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THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

OUR COUNTRY'S TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY IS NOT A HAPPY ONE. WE FIND OURSELVES BESET WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN AND OTHERS' MAKING BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. SOME ARE STRUCTURAL, SOME ARE CONSTITUTIONAL, SOME POLITICAL AND OTHERS SIMPLY MANAGERIAL. THEY ARE NOT BEYOND SOLUTION, BUT HAVE PROVEN TO BE BEYOND THE EFFECTIVE REACH OF OUR ELECTED GOVERNMENT.

AS WE EMBARK UPON YEAR 238, OUR PROMISE IS DIMMED, OUR POLITICS BITTER, OUR RESPECT DIMINISHED, OUR TREASURE DEPLETED, OUR FOCUS NARROW, OUR CULTURE UNDER ASSAULT FROM BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN FORCES, OUR PEOPLE DIVIDED, OUR IDENTITY BLURRED, OUR CONSTITUTION DISTORTED AND MANY OF OUR FOUNDATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ABUSED AND/OR HIJACKED.

THIS IS A LONG AND PAINFUL, BUT NOT EVEN COMPLETE, BILL OF PARTICULARS WHICH WE CITE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR VIEWING OUR 237 YEAR OLD AMERICA. THE MOST CRITICAL, PERHAPS, IS OUR BLURRED NATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY BECAUSE IT AFFECTS ALL THE OTHERS, AND BECAUSE IT HAS SUFFERED THE MOST.

AMERICA HAS BEEN A NATION OF QUITE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNIQUE GOOD FORTUNE IN WHICH MOST OF ITS CITIZENS AND GUESTS HAVE TAKEN JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE. TODAY, AS OUR GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ITS POSTWAR PROCESS

OF DETERIORATION, IT IS MARKED MORE BY ITS INABILITY TO ENGAGE AND ACHIEVE THAN BY ACCOMPLISHMENT.

HISTORY HAS BEEN A MOSTLY KIND AND CONSISTENT BENEFACTOR TO THE US THROUGH THE YEARS AND WE WILL HAVE TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO ITS LESSONS. HAD OUR GOVERNMENT DONE THE SAME, IT COULD HAVE AVOIDED MUCH OF THE DELUSION, MISJUDGMENT AND PARALYSIS THAT HAVE COME TO DOMINATE ITS ACTIONS OR LACK THEREOF.

BUT HISTORY OFTEN IS ALSO AN UNSTABLE MIX OF PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONS, RELIGION, WEALTH, AMBITION, POWER, CULTURE AND MORE. LIKE ALL COMPLEX PROCESSES IN MOTION, IT REQUIRES THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND ITS PERSPECTIVE FOR ANY REALLY VALID CONCLUSIONS. MEN MAY COMMIT ACTS THAT MAKE HISTORY, BUT THEIR LIFE SPAN IS RARELY LONG ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ITS PERSPECTIVE.

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IN OUR AMERICAN HISTORY THERE IS ONE SEQUENCE OF RELATED EVENTS THAT OVERWHELMS ALL OTHERS IN IMPORTANCE IN OUR DEVELOPMENT — IN WHAT WE DID AND WHAT WE BECAME IN THE PROCESS.

THIS SEQUENCE BEGINS WITH THE RELIGIOUS WARS IN ENGLAND WHICH PROMPTED GROUPS OF COLONISTS TO LEAVE AND SETTLE IN "THE NEW WORLD" AND ESTABLISH COLONIES BASED

IN THIS ISSUE: WE COMMENCE A DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF OUR GOVERNMENT. AND AT THE END WE HAVE INCLUDED AN ENLIGHTENING QUOTATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF TURKEY, OUR FOREIGN POLICY KEYSTONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: WE WILL CONTINUE WITH PART 2 WHICH EXAMINES GOVERNMENT FAILURE MORE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, RATHER THAN THE INSTITUTIONAL, LEVEL.

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ON FREEDOM AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT. THEY WERE UNIQUELY ABLE TO PICK AND CHOOSE FROM THEIR ENGLISH HERITAGE THOSE LAWS, CUSTOMS AND POLITICS WHICH THEY DEEMED USEFUL AND FAIR AND TO REJECT OTHERS SUCH AS ROYAL AUTHORITY/PREROGATIVE FROM WHICH THEY WERE FLEEING.

THAT WAS THE HUMAN SIDE OF OUR GREAT HISTORICAL EQUATION. THE OTHER, AND EVEN MORE DOMINANT, ELEMENT WAS NATURAL. IT WAS THE AVAILABILITY IN PRETTY MUCH ITS ORIGINAL, PRISTINE STATE OF A TEMPERATE ZONE CONTINENT PROTECTED BY TWO OCEANS AND CONTAINING LITERALLY UNIMAGINABLE RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, FOOD, TIMBER, MINERALS AND THE WEALTH THAT COULD BE DERIVED FROM THEM.

NO OTHER NATION HAD SUCH AN ORIGIN. THE EARLIEST COLONISTS AND THOSE WHO CAME AFTER THEM WERE ABLE TO CREATE THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENTS, TO BASICALLY DRAW THEIR OWN MAPS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES, RIGHTS OF WAY OR OWNERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY PRIOR USAGE OR GENERATIONS.

OUR AMERICAN CONTINENT WAS NOT COMPLETELY PRISTINE. THERE WAS THE MATTER OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION WHICH HAD A PRIOR CLAIM, BUT THE EUROPEANS' ADVANTAGES OF TECHNOLOGY, WEAPONRY AND DISEASE FOR WHICH THE INDIAN TRIBES HAD NO IMMUNITY ASSURED THEIR ELIMINATION. THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES WERE TIMES OF INTENSE RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT ASPECTS OF DIVINE INTENTION AND DELIVERANCE WERE DISCERNED BY THE COLONISTS. THIS VIEW OF THEIR EXPERIENCE CULMINATED IN THE NEW WORLD ALSO BEING REFERRED TO AS THE NEW EDEN. BOTH THE NAME AND BELIEF WERE SUPPORTED BY CLERGY AND SURVIVED INTO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. IN THE PROCESS THEY SPAWNED TWO MOVEMENTS EACH UNDER THE NAME OF THE GREAT AWAKENING WHICH VIEWED AMERICA AS THE NEW EDEN AND PRECURSOR TO A NEW CHRISTIAN SOCIETY. THAT WAS A VIEW WHICH, AS IT TURNS OUT, WOULD BE HARD TO COME BY TODAY.

AMERICA'S WESTWARD EXPANSION WAS THE COUNTRY'S DRIVING ECONOMIC FORCE FROM ITS FORMATION UNTIL JUST BEFORE WWI WHEN AZ WAS THE LAST OF OUR CONTIGUOUS STATES TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UNION. BUT IT CONTROLLED OUR DESTINY IN MORE THAN JUST ECONOMIC WAYS. IT ALSO SERVED AS A MAJOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FORCE OF THAT

TIME BY THE PROCESS OF FIRST ESTABLISHING TERRITORIES AND THEN CONVERTING THEM TO STATEHOOD.

THIS PROCEDURE WAS NOT AN EASY ONE AS IT REQUIRED THE WILLINGNESS OF SETTLERS TO COMBINE INTO TERRITORIES, WORK TOGETHER COOPERATIVELY AND THEN TO FURTHER JOIN THEIR INTERESTS TO APPLY FOR, MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF AND PROVIDE THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR STATEHOOD.

NO TWO TERRITORIES WERE EXACTLY ALIKE AND EACH FROM THEIR EARLIEST BEGINNINGS HARBORED A WIDE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL, BANKING, AGRICULTURAL, RANCHING AND RELIGIOUS INTERESTS. THE LURE AND THE GLUE THAT MADE IT ALL WORK WAS THE FEELING SHARED BY EVERYONE THAT THEY WERE ENGAGED IN A COMMON ENTERPRISE — THE BUILDING OF A NATION.

THIS TENDENCY TO SEE THEMSELVES AS PARTS OF A LARGER WHOLE HAD SIMMERED THROUGHOUT THE COLONIES PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THEN SURFACED IN FULL BLOOM WITH THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (DI). THE SIX YEARS BETWEEN CORNWALLIS' SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN AND THE ADOPTION OF OUR CONSTITUTION WERE DIFFICULT ONES FOR THE THIRTEEN COLONIES. VEXING PROBLEMS, AS DIFFICULT AS THOSE WE FACE TODAY, REGARDING DEBT, TAXATION, POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, DIPLOMACY, LEGISLATION, FISCAL/MONETARY POLICIES, ETC. ALL HAD TO BE DEALT WITH AND RESOLVED.

“... THE CONCEPT OF A DOMINANT NATIONAL INTEREST PREVAILED.”

AND THERE WERE NO BINDING PRECEDENTS. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, OUR FOUNDERS COULD CHOOSE THEIR OWN WAY. STRONG DIFFERENCE OF OPINION CONTINUED WELL AFTER THE CONSTITUTION WAS RATIFIED AND INTO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, BUT THROUGH IT ALL THE CONCEPT OF A DOMINANT NATIONAL INTEREST PREVAILED.

THERE WAS, OF COURSE, ONE EXCEPTION AND THAT WAS SLAVERY WHICH DIVIDED STATES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND TERRITORIES AS WELL AS OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FACED EARLIER BY THE FOUNDERS, BUT IT WAS SO ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY DISRUPTIVE THAT THEY GAVE IT A PASS. UNFORTUNATELY, AS THE COUNTRY GREW, SO ALSO DID SLAVERY UNTIL EVENTUALLY IT HAD TO BE DECIDED BY OUR CIVIL WAR. EVEN THEN,

AS THE SOUTH HAD SECEDED FROM THE UNION, THE NATIONAL INTEREST WAS PURSUED AND THE UNION PRESERVED.

NO ELEMENT OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE FAILED TO JOIN IN OUR NATIONAL EXPANSION AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST WHICH WAS ASCRIBED TO IT. IT PULLED PEOPLE TOGETHER AND CREATED A KIND OF PATRIOTISM AND SPIRIT THAT HAS LONG SINCE VANISHED AND WITHOUT WHICH WE ARE SMALLER AND POORER.

AND IN MANY WAYS, NOT ALWAYS READILY VISIBLE, IT SERVED AS A KEY FORCE IN FORMING AND EXPRESSING OUR NATIONAL CULTURE. AT THOSE CRITICAL TIMES WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO ASK OURSELVES WHO AND WHAT WE ARE, OUR NATIONAL EFFORT TO CLOSE OUR FRONTIER IS A READY SOURCE OF ANSWERS.

THIS TASK WAS NOT AN EASY ONE AND PROVED EXPENSIVE FOR ALL CONCERNED — THE SETTLERS, THE NATIVE AMERICANS OF PRIOR RIGHT, THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA AND THE LAND, ITSELF. THERE ARE TIMES IN HISTORY WHEN IT SEEMS THAT NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH FOR “PROGRESS” AND THIS WAS ONE OF THEM, FOR MUCH OF OUR “PROGRESS” WAS IMPOSED AT GUNPOINT TO ESTABLISH OWNERSHIP, TO REMOVE THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS AND TO PREPARE THE LAND AND ITS SPECIES FOR COMMERCE, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

NOT WITHSTANDING THE METHODS USED, THE PROGRESS THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WAS NOTHING SHORT OF MIRACULOUS, AS WITHIN A PERIOD OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A CENTURY (1789-1912) OUR LANDMASS WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE ADDITION OF INDUSTRY, ROAD/RAIL/RIVER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, MINES, VAST RANCHES, AGRICULTURE, POPULATION, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT AND “LAW AND ORDER” IN VARYING DEGREE AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND PLACES.

ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND IDENTITIES ARE NOW PART OF OUR CULTURAL DNA AND MUST BE CONSIDERED WHEN WE ENGAGE MATTERS IN WHICH CULTURE PLAYS A KEY ROLE — POLITICS, GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RELIGION, EDUCATION AND THEIR SUBSETS.

CULTURAL AND TRIBAL MARKERS ARE VITAL IN DETERMINING IDENTITY. WE SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THEM BECAUSE AT THIS TIME IN OUR HISTORY NEITHER OUR GOVERNMENT NOR THE PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO SEE AND PROJECT THE NATION’S IDENTITY (AND, THEREFORE, INTEREST) CLEARLY.

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POSTWAR RUMBLINGS

AT THE END OF WWII THE US OCCUPIED A TRULY UNIQUE POSITION IN THE WORLD. ITS GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) ACCOUNTED FOR 50% OF THE WORLD’S TOTAL. ITS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY WAS UNTOUCHED BY FOUR YEARS OF WAR AND WAS READILY CONVERTED BACK TO A CIVILIAN ECONOMY. ITS CURRENCY WAS ENVIABLY STRONG AND STABLE AND ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING THE WORLD’S RESERVE. IT

WAS THE WORLD’S LARGEST LENDER AND WILLING TO FUND INTERNATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NECESSARY TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR’S DAMAGE.

IT ENJOYED A POPULATION OF ABOUT 150 MILLION WHICH MATCHED THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF ITS LANDMASS. IT HAD ACCUMULATED SUBSTANTIAL DEBT TO PAY FOR ITS WAR EFFORT, BUT WAS ABLE TO QUICKLY AND PEACEFULLY SET TAX POLICY AND RATES THAT WOULD PERMIT ITS ORDERLY AND PROMPT REPAYMENT.

IT HAD A SKILLED AND INDUSTRIOUS WORK FORCE THAT WAS ABLE TO REPOSITION ITSELF AS THE PROSPEROUS BACKBONE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS, ALTHOUGH THE TRANSITION WAS NOT ALWAYS SMOOTH. LABOR HAD WORKED UNDER WARTIME WAGE RESTRICTIONS FOR FOUR YEARS AND WAS PUSHED TO SEEK INCREASES BY ITS POWERFUL LEADERSHIP. WHEN MANAGEMENT RESISTED, STRIKES RESULTED. THE THREE DECADES AFTER THE WAR WERE GENERALLY ONES OF INCREASING UNION MEMBERSHIP AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER THAT GREATLY IMPROVED THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS’ STATUS OVER WHAT IT HAD BEEN DURING THE WANING YEARS OF PEACE AND THE GD.

HAVING CONVERTED TO A PEACETIME ECONOMY AND LACKING COMPETITION IN MOST AREAS OF COMMERCE, AMERICA WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE AND SELL PRODUCTS OF EVERY TYPE, PRICE, COLOR, SIZE, PURPOSE, ETC. FOR BOTH CIVILIAN AND INDUSTRIAL MARKETS. THIS WAS A TIME OF GOLDEN ADVANTAGE, BOUND TO END AS WAR-RAVAGED ECONOMIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA WERE ABLE TO REPAIR THEIR DAMAGES AND RETURN TO THE MARKET.

THE WORLD’S POLITICAL STAGE AND THEATRE HAD TO BE REPAIRED TOO, AS MANY OF THE EUROPEAN POWERS’ COLONIAL OUTPOSTS WERE LOST DURING THE WAR AND THOSE THAT SURVIVED WERE DOOMED TO FOLLOW.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WAR TWO EXTRA-ORDINARY EVENTS TOOK PLACE DESIGNED TO DIFFERENTIATE THE POSTWAR WORLD FROM ITS PREDECESSOR THAT VANISHED IN 1939. THE FIRST WAS ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE — THE NUREMBERG TRIALS CONDUCTED BY THE VICTORS TO ASSIGN BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE GUILT FOR WARTIME “CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY”.

THE LATTER CONSTITUTED A NEW LEGAL APPROACH TO PUNISHING INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION WHICH, IT WAS HOPED, WOULD SERVE AS A FUTURE DETERRENT. IT HAS NOW SURVIVED THE TEST OF TWO GENERATIONS OF TIME, BUT WAS NOT ASSURED SUCCESS AT ITS BEGINNING. THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS WERE NEW, AND SOMETIMES SEEMED TENTATIVE, BUT THE IMAGES OF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND IN FULL DRESS LISTENING TO THE CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST THEM ARE MEMORABLE AND HAVE NOT LOST ANY OF THEIR ORIGINAL IMPACT.

ALL IN ALL, THE NUREMBERG TRIALS AND THEIR CONDUCT REPRESENT A DECIDED STEP FORWARD IN OUR CIVILIZATION’S WAY OF THINKING.

FOR THE SECOND EVENT, WE TURN WESTWARD TO SAN FRANCISCO AND THE FOUNDING OF THE UN. RATHER THAN AN ATTEMPT, LIKE NUREMBERG, TO DETERMINE GUILT AND IMPOSE

PUNISHMENT, THE UN ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF FORUM AND LEGISLATIVE CAPABILITY NEEDED TO DEVELOP A WORLD BODY WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD SHUN AGGRESSION AS A WAY TO SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS. IT WAS ALSO INTENDED THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT WITHIN THE UN WOULD BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO EXTEND BEYOND ITS MEMBERSHIP TO NON-MEMBER STATES.

WORLD HISTORY, ESPECIALLY EUROPEAN, HAS A LENGTHY RECORD OF PACTS, TREATIES, CONGRESSES, AND CONCORDATS, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS BROUGHT DOWN BY THE ALLIANCES OR WITHDRAWALS THAT INVARIABLY FOLLOWED THEM AND BECAME THE CAUSES FOR NEW WAR AND AGGRESSION.

THE UN, WITH THE FRESH MEMORY OF THE FAILURE OF WILSON'S "OPEN COVENANTS, OPENLY ARRIVED AT" AT THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES (1919) AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS CREATED BY IT, SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALERT TO MANY OF THE PROBLEMS AND PITFALLS THAT AWAITED IT. SADLY, IT WASN'T.

AMERICA AND, TO A SOMEWHAT LESSER BUT STILL REAL EXTENT, ITS ALLIES, WHICH AT THAT TIME INCLUDED RUSSIA AND CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S CHINA, WERE CAUGHT UP IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF POSTWAR CAMARADERIE — SOME GENUINE AND SOME CLEARLY OPPORTUNISTIC. WHAT RESULTED WAS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION, A GENERAL ASSEMBLY INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES; AND A SECURITY COUNCIL WHOSE PURPOSE WAS SEVERELY ALTERED AND LIMITED BY THE RUSSIANS' AND CHINESE USE OF THE VETO.

WITH THE FALL OF CHIANG, HIS RETREAT TO TAIWAN AND MAO TSE-TUNG'S VICTORY IN MAINLAND CHINA, VETOES, WHICH THE WESTERN POWERS HAD THOUGHT WOULD BE RARELY USED, BECAME A MAINSTREAM TECHNIQUE AT THE UN.

“... WE FOUND OURSELVES HAVING EXCHANGED HITLER AND HIROHITO FOR STALIN AND MAO.”

IN LESS THAN A DECADE AFTER THE END OF WWII, HOSTILITIES AND TENSIONS ROSE AGAIN AND AMERICA FOUND ITSELF AT WAR IN KOREA. THE UNSETTLED POSTWAR CONDITIONS WHICH WE HAD HOPED THE UN COULD RESOLVE WERE VIEWED BY THE LEADERS OF WORLD COMMUNISM AS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE IGNORED. IN THE HIGH STAKES INTERNATIONAL CARD GAME OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WE FOUND OURSELVES HAVING EXCHANGED HITLER AND HIROHITO FOR STALIN AND MAO.

THE COLD WAR HAD BEGUN. IT WAS NOT ONE OF GREAT SEA, AIR OR LAND BATTLES, AS THEY WERE TOO EXPENSIVE DIPLOMATICALLY AND MILITARILY WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY ON BOTH SIDES. IRONICALLY IT BEGAN AND WAS WAGED IN THE LOUNGES, COMMITTEES, DEPARTMENTS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY/SECURITY COUNCIL SESSIONS OF THE UN. THERE WERE BORDER SKIRMISHES, THE USE OF INSURGENT GROUPS AND PROXY WARS WHEN NECESSARY, BUT THE REAL ACTIONS, THE ONES THAT PREVENTED PEACE, TOOK PLACE AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NYC WHERE AGREEMENT WAS HARD TO COME BY AND PRINCIPLE OFTEN HAD TO BE TRADED AWAY.

GOVERNMENT IS RARELY EASY AND GOVERNMENTS, THEMSELVES, ARE RISKY THINGS INEVITABLY MARKED BY THE CURSE OF HUMAN USE OR ABUSE OF POWER. SOME ENDURE; OTHERS FAIL AND THEIR OFFSPRING ARE LEFT TO PICK UP THE PIECES AND START AGAIN.

WWII PRODUCED THE CONCEPT OF PUNISHMENT FOR PAST "CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY" BY PROSECUTING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL COURT. IT SUCCEEDED AND CONTINUES TODAY AT THE HAGUE.

THE SAME WAR SPAWNED A VIEW OF THE FUTURE BASED ON A COOPERATIVE, SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATION ALONG THE LINES OF "A PARLIAMENT OF NATIONS". THIS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS SUCCESSFUL, AS IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME THE POWERFUL CULTURAL, TRIBAL AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES WITHIN ITS MEMBERSHIP THAT HAVE TRACKED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SINCE ITS EARLIEST TIMES.

WHILE THE UN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT LOCAL HOSTILITIES, IT HAS PROVIDED A USEFUL PRESENCE FOR DISCUSSION/NEGOTIATION. IT IS BY NO MEANS A FAILURE, BUT IS VIEWED BY MANY AS A DISAPPOINTMENT. IT HAS FALLEN PREY TO THE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE POLITICS OF ITS POSITION AND HAS BECOME A HIGHLY CORRUPT AND BLOATED BUREAUCRACY.

THESE TWO POSTWAR EVENTS, NUREMBERG AND THE UN, HAD DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS AND DIFFERENT OUTCOMES, BUT THEY CAN BE USEFUL IN EXAMINING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT PROBLEMS AND PRACTICES.

THE GREAT BETRAYALS

WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THOSE LAST WORDS WHICH WE USED TO DESCRIBE THE UN — CORRUPT, BLOATED AND BUREAUCRATIC — AS THEY ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO OUR GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS BASED ON THE BELIEF STATED IN THE DI THAT "GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED." THAT'S IT. CONSENT, OR LACK OF IT, IS EXPRESSED BY THE PEOPLE'S VOTES AND IN RETURN FOR THEM AND THEIR POWER OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE GOOD GOVERNMENT IN THE NATION'S, AND THE PEOPLE'S, INTEREST.

