC. THESE COSTS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET OR THE ANNUAL DEFICIT, BUT ARE ADDED TO THE NATIONAL DEBT. THE BILLS THAT AUTHORIZE THIS FORM OF SPENDING ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “SUPPLEMENTALS”. THEY PROVIDE A WAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DISCLOSE THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IT SPENDS, A PRIME EXAMPLE BEING PRES. BUSH II'S FUNDING OF THE WAR IN IRAQ ENTIRELY BY EMERGENCY SPENDING BILLS.

ANOTHER TRICK TAKES PLACE IN THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT DEFINES INFLATION WHICH ACTS AS A KEY ELEMENT IN DETERMINING PAYMENTS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY (SS) AND OTHER PROGRAMS. DURING THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION INFLATION MEASUREMENTS WERE CHANGED TO REDUCE INDEXED SS PAYMENTS WITH THE RESULT THAT WE NOW HAVE TWO BASES FOR REPORTING — THE BROAD-BASED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) AND THE MORE NARROW CORE INFLATION WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE FOOD AND ENERGY.

AS THESE LAST TWO ITEMS ACCOUNT FOR A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY'S BUDGET, THEIR EXCLUSION LOWERS THE RATE OF INFLATION, COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES AND INTEREST RATES. SUPERMARKET SHOPPERS AND GAS PURCHASERS HAVE EXPERIENCED CONSISTENT PRICE INCREASES IN RECENT YEARS, AND THE CPI HAS SHOWN ANNUAL INCREASES DOUBLE THAT OF CORE INFLATION.

FINALLY, OUR GOVERNMENT AGAIN USES TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS TO REPORT ON ITS BUDGETS. THERE IS THE AUDITED FEDERAL BUDGET WHICH EMPLOYS THE ACCRUAL METHOD OF ACCOUNTING FOR REVENUES AND LIABILITIES AS THEY ARE INCURRED. THE OTHER METHOD IS THE OFFICIAL BUDGET CALCULATED ON A CASH BASIS THAT TREATS ONLY ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED AND EXPENSES PAID.

THIS LAST BASIS PAINTS A FAR ROSIER PICTURE OF OUR FINANCIAL CONDITION THAN THAT PRESENTED BY THE AUDITED FEDERAL BUDGET. IN FACT, DUAL REPORTING BY THE TREASURY DEPT. HAS REVEALED SOME STARTLING DIFFERENCES SUCH AS IN THE NINE YEAR PERIOD 1997-2005 THE AUDITED FEDERAL BUDGET INDICATED DEFICITS OF \$2.9 TRILLION AS COMPARED TO THE OFFICIAL BUDGET'S \$729 BILLION.¹² THE DIFFERENCES ARE, INDEED, DRAMATIC, BUT EVEN IF THEY WERE FAR MORE MODEST, THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR KEEPING TWO SETS OF BOOKS.

THE LOWER FIGURE IS USEFUL TO CONGRESS BECAUSE IT MAKES PASSAGE OF A BILL AND FUNDING OF PROGRAMS

EASIER TO OBTAIN, BUT THE ABUSE FACTOR IS HIGH AND GETTING HIGHER. WE HAVE TRACKED THE GROWTH OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER OVER THE TIME FROM ITS FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT TO ITS COMPLETION. IT WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED AT A COST OF \$265 MILLION, BUT ATTRACTED A LOT OF CONGRESSIONAL SELF-GLORIFICATION AND EGO-EXERCISING ADDITIONS, AND ENDED UP COSTING OVER \$600 MILLION.¹³

GOING PUBLIC

THE FIRST STEP IN DEALING WITH ANY PROBLEM IS TO RECOGNIZE IT. WITH POPULATION, ITS LACK OF EXPOSURE AND DISCUSSION THROUGH THE USUAL PUBLIC CHANNELS OF GOVERNMENT, MEDIA, COMMERCE, EDUCATION, RELIGION, ETC. HAVE WORKED TO KEEP IT OUT OF BOTH SIGHT AND MIND.

TO COUNTER THIS, THE WRITER HAS JOINED WITH AUTHOR/TEACHER FROSTY WOOLDRIDGE (THE NEXT ONE HUNDRED MILLION AMERICANS) TO PUT TOGETHER A TEAM OF OVER THIRTY PROFESSIONALS FROM POLITICS, SCIENCE AND ACADEMIA WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE KEY TO ANY ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE FULL NATURE AND SCOPE OF RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULATION ON SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD — OURS INCLUDED!

THE INFORMATION EMPHASIZED BY THESE LEADERS IN THEIR FIELDS IS STARTLING NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS FACTUAL SCIENTIFIC CONTENT, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO RELATE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HUMANITY'S DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST THREE THOUSAND YEARS TO OUR PLANET'S NATURAL CAPACITY FOR SUPPORTING AND INTERACTING WITH ITS NATIVE LIFE FORMS.