THIS IS NOT A BELIEF HELD WIDELY IN WASHINGTON TODAY. OTHER SOURCES OF POWER THAT BYPASS THE BALLOT BOX ARE CONSTANTLY AT WORK IN OUR GOVERNMENT AND, AS EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS CAN SEEK AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE SOURCES, THE OPERATION, THE SPIRIT AND THE POWER OF OUR CONGRESS HAS BECOME MORE DIFFUSE, MORE INDIVIDUALLY EXERCISED, MORE CONTENTIOUS AND LESS PRODUCTIVE.

WE AMERICANS ARE AT A STAGE OF BOTH OUR AND THE WORLD'S HISTORY WHEN WE FACE EXTRAORDINARY PROBLEMS WITH POTENTIALLY SEVERE CONSEQUENCES: RAPIDLY INCREASING POPULATION, UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING, RESOURCE DEPLETION, GUN CONTROL, RUNAWAY DEBT AND CONTINUING MILITARY

INTERVENTIONS AS INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY.

THE LIST GOES ON. IT IS STRIKING IN ITS BREADTH; IT IS EVEN MORE STRIKING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL DEBATE OR ACTION WITHIN CONGRESS TO RESPOND TO THESE THREATS. THIS IS OUR GREAT BETRAYAL OF OUR ELECTORAL “CONSENT” AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT BASED UPON IT. THE PEOPLE’S AND THE NATION’S INTERESTS HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE IGNORED.

WE HAVE SPEECHES, PHOTO-OPS AND EVERY KIND OF MEDIA OPPORTUNITY ON A 24/7 BASIS, BUT WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS OFFERED A DEBATE OF A MAJOR ISSUE AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF LEGISLATIVE PASSAGE? WE HAVE ALL THE MEDIA CAPABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY TO STRENGTHEN THE CITIZEN/GOVERNMENT BOND, BUT IT JUST DOESN’T WORK THAT WAY BECAUSE THE VAST AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND POWER THAT FLOW THROUGH OUR SYSTEM NOW DO NOT ENCOURAGE IT.

AND, OF COURSE, TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE ALTERNATE SOURCES, CARE MUST BE EXERCISED NOT TO OFFEND. THE RESULT IS A KIND OF PERMANENT GRIDLOCK FOR IMPORTANT ISSUES. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME CAN BE SET EVERY YEAR; CONGRESSIONAL COMPENSATION/BENEFITS GET REGULAR ATTENTION; AND BILLS OFFERING AN ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE VARIETY OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS AND INTERESTS HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING PASSED. MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS ARE SET ASIDE.

GUN CONTROL

THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT HAS REVERBERATED THROUGH CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC FOR MANY YEARS. THE PROBLEM IS AS OLD AS OUR FRONTIER DAYS AND WAS DEALT WITH IN ITS EARLIER STAGES ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS BY INDIVIDUAL STATES. IN THE 20TH CENTURY, HOWEVER, GUNS WERE PROMINENTLY USED IN CRIMES THAT VIOLATED FEDERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO DRUGS AND LIQUOR CONSUMPTION, BANK ROBBERY, KIDNAPPING, ETC. WHICH, ALONG WITH RANDOM OR TARGETED MASS KILLINGS, ELEVATED GUN CONTROL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NATURE AND ORIGINS OF OUR PRESENT GUN CONTROL PROBLEM WE MUST GO BACK TO OUR CENTURY OF WESTERN EXPANSION AND LIFE ON THE FRONTIER AS IT, AND WE, PUSHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ON THE FORWARD EDGE THERE WAS LITTLE IN THE FORM OF LAW ENFORCEMENT; ONLY A SHERIFF OR A JUDGE WHOSE TERMS WERE SUBJECT TO RECALL OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. THERE WAS NO MULTI-LEVEL, STATE AND FEDERAL JUDICIARY SYSTEM AND APPEALS PROCESS. BUT THERE WERE EVER PRESENT THREATS TO THE SETTLERS AND THEIR PROPERTY AND PEACE FROM WILDLIFE, NATIVE AMERICANS, CATTLE AND HORSE RUSTLERS, BANK ROBBERS, CON MEN, CARD SHARKS AND OTHERS LURED BY THE FRONTIER’S OPPORTUNITIES.

JUSTICE WAS AS OFTEN DELIVERED FROM A GUN AS A JUDGE, AND WEAPONS WERE WORN OR CARRIED IN PUBLIC. MOST IMPORTANTLY, GIVEN THE LIMITED LEGAL SYSTEMS

AND THE MANY CONFLICTS THAT COULD ARISE FROM MATTERS INVOLVING MONEY, SEX, LAND, LIVESTOCK, ALCOHOL, GAMBLING ETC., GUNS OFTEN DECIDED WHAT WAS RIGHT AND WHAT WAS WRONG ACROSS A VAST PART OF OUR COUNTRY. THE GUN, AND PERHAPS ESPECIALLY THE REVOLVER WORN DURING THE DAY AND KEPT BY THE OWNER’S PILLOW OR BLANKET ROLL AT NIGHT, WAS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF OUR 19TH CENTURY CULTURE.

SOME ASPECTS OF CULTURE, IF NOT REINFORCED, CAN BE INTENTIONALLY ERASED OR SIMPLY ALLOWED TO DIE OUT BY NEGLECT. WITH THE GUN CULTURE IN AMERICA JUST THE OPPOSITE HAS HAPPENED. IN THE 19TH, 20TH AND EVEN OUR PRESENT CENTURY THE GUN AS THE ARBITER, AND ITS OWNER AS HERO, OF OUR FRONTIER LIFE HAS BEEN PUBLICIZED, ROMANTICIZED AND COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED IN BOOKS, FILMS, TV AND EVERY OTHER SUITABLE MEDIA FORM.

IT WAS REFITTED AND EXTENDED TO URBAN MYTH IN THE GREAT GANGSTER FILMS OF THE 30S, IN THE POSTWAR “SPAGHETTI WESTERNS” PRODUCED CHEAPLY IN ITALY AND THEN AGAIN IN THE “BOLLYWOOD” FILMS IN INDIA FOR ITS HUGE MARKET.

“FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE ISSUE OF GUN OWNERSHIP AND USE IN AMERICA IS A CULTURAL ONE.”

CONGRESS, LOCAL POLITICIANS, THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC ARGUE ENDLESSLY ABOUT GUN CONTROL. THEY FRAME IT AS A LEGAL (SECOND AMENDMENT) OR SECURITY ISSUE AND ARE UNABLE TO RESOLVE IT. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING, AS THEY ARE ON THE WRONG TRACK, BECAUSE SECOND AMENDMENT AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE PERIPHERAL ELEMENTS. FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE ISSUE OF GUN OWNERSHIP AND USE IN AMERICA IS A CULTURAL ONE.

THE YOUNG BOY BUYING, OR BEING GIVEN, HIS FIRST GUN DOES NOT THINK FOR EVEN A MOMENT ABOUT THE SECOND AMENDMENT OR PUBLIC SECURITY. HE DOES SEE HIMSELF AS A NEW MEMBER OF THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO OWN GUNS. THEIR EXPLOITS IN BOOKS OR FILMS OR FAMILY LORE HAVE ENTERTAINED AND ENTICED HIM IN HIS YOUTH, AND HE IS WILLING AND PROUD TO JOIN THEM.

GUN OWNERSHIP IN OUR CULTURE IS A RITE OF PASSAGE AND, FOR THOSE WHO UNDERTAKE IT, A POWERFUL ONE. IT WAS ENABLED BY THE TIME AND PLACE OF OUR NOW VANISHED FRONTIER, BUT LIVES ON IN OUR CULTURAL DNA WHERE IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL WE RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS.

WE TEND TO ASSOCIATE HISTORIC, TRADITIONAL GUN OWNERSHIP WITH THE OPEN RANCHES, FARMS AND MOUNTAIN SPACES OF OUR WEST AND, INDEED, THAT CONNECTION WAS A VALID ONE UNTIL THE PROLIFERATION OF ARMED, NATIONAL YOUTH GANGS IN OUR URBAN AREAS THAT COMMENCED ABOUT FORTY YEARS AGO. FOR THE INNER CITY 11, 12 OR 13 YEAR OLD DOING EARLY, ENTRY LEVEL TASKS IN THE DRUG TRADE, HIS FIRST GUN IS JUST AS POWERFUL AN OCCASION, IF NOT MORE SO, AS THAT OF HIS RURAL COUNTERPART.

THE GUN HAS BEEN AN ENDURING CULTURAL ICON IN

AMERICA FOR TWO CENTURIES. WE CREATED IT OUT OF NATURAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND, UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE PROMOTED AND EXPLOITED IT TO A LEVEL OF POPULAR IDENTIFICATION AND DEMAND THAT WILL BE BOTH DIFFICULT AND COSTLY TO DECREASE.

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WHY ONLY AMERICA? WHY ARE NOT OTHER CULTURES, ESPECIALLY WESTERN EUROPEAN ONES FROM WHICH WE INHERITED SO MUCH, DEFINED TO THE SAME EXTENT THAT WE ARE BY THE NEED FOR GUNS IN OUR HOMES, OUR LIVES, OUR EMOTIONS AND EVEN ON OUR PERSONS? SOME STATEMENTS, MADE BY GUN OWNERS DEFENDING THEIR RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED AGAINST ANY GOVERNMENT CONTROL OR RESTRICTION OF THEIR GUN OWNERSHIP, CLEARLY SHOW THE SINGULAR PSYCHOLOGICAL STRENGTH OF THE GUN'S CULTURAL STATUS IN AMERICA.

THE ANSWER IS PROBABLY ONE OF HISTORICAL TIMING. THE EUROPE FROM WHICH OUR PILGRIM FOREBEARS SEPARATED IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY WAS A PLACE OF MANY TIGHTLY DRAWN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND BORDERS, AND HAD BEEN THAT WAY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THERE WERE SIMPLY NO WIDE OPEN, UNCLAIMED SPACES WHERE LAND COULD BE HAD BY ITS TAKING AND THERE WAS NO INDIGENOUS POPULATION TO RESIST ITS TAKING.

BY CONTRAST, THOSE IN AMERICA WHO SET OUT FROM THE EAST COAST TO MAKE A NEW LIFE WERE LEAVING CIVILIZATION BEHIND. THEIR ONLY SUPPORT CAME FROM THEIR FELLOW TRAVELERS. THEY WERE SUBJECT TO ATTACK FROM THE NATIVE TRIBES AT ANY TIME AND FACED THE DANGER OF A HOSTILE WILDERNESS WITH UNKNOWN TERRORS.

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR WESTERN REGIONS MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT VERY DIFFERENTLY AND TAKEN MUCH LONGER HAD THE PIONEERS NOT HAD GUNS. IN THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF THE 19TH CENTURY GUN TECHNOLOGY PROGRESSED CONSIDERABLY AND WITH THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR THE COLT '45 "PEACEMAKER" REVOLVER AND WINCHESTER'S REPEATING LEVER ACTION RIFLE PROVIDED REAL ADVANTAGES IN ACCURACY, EASE AND SPEED OF OPERATION.

GUNS WERE, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF LIFE IN FRONTIER AMERICA. OVER FOUR CENTURIES THEY HAVE WORKED THEIR WAY INTO OUR HISTORY, OUR LAW, OUR ROMANCE AND OUR PSYCHE. THERE IS A DIRECT LINE OF DESCENT BETWEEN THE BLUNDERBUSS THAT HUNG OVER THE PILGRIMS' HEARTHES AND THE HIGH SPEED, AUTOMATIC AR-15 CARBINE THAT IS TODAY'S WEAPON OF CHOICE. THE ODDS ARE THAT THIS LINE WILL NOT EASILY BE BROKEN, ESPECIALLY IF CONGRESS CONTINUES TO LOOK IN THE WRONG PLACES FOR RESOLUTION.

IMMIGRATION

ANOTHER MASSIVE BETRAYAL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF

OUR IMMIGRATION PROBLEM. REGARDLESS OF THE POLITICAL ISSUE OF MORE VS. LESS IMMIGRATION, THE REAL OFFENSE TO OUR DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE OF SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW THAT HAS BEEN EMBRACED AND CONDONED BY BOTH PARTIES.

UNDER FOUR PRESIDENTS (BUSH I AND II, CLINTON AND OBAMA), COVERING JUST SHORT OF A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF OUR ELECTED GOVERNMENT HAVE REFUSED TO ENFORCE CURRENT IMMIGRATION LAW THAT HAS BEEN MOSTLY ON RECORD SINCE 1986. THIS NEGLIGENCE HAS BEEN SUSTAINED IN SPITE OF OPINION POLLS, BLUE RIBBON PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSIONS AND EFFORTS BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO HONOR OUR DULY AUTHORIZED LEGISLATION.

AN EVEN MORE OMINOUS NOTE ARISES FROM THE PRESENT DISCUSSION IN THE SENATE OF "COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM". ITS RECENTLY PASSED BILL, S. 744, HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY A GROUP OF EIGHT SENATORS, FOUR FROM EACH PARTY, AND RUNS TO OVER 1,100 PAGES IN LENGTH.

THE MOST OMINOUS ELEMENT IS THAT ITS LANGUAGE IS IMPRECISE AND CONTAINS NUMEROUS LOOPHOLES THAT COULD FAVOR ITS LACK OF ENFORCEMENT IN THE FUTURE.¹ AND, WHATEVER BILL EMERGES FROM PASSAGE IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE, THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE WILL REMAIN A CONTENTIOUS AND UNSETTLED ONE.

IT, TOO, LABORS UNDER CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS MANY OF WHICH ARE FAULTY. IMMIGRATION HAS PLAYED A COMPLICATED ROLE IN OUR ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN RECENT YEARS, UNDER THE PRESSURE OF SPECIAL INTEREST FUNDING OFTEN SUPPORTED BY CONGRESS WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS, THE ROLE AND IMAGE OF THE AMERICAN IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN HIJACKED AND DISTORTED FOR THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF A VARIETY OF SPECIAL INTERESTS.

LOOKING AHEAD, LOOK FOR OUR CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES TO CONTINUE THEIR DETERMINED DISENGAGEMENT FROM THE LARGER, MORE DEMANDING AND MORE THREATENING ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE. THIS, LIKE OTHERS, IS A BETRAYAL OF INACTION THAT WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE THINK S. 744 IS SO BAD IN SO MANY WAYS, THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO COMMENT ON IT HERE.

REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PARTY OR PREFERENCE CONCERNING MORE OR LESS IMMIGRATION, THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THIS LEGISLATION THAT DO NOT SERVE THE NATION'S INTEREST.

FIRST, THE BILL IS CONSTRUCTED WITH LANGUAGE THAT IS INTENTIONALLY DECEPTIVE. IT IS FILLED WITH EXCEPTIONS, VAGUE REQUIREMENTS AND LOOPHOLES WHICH WILL DELAY OR CONTRADICT THE CLAIMS MADE FOR IT BY ITS SPONSORS.

MUCH POWER UNDER THIS BILL IS ASSIGNED TO THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS), NOW JANET NAPOLITANO. SHE IS CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES BUT NOT WITH SPECIFICS FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. FOR INSTANCE, A PHRASE SUCH AS "THE SECRETARY SHALL TAKE ACTION TO ACHIEVE BORDER SECURITY AND SHALL CERTIFY THE SAME" IN THE WORLD OF

WASHINGTON POLITICS IS MEANINGLESS. AN INTENTION THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIFIC TIMES, ACTIONS, CRITERIA AND FUNDING METHODS CAN BE STALLED BY BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUCRACY.

S. 744 IS OVER ELEVEN HUNDRED PAGES OF VERY IMPRECISE LANGUAGE, AND INTENTIONALLY SO. THE RESULT OF THIS CONSTRUCTION WILL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE COUNTRY, AS IT WILL CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF SELECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT THAT HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE FOR 25 YEARS.

YOU MAY RECALL THAT BOTH PRES. BUSH II AND OBAMA TOOK ACTION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE BORDER PATROL AS RECOMMENDED IN S. 744, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, RESTRICTIONS WERE IMPOSED ON ITS AGENTS ACTIVITIES THAT OFFSET THE INCREASE IN NUMBERS AND BLUNTED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS A MEANS OF CONTROLLING BOTH THE FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE ISSUE, ITSELF.

ANOTHER INEVITABLE AND CONSIDERABLE CONSEQUENCE OF S. 744 IS THE POPULATION INCREASE IT WILL ACHIEVE. TODAY OUR POPULATION IS ABOUT 315 MILLION AND, WITHOUT ANY INCREASE FROM S.744, IS PROJECTED TO REACH 450 MILLION BY 2050. AS THE NEW REFORM BILL WILL LIKELY ADD AT LEAST 33 MILLION IN THE NEXT DECADE AND MORE THEREAFTER, AMERICA'S POPULATION BY MID-CENTURY COULD REACH OR EXCEED 500 MILLION². DIFFERENT INTERESTS HAVE DIFFERING VIEWS AS TO THE BENEFITS OF PERSISTENT POPULATION GROWTH, BUT THERE ARE TWO FACTORS NOW PRESENT THAT ARGUE AGAINST OUR EMBARKING UPON SUCH A LARGE INCREASE.

THE COUNTRY HAS BY NO MEANS RECOVERED FROM THE RECENT RECESSION AND MANY BUSINESSES AND WORKERS HAVE SUFFERED REAL ECONOMIC PAIN AND UPHEAVAL BY THE LOSS OF JOBS AND/OR HOMES. THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT TO INCREASE THE COMPETITION FOR WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE.

BUT IT IS NOT JUST THE ADDITIONS OF MANY MILLIONS OF MORE JOB SEEKERS THAT CREATES AN ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION. OUR SOCIAL STRUCTURE WILL ALSO BE DAMAGED BECAUSE THE NEW IMMIGRANT WAVE OF WORKERS WILL TARGET THOSE JOBS THAT SUPPORT THE LIVELIHOODS OF OUR LOWEST AND MOST THREATENED ECONOMIC LEVELS — OUR POOR, OUR UNEDUCATED AND OUR MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED. FOR THESE, UNDER S. 744, "THE AMERICAN DREAM", WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT AT BEST, AND SOMETIMES A NIGHTMARE, COULD VANISH COMPLETELY.

FINALLY, WE MUST LOOK AT WHAT S. 744'S PRESENT ATTEMPT AT IMMIGRATION REFORM REALLY IS. IT IS A MASSIVE ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE AMERICANS BY CLAIMING AND PROMOTING BENEFITS THAT ARE NOT ASSURED. MOST NOTABLY, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LEGALIZATION AND EVENTUAL CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE BILL ARE SO LACKING IN STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTANCE THAT THEY OPEN THE WHOLE PROCESS TO FRAUD AT MULTIPLE LEVELS.

THE MATTER OF FINES FOR ILLEGAL PRESENCE OFFERS A GOOD EXAMPLE. THE AMOUNT IS SET AT A TOKEN

LEVEL OF \$500 WHICH IS SUBJECT TO BEING STRETCHED OUT OVER AN UNSPECIFIED LENGTH OF TIME. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS LATER STATED THAT SECTY. NAPOLITANO CAN UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, ALSO UNSPECIFIED, REDUCE THIS AMOUNT OR ELIMINATE IT COMPLETELY.

AS PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE EITHER THE WILL OR THE CAPABILITY TO LEVY AND COLLECT FINES FROM OUR PRESENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT POPULATION, WHICH WE ESTIMATE AT 17 MILLION³, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT IT COULD UNDERTAKE TO EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTER A PROGRAM FOR THE NEW INFLUX UNDER S.744.

“ ... S. 744 WILL ASSURE THE NATION OF YEARS OF UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF REMEDY.”

IN THIS, AND OTHER WAYS IN WHICH THIS BILL HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED AND PROMOTED, IT RESEMBLES THE REFORM LEGISLATION PASSED IN 1986 FROM WHICH MOST OF OUR PRESENT CONFUSION AND FAILURES HAVE DESCENDED. THEN, AS NOW, THE LEGISLATION WAS SO BROADLY WRITTEN THAT FRAUD AND DOUBLE DEALING DESTROYED BOTH ITS INTENT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. AND NOW, AS THEN, S. 744 WILL ASSURE THE NATION OF YEARS OF UNCONTROLLED IMMIGRATION WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF REMEDY.

WE HAVE LIVED WITH THE RESULTS OF IMPRECISE LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE 1986 ACT. THE PRESENT TERMS OF S. 744 ARE JUST AS PROBLEMATICAL AND UNLESS THEY ARE BACKED UP WITH THE LANGUAGE OF LAW (I.E.- SPECIFIC TIMETABLES, FUNDING MECHANISMS, PENALTIES, AND NUMBERS OF ENTRANTS WITH FIRM CAPS) S. 744 WILL PRODUCE THE SAME DISILLUSION, DISAPPOINTMENT AND DISHONESTY AS ITS 1986 PREDECESSOR.

THIS PARTICULAR PIECE OF LEGISLATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ARE NOT IN THE NATION'S INTEREST.

“A NATION OF LAWS”

FEW POLITICIANS, WHETHER ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL OR FACING THE MEDIA AT OTHER TIMES, CAN DECLINE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THE ABOVE. IT IS INVOKED SERIOUSLY AND WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION. THE RELEVANT QUESTIONS, CONSIDERING OUR GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES, ARE “WHICH LAWS?” AND “WHOSE LAWS?”

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING MORE DETRIMENTAL TO THE SPIRIT AND CONDUCT OF OUR DEMOCRACY THAN SELECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT WEAKENS EVERY FOUNDATION THAT WE HAVE CREATED AND LEADS US AND OTHERS TO CONCLUDE THAT IN PRACTICE OUR DEMOCRACY IS MORE A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE THAN PRINCIPLE.

THAT OUR GOVERNMENT'S INSTITUTIONS AND MACHINERY SHOULD BE LOANED OUT TO FURTHER PURPOSES OF CONVENIENCE RATHER THAN DEMOCRACY IS SHAMEFUL. OUR POLITICAL ELITES WHO WINK AT THE WAYS WE IGNORE

PRINCIPLE, WEAKEN GOVERNMENT AND DIMINISH OUR STATUS NOW HOLD THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY IN THEIR HANDS. IF WE CONTINUE AS WE ARE, WE WILL NOT HAVE TO ASK “WHICH LAWS?” AND “WHOSE LAWS?”. THE ANSWER WILL BE “THEIR LAWS”.