WE THINK THAT OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR FELLOW CITIZENS ARE POORLY SERVED BY THE POLICY OF OFFICIAL SILENCE ON THE TOPIC OF POPULATION INCREASE AND ARE COMMITTED TO REVERSING IT. TO THIS END WE SEEK EDITORIAL COMMENT IN OUR PRINT MEDIA AND HAVE ALSO SENT INFORMATION PACKAGES TO THE PRODUCERS OF ALL THE LEADING OPINION/INTERVIEW RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS REQUESTING THAT THEY DEVOTE A PROGRAM, OR PROGRAMS, TO A DEBATE OR SYMPOSIUM ON POPULATION FEATURING MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP.

AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PUSH POPULATION ONTO THE POLITICAL STAGE. WE DO,

HOWEVER, WANT TO MOVE IT TOWARDS PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE AS AN ISSUE OF INTEREST AND CONCERN THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD.

WE CAN MAKE ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FORM OF DISCUSSION. LOCAL NEWS INTERESTS, PRIVATE GROUPS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ARE ALL IDEAL VENUES. SCHOOLS/UNIVERSITIES ARE WELL SUITED BECAUSE FACULTY MEMBERS CAN BE INVOLVED ALONG WITH STUDENTS IN BOTH PRESENTATION AND QUESTION/ANSWER PERIODS.

PLEASE GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO HOW OUR PROGRAM COULD BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY. FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN TAKING THE NEXT STEP, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE A LIST OF OUR PARTICIPATING EXPERTS WITH INFORMATION AS TO THEIR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE AND ONLINE ACCESS TO THEIR PUBLISHED WORK.

TODAY, THE GLOBAL EXISTENCE OF “OFF-THE-CHART” POPULATION GROWTH IS NOT MERE THEORY. IT IS A FACT, AND ONE THAT WE MUST COME TO UNDERSTAND.

ITS CONSEQUENCES HAVE ONLY RECENTLY BEGUN TO BE RECOGNIZED ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN SILENTLY AT WORK BENEATH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS LEVEL FOR THE PAST TWO CENTURIES. THE ISSUE OF UNSUSTAINABLE, GEOMETRIC POPULATION INCREASE CANNOT BE KEPT OUT OF PUBLIC SIGHT AND AWARENESS FOREVER. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE IT NOW AND HAVE THE BENEFIT OF TIME ON OUR SIDE IN RESPONDING TO IT, OR WHETHER WE DEFER TO CHANCE, LET NATURE SET THE SCHEDULE AND FIND OURSELVES WITH NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE MEANS FOR A VALID RESPONSE.

THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT AN ISSUE TO IGNORE. WE ARE GOING TO KEEP KNOCKING ON ALL THE CLOSED DOORS UNTIL WE OPEN ONE, AND THEN ANOTHER. THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A CONVERSATION ABOUT POPULATION’S NUMBERS AND CONSEQUENCES IN AMERICA, AND WE INTEND TO START IT. PLEASE CONTACT THE AUTHOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND/OR THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING AWARENESS TO YOUR COMMUNITY.

IMPORTANT

EDITOR’S NOTE

LAST FALL IN A LETTER TO M.O.C. SUBSCRIBERS, I INDICATED THAT M.O.C. WOULD TERMINATE AFTER ITS JULY ISSUE AND WOULD BE REPLACED BY AN ELECTRONIC ONLINE VERSION.

I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEND THE TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO DO THIS, AND CONVERSATIONS WITH SUBSCRIBERS GENERALLY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE M.O.C. CONTINUE IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

CONSEQUENTLY, AS THE YEAR AHEAD WILL IMPACT US WITH NEW LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, WE WILL STAY WITH OUR QUARTERLY COMMENTARY FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR (I.E. THRU THE JULY ‘11 ISSUE).

WITH APOLOGIES FOR THE “FALSE ALARM” AND THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINING INTEREST.

B.A.

END NOTES

- ¹ AARP BULLETIN, MARCH 2010. SOURCES: U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INSURANCE INDUSTRY, TRIAL LAWYERS, DOCTORS/HOSPITALS AND FOOD/BEVERAGE.
- ² WASTE WATCH, WINTER 2009, FROM CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE
- ³ PALM BEACH POST 3/6/10
- ⁴ ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA PALM BEACH POST 2/25/10
- ⁵ CF. NOTE 2 ABOVE
- ⁶ BILL MOYERS JOURNAL, PBS 3/26/10
- ⁷ IBID
- ⁸ SCYLLA & CHARYBDIS REFER TO A ROCK AND WHIRLPOOL THAT THREATENED MYTHOLOGICAL MARINERS IN THE STRAIT OF MESSINA. THEY ARE USED IN CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE TO SIGNIFY TWO EQUALLY PERILOUS ALTERNATIVES, NEITHER OF WHICH CAN BE PASSED WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING AND PROBABLY FALLING VICTIM TO THE OTHER. – WEBSTER’S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY, 1996
- ⁹ CF. NOTE 2 ABOVE
- ¹⁰ CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE. LETTER 3/15/10 FROM SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN.
- ¹¹ IBID
- ¹² CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE, LETTER 5/28/08
- ¹³ WASTE WATCH, FALL 2009, FROM CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

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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