EVERY TYPE OF GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE ITS OWN LAWS. AND EVERY SERVING PARTY OR ADMINISTRATION MUST DECIDE, BY ACTION OR INACTION, BY INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION, HOW TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LAW.

OUR RECORD IS NOT GOOD AND SHOWS SIGNS OF GROWING WORSE. WE HAD BETTER PAY ATTENTION. IT IS TIME TO CLEAN OUR STABLES, NOT READ OUR PRESS CLIPPINGS. FOR, IN THE END, DEMOCRACY IS A TENDER PLANT THAT NEEDS TO BE CONTINUALLY WATERED WITH TRUTH, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS TO KEEP THE FORCES OF NEGLECT AND OF POLITICAL FAVOR AT BAY.

NATIONAL DEBT

OUR NATIONAL DEBT, NOW NEARLY \$17 TRILLION, IS A BETRAYAL BY INACTION FULLY AS IMPORTANT AS IMMIGRATION. ACTUALLY, OUR GOVERNMENT’S APPROACH TO OUR DEBT HAS NOT BEEN TO IGNORE IT, BUT RATHER TO PERSISTENTLY INCREASE IT.

WE DO HEAR FREQUENT COMMENT OUT OF WASHINGTON TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ANNUAL DEFICIT MUST BE REDUCED. AS OUR DEBT REPRESENTS THE ACCUMULATION OF ANNUAL DEFICITS, IT WILL INCREASE, NO MATTER NOW MUCH THE DEFICIT IS DECREASED, IN EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE DEFICIT IS ELIMINATED COMPLETELY.

FOR INSTANCE, THE WHITE HOUSE HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE FEDERAL DEFICIT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR WILL BE REDUCED FROM LAST YEAR’S \$1.1 TRILLION TO \$759 BILLION. ALL REDUCTIONS ARE WELCOME, BUT THE \$759 BILLION WILL BE ADDED TO THE NATIONAL DEBT, PUSHING IT FROM \$16.7 TO \$17.5 TRILLION. THERE IS NO SIGN OF A REALISTIC BALANCED BUDGET IN THE NEXT DECADE FROM ANY SOURCE.

THE AMOUNT OF DEBT, THE RATE AT WHICH IT INCREASES AND ITS GROWING USE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POLITICAL FAVOR SINCE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION PROVIDE US WITH A HOME GROWN, WILLFUL CRISIS OF INACTION. THIS IS A FORM AND QUANTIFIABLE MEASURE OF BETRAYAL SECOND TO NONE.

AS OUR DOLLAR IS THE WORLD’S RESERVE CURRENCY, THE AMOUNT OF OUR DEBT AND, THEREFORE, THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR HAS CONSEQUENCES HERE AND ABROAD. THOSE CONSEQUENCES HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, FELT BY EVERY PERSON AND INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY NOW AND IN FUTURE GENERATIONS.

OUR TAX CODE WITH ITS MULTIPLE LOOPHOLES, SUBSIDIES, WRITE-OFFS, EXCLUSIONS, GUARANTEES, ETC. IS NOT EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH DEBT OF OUR PRESENT SCALE. THE ONLY ACTION THAT WOULD OFFER A PROMPT AND REALISTIC COURSE OF RELIEF WOULD BE TO CHARGE A FEDERAL SALES TAX OF A SMALL AMOUNT, SAY 1% OR LESS, ON ALL TRANSACTIONS OTHER THAN FOOD AND MEDICINE WITH THE FULL AMOUNT

APPLIED ONLY TO THE RETIREMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEBT. NO EXCEPTIONS!

THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO OUR RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CONVERSATIONS THAT CENTER AROUND EFFORTS TO REDUCE, NOT ELIMINATE, THE DEBT OVER A TEN YEAR PERIOD. UNFORTUNATELY, ALL SUCH PLANS ANTICIPATE A DEBT INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY SIX TO SEVEN TRILLION DOLLARS IN SUCH A TIME FRAME.

NO ONE WANTS TO RAISE TAXES, BUT THE DEBT SITUATION IS SO HUGE THAT IT REQUIRES AN EFFORT THAT IS BROAD ENOUGH TO ASSURE FAIRNESS AND MEANINGFUL RESULTS. IT WOULD NOT BE UNFAIR WERE THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER TO CALL FOR A 50% CUT IN ALL EXECUTIVE/ LEGISLATIVE SALARIES AND BENEFITS UNTIL THE DEBT IS ELIMINATED, BUT, OF COURSE, AS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL IS REQUIRED, SUCH AN ACCOMMODATION WOULD FALL ON DEAF EARS.

“ ... BUT THEY WILL SEEM MINOR COMPARED TO A NATIONAL DEBT BUBBLE, IF ONE OCCURS.”

ONLY RECENTLY WE HAVE HAD A HIGH TECH BUBBLE, A REAL ESTATE BUBBLE, A CONSUMER DEBT BUBBLE AND WE ARE NEARING A STUDENT LOAN BUBBLE. NONE ARE PRETTY, AND ALL ARE PAINFUL, BUT THEY WILL SEEM MINOR COMPARED TO A NATIONAL DEBT BUBBLE, IF ONE OCCURS.

POPULATION AND RESOURCE DEPLETION

EVERY PLANET, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN SPECIFIC CARRYING CAPACITY WHICH IS THE POPULATION THAT CAN COMFORTABLY BE SUSTAINED WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS IS A CRITICAL MEASUREMENT IN DETERMINING A CIVILIZATION’S DESTINY — WHETHER IT SURVIVES OR WHETHER IT FAILS.

OUR CIVILIZATION HAS SHOWN A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE FATE OF PRIOR ONES AND, AS TECHNOLOGY HAS IMPROVED THE SCIENCE OF DISCOVERY, IT HAS PUSHED FOR MORE AND BETTER ANSWERS. WITH THEM WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE OUR OWN CIVILIZATION IN A MORE REALISTIC LIGHT WHICH ENABLES US TO TIE OUR VIEW OF OUR ORIGINS, OUR SURVIVAL, OUR LIFE PATTERNS, OUR NEEDS AND OUR FUTURE HOPES TO THE RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT US. THIS IS A VISION NO OTHER EARTHLY CIVILIZATION HAS HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL.

OUTSIDE THE SCIENTIFIC, ACADEMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITIES WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND THAT OUR INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY HAS CREATED A GROWING IMBALANCE BETWEEN OUR NEEDS AS A RAPIDLY EXPANDING POPULATION AND THE LONG TERM AVAILABILITY OF SUCH BASIC RESOURCES AS WATER, ARABLE LAND, FORESTS, CLEAN AIR AND THE INTRICATE WEB OF BIOLOGICAL SPECIES THAT VISIBLY AND INVISIBLY REGULATE MUCH OF OUR PHYSICAL EXISTENCE AND PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR OUR MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL FOOD CHAINS.

THIS NEW AWARENESS DOES NOT EXTEND FAR ENOUGH YET TO MAKE THE KINDS OF CHANGES NEEDED. IT DOES NOT EXTEND, FOR EXAMPLE, TO OUR CONGRESS WHICH WE OFTEN DESCRIBE AS BEING COMPOSED OF OUR "ELECTED LEADERS". "ELECTED", YES; "LEADERS", NO. WHEN EXPOSED TO MAJOR ISSUES OF OUR TIME SUCH AS POPULATION, RESOURCE DEPLETION AND OTHERS THEY SCURRY AND RUN AROUND IN CIRCLES LIKE INSECTS SUDDENLY EXPOSED TO LIGHT AND AIR WHEN THE ROCK ABOVE THEM IS LIFTED.

BUT THE MAJOR SOURCES IDENTIFIED ABOVE ARE NOT THE ONLY AREAS IN WHICH WE ARE OVERDRAWING OUR ACCOUNTS. CHRIS CLUGSTON, IN HIS RECENT BOOK, SCARCITY: HUMANITY'S FINAL CHAPTER?⁴, ANALYZES THE RAPIDLY DIMINISHING WORLD SUPPLIES OF NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES (NNRS). THE KEY WORD IS "NON-RENEWABLE", MEANING THAT THEY ARE FINITE; AND THAT AT SOME APPROACHING TIME THEY WILL BE EXHAUSTED; THAT THEY WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE NO MATTER WHERE WE LOOK, HOW DEEPLY WE DIG OR DRILL OR HOW MUCH WE RAISE THEIR PRICES.

IN SCARCITY CLUGSTON EXAMINES THE SCARCITY OF 89 NNRS AND POINTS OUT:

"NNR RESERVES ARE DEPLETED PRIMARILY THROUGH HUMAN EXPLOITATION; AND SINCE NNRS ARE NOT REPLENISHED THROUGH NATURAL PHYSICAL OR BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES ON A TIMESCALE THAT IS RELEVANT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A HUMAN LIFESPAN, PERSISTENT NNR DEPLETION WILL RESULT IN EXHAUSTION."⁵

THERE IS A WEALTH OF PRODUCTION/PRICE INFORMATION IN SCARCITY. ONE INTERESTING PRESENTATION IS THE COMPARISON OF GLOBAL PRODUCTION/EXTRACTION TONNAGES WITH PRICE INCREASES OVER THE 1958-2008 PERIOD FROM WHICH WE HAVE CHOSEN 3 VERY WIDELY USED NNR:⁶

1958-2008

	<u>PRODUCTION IN MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS</u>		<u>PRICE INCREASES</u>
ALUMINUM	3.5	39.0	1011%
COPPER	3.2	15.4	383%
ZINC	3.0	11.6	295%

ANOTHER COMPARISON USING A SHORTER TIME FRAME (2000-2008) IS THAT BETWEEN THE PERCENTAGE INCREASES OF PRODUCTION/EXTRACTION AND PRICE LEVELS:⁷

2000-2008 PERCENTAGE INCREASES

	<u>PRODUCTION/EXTRACTION</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
SULFUR	17	750
CHROMIUM	47	266
TIN	8	145

THE SIX NNRS SHOWN IN THESE TWO CHARTS WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY ARE WIDELY USED AND TRADED AROUND THE WORLD AND ARE KEY COMPONENTS OF MANY NATIONS'

ECONOMIES. THERE ARE MANY LESS WELL KNOWN AND USED NNRS IN CLUGSTON'S MIX WHOSE PRODUCTION/EXTRACTION AND PRICE FIGURES COVER A WIDE RANGE.

BUT THERE ARE TWO VERY PERTINENT CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH STAND OUT. FIRST, THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF PRICE MOVEMENT, WHICHEVER TIME FRAME IS USED, HAS BEEN UPWARD.

AND SECONDLY, THE SIX NNRS CITED HERE ARE LISTED AS IN SCARCE SUPPLY NOW AND ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE PERMANENTLY SCARCE OR EXHAUSTED IN BOTH THE US AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE.

THE ECONOMIC THREAT THAT EMERGES FROM THESE STATISTICS IS CLEAR. IF YOU START WITH A SCARCE ITEM THAT HAS EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT PRICE RISES AND YOU INCREASE CONSUMPTION, THE ONLY RESULT CAN BE MORE UPWARD PRICE MOVEMENT WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED WORLDWIDE IN BOTH ITS DIRECT USE AND ITS COMPONENT PRODUCTS.

AND JUST AS WE ARE STARTING WITH HIGH PRICES AS WE LOOK AHEAD, SO WE ARE IN A STATE OF SCARCE SUPPLY WHICH CAN ONLY BECOME SCARCER AS DEMAND RISES.

CLUGSTON ALSO PROJECTS THE PRODUCTION LIFE AHEAD FOR MOST OF THE NNRS. OF THE ONES WE HAVE SHOWN ABOVE THERE ARE NO RESERVE/EXHAUSTION DATES FOR SULFUR AND ALUMINUM, BUT TIN IS SHOWN AS 18 YEARS, ZINC 13, COPPER 27 AND CHROMIUM 26 PLUS.

WE ARE NOT USED TO THINKING IN FUTURE TERMS OF IMAGES SUCH AS THESE NUMBERS ELICIT. INDIVIDUALLY, THEY ARE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO COME TO GRIPS WITH, BUT COLLECTIVELY THEY ARE EVEN MORE SO AS THEY PROJECT BY MID-CENTURY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CHROMIUM, COPPER, TIN AND ZINC FROM THE WORLD'S ECONOMY.

IN AMERICA WE HAVE TINKERED, INVENTED, IMPROVED AND CREATED, ALWAYS WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE COULD ADD ON, COMBINE OR DISCOVER OUR WAY TO WEALTH/SUCCESS. THAT HAS MEANT BEING EXPANSIVE AND, IN OUR ENDLESS FRONTIER WAY OF THINKING, THAT THE NEXT SOLUTION, SUCCESS OR TRANSFORMATION LAY WAITING JUST BEYOND THE RIVER, PLAIN OR MOUNTAIN RANGE AHEAD.

WE DO NOT CONCEIVE OF ABSENCE OR UNAVAILABILITY IN OUR ECONOMIC LABORATORY. FACING THE LOSS OF NNRS PROJECTED IN SCARCITY WILL BE A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH THE US AND THE WORLD. HOW WILL AMERICANS REACT? THE PEOPLE WHOSE JOBS WILL BE LOST? THE CORPORATIONS WHOSE PRODUCTS, RAW MATERIALS AND PROFITS WILL ALL BE REDUCED? AND AN INEPT CONGRESS THAT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEGISLATE AND SPEND THE NNRS LOSS BACK INTO THE BORROWED ABUNDANCE TO WHICH IT HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED AND ADDICTED?

* * *

CLUGSTON IDENTIFIED 89 NNRS AS THE BASIS FOR FRAMING HIS THEORY. SOME, LIKE THE ONES WE SELECTED, ARE WELL KNOWN. THERE ARE OTHERS EQUALLY FAMILIAR —

GOLD, OIL, CEMENT, IRON AND STEEL. AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE LARGELY UNRECOGNIZED BY MOST OF US — HAFNIUM, INDIUM, KYANITE, PERLITE AND OTHERS — USUALLY WITH MUCH SMALLER PRODUCTION QUANTITIES. AND YET THEIR SMALL AMOUNTS MAY PROVIDE A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN THE FUNCTIONING OF SOME PRODUCT OR PROCESS.

KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, THE NNRs WHICH WE INCREASINGLY DRAW UPON TO SERVE OUR GROWING POPULATION AND ECONOMY NOW HAVE ESTABLISHED PARTS IN OUR WAY OF LIFE. THEIR CLASSIFICATION AS SCARCE AND MOVING TOWARDS EXHAUSTION CLOUDS OUR VIEW OF OUR FUTURE IN WAYS THAT EVEN OUR “ELECTED LEADERS” WILL HAVE TO ADMIT AND FACE.

US POPULATION GREW AT THE RATE OF 2.7 MILLION ANNUALLY IN THE 2000-2010 DECADE. MERELY BY CONTINUING AT THAT RATE WE WILL ADD ANOTHER 100 MILLION PEOPLE BY MID-CENTURY. ACTUALLY, WE WILL EXCEED THAT NUMBER AS OUR BASE CONTINUES TO GROW INTERNALLY AND TO ADD MORE NUMBERS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

OUR EXPANDING DEMOGRAPHIC CIRCUMSTANCE IS EVERY BIT AS THREATENING AS OUR DECLINING AVAILABILITY OF NNRs. WHEN VIEWED TOGETHER, AS THEY MUST BE, THEY CONSTITUTE A PRESSING ECONOMIC DILEMMA. THIS IS A CLASSIC CONFRONTATION OF INCREASING DEMAND AND DECREASING SUPPLY EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF POPULATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

IT’S AN ECONOMICS 101 LINE-UP COMPLICATED BY A KEY UNKNOWN — HOW MANY NNRs WILL BE DEPLETED TO EXHAUSTION AND WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT UPON OUR SOCIETY AS THEIR LOSS WORKS ITS WAY THROUGH OUR GLOBAL ECONOMY?

WHILE WE CAN’T QUANTIFY ALL THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS QUESTION, MID-CENTURY IS ONLY 37 YEARS DISTANT AND MOVING CLOSER EVERY DAY. AND THE NUMBERS WE HAVE CITED INDICATE THAT BY 2050 WE WILL HAVE FULLY DEPLETED OUR SUPPLIES OF SOME NNRs. WHICH ONES? WHEN? AND HOW WILL THEIR DISAPPEARANCE CHANGE OUR LIVES?

CLIMATE CHANGE

MAYOR BLOOMBERG OF NYC, MINDFUL OF HURRICANE SANDY’S BATTERING OF HIS CITY LAST YEAR, HAS PROPOSED A \$20 BILLION PROGRAM TO PROTECT NYC FROM FUTURE SIMILAR STORMS. IT WILL INCLUDE LARGE SCALE ENGINEERING PROJECTS TO CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OF WATER TOWARDS AND AROUND THE CITY AS WELL AS NEW CONSTRUCTION WITHIN ITS BORDERS TO DIVERT WATER AND TO IMPROVE AND REDIRECT DRAINAGE.

THE MAYOR INCLUDED A CURIOUS NOTE BY STATING THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD SECURE \$15 BILLION OF THE \$20 BILLION NEEDED FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. NOT BAD FOR OPENERS; AND HIZZONOR COULD FAIRLY EASILY PUT TOGETHER A COALITION OF INTERESTS THAT WOULD SUPPORT HIS EFFORT. BUT CONGRESS WOULD KNOW THAT BY EVEN CONSIDERING SUCH EXPENDITURE IT WOULD ASSURE ITSELF A FLOOD OF SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS THAT

HAVE SUFFERED HEAVILY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.

THE REAL QUESTION, IN ADDITION TO FUNDING, THAT MR. BLOOMBERG’S REQUEST MIGHT RAISE IS “HAS CONGRESS REACHED A POINT WHERE IT CAN VIEW CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING AS A PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC THREAT TO THE NATION AND TO WHICH ITS MEMBERS’ OATHS OF OFFICE REQUIRE IT TO REACT?”

THERE IS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE BEFORE CONGRESS OF OUR PLANET’S CHANGING CLIMATE AND THE WEATHER PATTERNS THAT RESULT FROM IT, BUT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AS TO THE MEANING OF THAT EVIDENCE INCLUDING THE ROLES OF RELIGION AND SCIENCE, AND A WHISPER IN WASHINGTON CAN HAVE A LOUD AND DISRUPTIVE ECHO AMONG CONSTITUENTS BACK HOME.

THE BLOOMBERG RESPONSE IS BASICALLY A DEFENSIVE ONE, BUT DOES REVEAL AWARENESS OF A MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH CONGRESS HAS YET TO DO. AT SOME POINT SOON OUR “LEADERS” WILL HAVE TO ENGAGE THE MATTER OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COME UP WITH THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEANS TO REDUCE ITS IMPACT.

THE DARK SIDE OF CONSUMERISM

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (IR) ESTABLISHED PRODUCTION AS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND DEVELOPMENT, AS IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED FASTER, CHEAPER AND BETTER PRODUCTION METHODS.

INCREASED PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, WITHOUT INCREASED PURCHASING WOULD HAVE MEANT ECONOMIC STAGNATION OR WORSE, EVEN COLLAPSE. AND SO THE MYTH OF ETERNAL GROWTH WAS PUT IN PLACE, LIKE A WARNING LIGHT AT SEA TO LEAD AND GUIDE MARINERS.

GROWTH WAS GOOD; GROWTH WAS POSITIVE. IT HELPED BOTH THOSE WHO ACTUALLY GREW AND THOSE WHO COULD ONLY HOPE TO. IT WAS THE MAGICAL RISING TIDE THAT LIFTED ALL BOATS. IT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY ARGUMENT AND BY DEMONSTRATION, AND CAPTURED THE MINDS, SOULS AND ENERGIES OF PEOPLE IN AND BEYOND THE WORLD OF COMMERCE.

IT ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN RELIGIONS, COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT AND CULTURES IN A WAY THAT TOOK THEM OVER AND REORDERED THEIR VALUES, GOALS AND ACTIVITIES. IT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE 19TH CENTURY’S EXPANSION OF POPULATION, COMMERCE, TRAVEL, TERRITORY, LEARNING AND RELIGION. IT BECAME A MATTER OF ENDURING AND SPIRITED BELIEF AND PUSHED AHEAD INTO THE 20TH AND OUR PRESENT CENTURY, SCATTERING WHATEVER LONELY VOICES OF RESISTANCE IT ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY.

GROWTH PROVIDED WAGES, TAXES, POWER, JOBS, COMFORT, PLEASURE AND MOBILITY. BUT THE GREAT MACHINE OF THE IR HAD TO BE FED A STEADY DIET OF “MORE” — MORE PEOPLE, MORE PRODUCTS, AND MORE PURCHASES. THE GLOBAL APPETITE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ULTIMATE RAW MATERIALS FOR THE IR, COULD NOT BE CONTAINED OR DENIED AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THE IR’S WAVE OF

CONSUMER ECONOMICS HAD A DOWN SIDE.

IT DID, AND IT WAS SIMPLY THAT OUR GLOBAL NATURAL RESOURCES ARE FINITE IN QUANTITY JUST AS OUR PLANET IS FINITE IN ITS SPACE. LOOKING BACK, WE CAN NOW SEE THAT OUR RUSH TO INDUSTRIALIZE THE WORLD HAS HAD SOME UNEXPECTED AND UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES. WE HAVE DISTURBED ELEMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR PLANET'S COMPLICATED WEB OF LIFE ON THE LAND AND IN THE SEA AND THE AIR FROM WHICH WE ALL MUST DRAW OUR SUSTENANCE.

AND WE HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN TO FACE THE FACTS THAT NATURAL RESOURCES DO NOT EXIST IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL ABUNDANCE, THAT THEY CAN BE EXHAUSTED AND THAT THE CHOICES OF IF, HOW AND WHEN THEY ARE DEPLETED ARE OURS.

“MORE’S THE PITY”, SOME MIGHT SAY, BUT THAT WOULD BE WRONG. “MORE” IS THE PROBLEM.”

THE NATURE OF THESE CHOICES IS SUCH THAT THEY CAN, AND OFTEN ARE, MADE DAILY AT INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE, COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT LEVELS. TO DATE, THE DEGREE OF RESPONSIBLE THINKING REQUIRED TO TIE THESE LEVELS OF CHOICE TOGETHER (I.E. — TO CREATE POLICY) DOES NOT EXIST. “MORE’S THE PITY”, SOME MIGHT SAY, BUT THAT WOULD BE WRONG. “MORE” IS THE PROBLEM.

* * *

NO AREA OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE SO CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES OUR FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT AS ITS WILLFULLY BLIND ADHERENCE TO GROWTH AT ANY COST. IT HAS ALLOWED THE PURSUIT OF GROWTH TO CROWD OUT AND IGNORE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT WITH EQUALLY PROPER POLITICAL, HUMAN AND ECONOMIC CREDENTIALS. IT IS CAPTIVE TO THE GOAL AND PRACTICE OF GROWTH FOR GROWTH’S SAKE AND, UNLESS CHANGED, OUR NATIONAL COURSE WILL BE AS ILL-FATED AS THAT OF CAPTAIN AHAB’S OBSESSIVE PURSUIT OF MOBY DICK.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONE FOR OUR COUNTRY ALONE; IT IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM THAT REQUIRES CONCERTED ACTION TO BE EFFECTIVE. BUT OUR POSITION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY OUR POSITION OF WORLD LEADER/SUPERPOWER WHICH WE HAVE BOTH CLAIMED FOR OURSELVES AND SOUGHT FROM OTHERS.

WE ARE FACED WITH AN ISSUE AND A MOMENT WHICH REQUIRE GENUINE WORLD LEADERSHIP. WE SHOULD PROVIDE IT IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN OUR OWN SELF-INTEREST, BUT WASHINGTON’S VIEW OF NATIONAL INTEREST IS LIMITED AND ITS RANGE OF RESPONSE EVEN MORE SO.

OTHER NATIONS EXPECT LEADERS TO LEAD AND, WHEN WE FAIL TO DO SO, THEY SHRUG AND ASK THEMSELVES “WHAT’S THE POINT? IT WON’T WORK WITHOUT AMERICAN BACKING.” CAN WE AMERICANS, CAN OUR GOVERNMENT REALLY SIT BACK IN OUR POLITICAL COMFORT ZONE AND EXPECT THE NETHERLANDS, URUGUAY OR TUNISIA TO LEAD THE WORLD IN THE THOUGHT

AND ACTION REQUIRED?

THEORETICALLY, THE UN MIGHT BE USEFUL IN PROVIDING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FOR SITUATIONS SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEPLETION, BUT IT, TOO, IS LIMITED IN WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT A PROMINENT, PERHAPS DOMINANT, US ROLE. ITS POLITICS ARE EVERY BIT AS DIFFICULT AS OURS, ESPECIALLY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE THE SMALL, EMERGING STATES OF AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA PARTICIPATE, AND IT IS OFTEN THESE SAME STATES WITHIN WHOSE BORDERS CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCE DEPOSITS ARE LOCATED.

NATIONAL HEALTH

WE REFER HERE TO OUR NATIONAL HEALTH, NOT A HEALTH SYSTEM. WHAT AREAS DO WE FIND IN WHICH GOVERNMENT MIGHT, OR SHOULD, PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE?

IN THE PAST, GOVERNMENT HAS DONE EXTENSIVE RESEARCH THAT HAS LED TO THE PUBLICIZING AND BANNING OF SOME PRODUCTS AND/OR ADDITIVES THAT WERE CLEARLY DAMAGING TO OUR PUBLIC HEALTH. THESE INCLUDE CARCINOGENS IN TOBACCO, LEAD IN PAINT AND GASOLINE AND ASBESTOS; AND, ALTHOUGH THE MANUFACTURERS OF THESE PRODUCTS PERSISTENTLY ARGUED AND LOBBIED AGAINST ANY ACTION FOR EXTENDED PERIODS, GOVERNMENT REGULATION EVENTUALLY WAS ABLE TO ALTER THEIR FORMULATION AND REMOVE THE TOXIC ELEMENTS. THE PUBLIC WAS THE BENEFICIARY.

PARENTHETICALLY, THE LONG CONTEST BETWEEN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND OUR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CARE/ RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST INSTANCE ON A MASSIVE SCALE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY’S REFUSING TO ACCEPT RECOGNIZED MEDICAL SCIENCE OPINION. THE WAR ON SCIENCE TO FURTHER POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS HAD BEGUN.

TODAY OUR INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH FACILITIES AND THE CHEMISTRY THAT EMERGES FROM THEM REVEAL MORE DANGERS THAT LURK WITHIN THE PRODUCTS THAT CROWD OUR DAILY LIVES. SOME OF THESE ARE PCBs (POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL), VINYL CHLORIDE, BPA (BYSHPHENOLÄ); AND, OF COURSE, THAT MAINSTAY OF THE GLOBAL ENERGY INDUSTRY FOR CLOSE TO TWO CENTURIES, COAL, WHICH BLACKENED ENGLISH CITIES AND LUNGS IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENT’S ROLE BE TODAY? IT SPENDS BILLIONS OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS ON CURATIVE RESEARCH, CONTAGION, DISEASE PREVENTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR PUBLIC HEALTH. IT HAS HAD QUICK AND SPECTACULAR SUCCESS IN TRACING THE ORIGINS OF A DISEASE EPIDEMIC OR INCIDENT OF MASS ILLNESS TO SINGLE (AND SOMETIMES REMOTE) FARMS, PROCESSING PLANTS, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER LEVELS OF OUR CHAIN OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUCH AS CRUISE SHIPS AND TRANSPORTERS.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACT QUICKLY IN

THE NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT IT IS CONFLICTED, AND MOSTLY OF ITS OWN MAKING. IN RECENT LITIGATION IN CA OVER OBAMACARE IT ARGUED THAT HEALTH LEGISLATION SHOULDN'T BE PREVENTIVE, SHOULDN'T TRY TO PRESCRIBE OR PREDICT THE FUTURE. AND YET ALL PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES ARE BY NATURE PREVENTIVE.

THE MOST EVIDENT CONFLICT FACING GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL/HEALTH POLICY LIES IN THE OPERATION OF ITS PRIMARY FEDERAL REGULATING BODY — THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) CREATED BY FDR IN 1938.

IT HAS THE POWER, WHICH HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE ITS FOUNDING, TO REGULATE THE CONTENT OF ALL FOOD AND MEDICAL PRODUCTS SOLD TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FOR INGESTION, INHALATION, OR APPLICATION. THE FDA BOTH REVIEWS AND PASSES ON THE RESULTS OF TEST PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY MANUFACTURERS AND RUNS ITS OWN INVESTIGATIONS.

“THE FDA IS NOT A RAPID RESPONSE UNIT.”

BIG MONEY IS INVOLVED AND WAIT TIMES FOR FDA APPROVAL CAN RUN INTO YEARS. THERE ARE TROUBLESOME PROBLEMS. FIRST, THE AGENCY IS UNDERSTAFFED AND UNDERBUDGETED. THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY, MARKETING TECHNIQUES/FUNDING AND POPULATION OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY HAS FLOODED OUR CONSUMING PUBLIC WITH NEW PRODUCTS OF EVERY IMAGINABLE (AND SOME, QUITE FRANKLY, UNIMAGINABLE) PURPOSE AND CAPABILITY. THE FDA IS NOT A RAPID RESPONSE UNIT.

ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT MANY OF ITS ADMINISTRATORS HAVE COME FROM THE INDUSTRIES THAT THE FDA IS CHARGED TO REGULATE, AND THEY OFTEN BRING WITH THEM PERSPECTIVES THAT FAVOR THEIR PRIOR EMPLOYERS.

BUT BY FAR THE MOST DIFFICULT CONFLICT ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT THE FDA IS FUNDED BY THE SALES/DONATIONS OF THE MEDICAL/PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, ITS MAIN AREA OF REGULATION. FUNDING IS A NEVER ENDING PROCESS IN WASHINGTON WHICH DEVELOPS RULES, METHODS, SOURCES AND CONTACTS ALL ITS OWN.

ITS RELATIONSHIP TO POLITICS CAN BE AS CLOSE AS COMPLETELY INTERTWINED; OR IT CAN BE DISCREET, VISIBLE AND STANDING CLOSE BY, BUT AT ARMS LENGTH.

THIS IS A MANAGEMENT HORROR SHOW WHICH HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR MANY YEARS BECAUSE CONGRESS IS ADDICTED TO THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL LOBBYING EXPENDITURES OF THE DRUG/PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES. IN THIS CASE, AS IN TOO MANY OTHERS, THE BOND SHOULD BE BROKEN, BUT THAT IS UNLIKELY. WHAT WE SEE IS WHAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO GET.

THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

FIRST BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY PRES. EISENHOWER, THIS IS A FEARSOME ACCUMULATION OF

POLITICAL, MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL POWER WIELDED BY THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE (DOD).

IN MOST CASES WHERE POWER IS SHARED BY A THREE MEMBER GROUP THE COMBINATION OF ANY TWO IS ABLE TO DETERMINE OUTCOME. NOT SO WITH OUR GOVERNMENT IN WHICH A COMPLEX APPROVALS PROCESS HAS DEVELOPED TO PRODUCE LEGISLATION AND CONTROL THE FUNDING FOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, EQUIPMENT, BASES HERE AND ABROAD, RESEARCH, INTELLIGENCE, FOOD, FUEL AND PERSONNEL FOR THE WARS WE FIGHT AND ONES WE MIGHT FIGHT.

MOSTLY IN THIS CONTINUALLY CHANGING MIX THE BEST TWO-OUT-OF-THREE VOTE CAN PREVAIL, BUT CONGRESS, BY ITS CONTROL OF OUR NATIONAL FUNDING FUNCTION HAS THE ULTIMATE SAY AND CAN BLOCK MEASURES FAVORED BY THE DOD AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BY WITHHOLDING FUNDS.

BUT IT IS NOT JUST THE CONGRESS THAT CAN EXERCISE THIS AWESOME POWER. THE ULTIMATE CORRUPTION OCCURS WHEN ONLY A FEW MEMBERS, OR EVEN JUST ONE, VOTES TO DENY FUNDING AT A CRITICAL STAGE. NOTABLE EXAMPLES OF THIS CLEARLY UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICE HAVE BEEN THE KILLING OF OUR MILITARY BASE CLOSING PROGRAM AND THE REFUSAL TO HALT PRODUCTION OF THE C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE BY MEMBERS WHOSE DISTRICTS WOULD SUFFER ECONOMICALLY THEREFROM.

IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY THE BUDGETING/FUNDING PROCEDURE IS SUCH A MINEFIELD OF LOCAL INTERESTS AND ALSO, THEREFORE, WHY TRUE SPENDING CUTS LEGISLATION IS HARD TO PASS. AT THIS TIME THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT CONGRESS EITHER KNOWS OR CARES ENOUGH TO REFORM ITSELF AND REFOCUS ITS EXTRAORDINARY POWER ON THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

SPECIAL CASE: THE UN

FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM OUR DOMESTIC FAILURES, AND YET WE SEE SOME OF THE SAME FORCES AND ERRORS PLAY OUT AT THE UN THAT WE ENCOUNTER IN WASHINGTON.

FLUSH WITH VICTORY AFTER WWII, WE JOINED OTHERS IN WANTING TO ESTABLISH A FORM OF WORLD GOVERNMENT THAT COULD SECURE AND MAINTAIN THE PEACE THAT WE, AND THEY, HAD WON. WE NAIVELY ASSUMED THAT OUR FORMER ALLIES, AND EVEN OPPONENTS, WOULD JOIN US IN ESTABLISHING THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

OUR EFFORTS, WHILE WELL-MEANING, WERE HINDERED BY REAL AND PHILOSOPHIC FAILURES, IN BOTH OUR OWN POLITICAL APPARATUS AND THOSE OF OUR FELLOW MEMBERS. THE RHETORIC WAS FAR NOBLER THAN THE RESULTS, AS THE DELEGATIONS TRIED TO CREATE A FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT COULD BE COHESIVE WHILE MAINTAINING SOVEREIGNTY.

AT THE STAGE OF FORMING THE CHARTER WE WERE TOO WILLING TO PLEASE OTHERS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THEIR

COOPERATION AND WERE UNWILLING TO EXERCISE OUR UNIQUELY POWERFUL POSITION.

TIME TOOK ITS TOLL. WHEN THE EUROPEAN FORMER MONARCHIES' COLONIAL TERRITORIES SPLIT OFF AND BECAME INDEPENDENT ENTITIES, UN MEMBERSHIP SWELLED AND THE REAL AGREEMENT/CONSENSUS NECESSARY TO ENABLE COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT BECAME MORE ILLUSORY AS THE COLD WAR, RELIGIOUS FAITH AND NEWLY FOUND MINERAL WEALTH SERVED AS CONSTANT DIVIDERS.

TODAY THE UN IS USEFUL IN SOME WAYS, BUT HAS GENERALLY FALLEN FAR SHORT OF ITS FOUNDING IDEALS. IT PROVIDES A PLACE AND WAY TO COMMUNICATE, AND WE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH GOOD OR EVIL HAS RESULTED FROM MEETINGS IN THE MEMBERS LOUNGE OR DINING ROOM. BUT IT IS A BLOATED AND HIGHLY CORRUPT BUREAUCRACY AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO STAY SO IN SPITE OF PERIODIC ATTEMPTS TO "CLEAN THE STABLES".

WE MADE THE MISTAKE OF COMMITTING A DISPROPORTIONAL AMOUNT OF MONEY EARLY ON AND MAINTAINED THAT SITUATION WITH NO PROVISION FOR REDUCTION. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT AS A GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY THE UN IS IN MANY WAYS A MIRROR OF OUR OWN.

THE NATION'S INTEREST

IN THE BEGINNING OUR FOUNDERS WERE ABLE TO FORM A WORKING GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CONSTITUTION OUT OF THIRTEEN COLONIES WITH DIFFERENT POPULATIONS, ECONOMIES, RELIGIOUS ORIGINS, POLITICAL LOYALTIES AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES. THIS WAS NO SMALL TASK. IN FACT, IT WAS AN ENORMOUS ONE.

HOW WAS IT ACCOMPLISHED? QUITE SIMPLY, EXCEPT IT WAS FAR FROM SIMPLE, THEY CREATED AN INVIOLENT EMOTIONAL, POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHIC CORE TO WHICH THEY WERE FULLY COMMITTED. ALL THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT DEBTS, TARIFFS, THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH, EVERYTHING COULD RAGE AROUND THEM, BUT THEY "PUT THE WAGONS IN A CIRCLE", AS LATER PIONEERS ON THE WESTERN PLAINS WOULD, AND WOULD NOT ALLOW THE SACRED GROUND OF THEIR CENTER, THEIR CORE, TO BE PUT IN DANGER.

TODAY, AMERICA, LACKING ANY SEMBLANCE OF A CORE, MIGHT WELL LOOK BACK TO TRY TO IDENTIFY IT, TO RELOCATE IT, TO REGAIN IT BY OBSERVATION OR INVOCATION, BUT NONE OF THESE CAN WORK IN OUR PRESENT STATE OF MIND AND POLITICS.

WHAT WAS THIS CORE THAT STOOD FIRMLY FOR OUR FOUNDERS? IT WAS THEIR ABSOLUTE, UNWAVERING PURSUIT OF THE NATION'S OWN INTEREST AS THE GOALS OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS THE FLAG THEY FOLLOWED INTO BATTLE AND THE LIGHT THAT SHONE FOR THEM DURING THEIR DARKEST TIMES AND MOST BITTER ARGUMENTS. AND YET IT WAS THERE — FOR ALL OF THEM AT ALL TIMES. TO IT THEY WERE WILLING, AS THEY HAD STATED IN THE DI, "WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE TO

MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR".

THAT'S HEADY STUFF. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT IN ANY PART OF OUR POLITICS OR GOVERNMENT TODAY. THIS TYPE OF THOUGHT AND COMMITMENT GUIDED OUR COUNTRY'S SPIRIT AND VALUES UNTIL THEY WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO MEET THE RISING ARGUMENT OVER SLAVERY WHICH ENDED IN OUR CIVIL WAR, AND AFTER WHICH AMERICA EMBARKED ON ITS NEW ROLE OF MORE MONEY AND MORE POWER, THEN NATIONAL POWER, INTERNATIONAL POWER AND, FINALLY, SUPERPOWER.

"IF YOU CALL ON DIFFERENT GODS,
YOU ARE BOUND TO GET DIFFERENT ANSWERS."

NO VALUE SYSTEM COULD EXPERIENCE SUCH AN ENORMOUS RANGE OF CHANGE WITHOUT BEING ITSELF TRANSFORMED, AND OURS WAS NO EXCEPTION. IF YOU CALL ON DIFFERENT GODS, YOU ARE BOUND TO GET DIFFERENT ANSWERS.

OUR HISTORIC CORE OF VIEWING AND CONDUCTING POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AS HAVING TO SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST EXISTS ONLY IN FRAGMENTARY FORM AND INFREQUENT VISIBILITY TODAY. IN ITS PLACE WE HAVE SET THE SUPREMACY OF GROWTH IN ALL THINGS IN WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT ENGAGES AND WHICH WE, AS A PEOPLE, TOUCH.

"YOU HAVE TO HAVE MORE AT THE
CORE THAN JUST "MORE".

THIS, SADLY, IS OUR NEW "CORE", BUT IT WILL NOT SUCCEED. YOU HAVE TO HAVE MORE AT THE CORE THAN JUST "MORE".

* * *

AMERICA'S FUTURE NOW DEPENDS UPON ITS ABILITY TO REDEFINE ITSELF. WE HAVE MANAGED TO WITHSTAND A HALF CENTURY OF DECREASING IDEALISM AND INCREASING IDEOLOGY. THEY ARE SIDE EFFECTS OF OUR PURSUIT OF GROWTH FOR GROWTH'S SAKE, MORE FOR MORE'S SAKE AND POWER FOR POWER'S SAKE.

ALL OF THESE FLY IN THE FACE OF SCIENCE, AND OF SENSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR AND OUR PLANET'S RESOURCES. THEY PREVENT OUR UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES AND OUR MIRACULOUS HISTORY AS A COHERENT DRAMA OF PAST, PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE. WITHOUT SHARING THAT COHERENT PERSPECTIVE AND BEING ABLE TO COMMIT TO IT, OUR SUCCESS WILL SLOW, OUR PROGRESS WILL FALTER AND OUR PROMISE THAT WE HAVE CLAIMED FOR OURSELVES AND OUR COUNTRY WILL TURN OUT TO BE FALSE.

CONSCIENCE MATTERS !

POST SCRIPT TO POLITICAL ISLAM IN AMERICA

(ISSUE 39, APRIL 2013)

OCCASIONALLY IT'S POSSIBLE TO COME ACROSS A COMMENT THAT ENCAPSULATES AND REVEALS THE TRUTH OF FAR LARGER ISSUES. SUCH A MESSAGE WAS RECENTLY PROVIDED BY A READER IN CT WHO CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM A SPEECH BY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN IN GERMANY IN 2008 TO AN AUDIENCE OF MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS:

“ONE CANNOT EXPECT YOU TO ASSIMILATE. ASSIMILATION IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY!”

THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF PRACTICING INTEGRATION, BUT NOT ASSIMILATION, WHICH IS ESPOUSED BY MANY MUSLIMS.

A CLOSE READING OF THE ABOVE STATEMENT REVEALS ITS ENORMOUS IMPACT ON TWO MAJOR AREAS OF US POLICY — IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN RELATIONS. SINCE THE EARLIEST DAYS OF OUR IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE, OUR POLICY HAS BEEN BASED ON AND FORMED AROUND ASSIMILATION. ERDOGAN'S REJECTION OF IT IS NO SMALL MATTER, NOR JUST A CASUAL COMMENT. IT SHOULD HAVE SET OFF ALARMS AND CAUSE REAL SOUL SEARCHING THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON'S POLICY APPARATUS.

SECONDLY, WHO HAS MADE THIS STATEMENT? NONE OTHER THAN THE HEAD OF STATE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLY IN THE NEAR EAST. TURKEY SITS ATOP THAT REGION ON ITS NORTH, SHARING BORDERS WITH SYRIA, IRAQ AND IRAN. AND IT IS A GATEWAY TO RUSSIA'S SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF GEORGIA AND ARMENIA. IT IS WEALTHY, STRONG AND UNDER KEMAL ATATURK CONVERTED THE OTTOMAN ISLAMIC CALIPHATE TO A SECULAR STATE.

IT HAS SERVED AS THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR FINANCIAL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE AREA, APPLYING FOR AND ACHIEVING NATO MEMBERSHIP. IT WAS THROUGH TURKEY THAT WE WERE TO CULTIVATE AND PROVE THE POSSIBILITY OF ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY. MR. ERDOGAN'S RECENT MOVES TOWARDS ISLAMIC GOALS RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS

FOR OUR POLICY WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS, BUT THE 2008 COMMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE FOUNDATION OF OUR POLICY HAS BEEN LESS SECURE THAN WE ASSUMED FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, AND PERHAPS MUCH LONGER.

ECD 7/1/13

END NOTES

¹ FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS OF S. 744'S LANGUAGE READERS ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES ONLINE AT CIS.ORG

² PEW RESEARCH CENTER, NUMBERS USA, FOGEL/MARTIN

³ THIS IS OUR FIGURE AND IS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AND QUOTED 11 MILLION, BUT THE LATTER HAS BEEN IN USE FOR FIVE YEARS AND HAS IGNORED THE CONTINUING STREAM OF NEW ARRIVALS.

⁴ BOOKLOCKER.COM, INC. PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

⁵ IBID

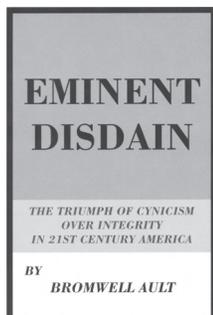
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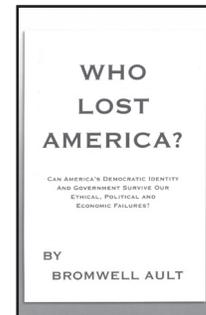
EDITOR'S BIO

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; EMINENT DISDAIN: THE TRIUMPH OF CYNICISM OVER INTEGRITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA. ; AND WHO LOST AMERICA? CAN AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC IDENTITY AND GOVERNMENT SURVIVE OUR ETHICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURES?

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