

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

ISSUE No. 52

ON AMERICA'S 227TH BIRTHDAY

JULY 2016

WHO ARE WE?

AND WHY ARE WE NOT WHO WE WERE?

THE CULTURE OF POLITICS AND THE POLITICS OF CULTURE IN ELECTION YEAR 2016

PREFACE

LOOKING AT THE NOMINATING SCENE THAT HAS PLAYED OUT IN OUR FULL VIEW, MOST PEOPLE (AND EVEN THOSE WHO CONTROL OUR MEDIA AND POLITICAL PARTIES) WOULD AGREE THAT WE HAVE STRAYED BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF POLITICS AND HAVE LOST OURSELVES TO THE ENTICEMENTS OF ENTERTAINMENT.

THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF A PROCESS THAT HAS BEEN LONG IN ITS MAKING SINCE TELEVISION JOINED, AND THEN CAME TO DOMINATE, OUR MAINSTREAM MEDIA (MSM). ALONG THE WAY, WE HAVE MADE FATEFUL COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS THAT HAVE LET THE ENTERTAINMENT GENIE OUT OF ITS BOTTLE FROM WHICH, ONCE LIBERATED, THERE CAN BE NO RETURN.¹ LIKE THE ANCIENT MYTH, WE ARE DEALING WITH HUMAN INTENTION AND AGENCY AND THEIR UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.

OUR ELECTION YEAR CONCERN WITH POLITICS AS CULTURE AND VICE-VERSA WILL TAKE US TO STRANGE PLACES WHERE THOSE ANSWERS THAT ARE PROVIDED CAN OFTEN CONTRADICT EACH

OTHER. THESE PLACES ARE HOME TO GOVERNMENTS, RELIGIONS, NATIONS, RACES, TRIBES, ARMIES, MONARCHS — ANY ENTITY WHOSE ATTITUDE TOWARDS TERRITORIAL, ECONOMIC, DYNASTIC, SOCIAL OR POLITICAL POWER IS WHETTED BY THE SENSE OF “MORE”.

IN OUR LAST ISSUE WE CITED THE EARLIEST ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PRIMITIVE TRIBES OF THE AFRICAN SAVANNAH AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEEMINGLY HARD-WIRED “OTHERNESS” COMPONENT OF OUR NATURE. VISUAL OR AUDIBLE DIFFERENCES POSED RISKS WHICH TRIGGERED DEFENSIVE FEELINGS AND MECHANISMS. BUT IN ORDER FOR RISK TO BE REAL AND CONFLICT TO OCCUR, AN ELEMENT OF AGGRESSION WAS NECESSARY WHICH PROBABLY STARTED WITH FOOD, EXPANDED TO OTHER TARGETS AND THEN, ULTIMATELY, TO “MORE FOR MORE’S SAKE”

SCATTERED THROUGH CIVILIZATION’S HISTORY THERE HAVE BEEN BRIEF MOMENTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHEN THE NEED TO ATTACK OR DEFEND HAS BEEN MET PEACEFULLY. OUR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES OFTEN SAT IN A CIRCLE, TALKED AND SMOKED THE PEACE PIPE WITH AGGRESSORS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ISSUES AND AVOID ATTACK, BUT WHEN THESE EFFORTS

IN THIS ISSUE, WE EXAMINE THE CULTURAL CONFUSION AND CONTRADICTIONS IN OUR SOCIETY THAT ARE MAGNIFIED BY OUR INCREASINGLY DYSFUNCTIONAL NOMINATING/ELECTORAL PROCESS.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, ENTITLED “THE PEOPLE OF POLITICS AND THE POLITICS OF PEOPLE”, AND THROUGH APRIL, 2017 WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EXPLORATION OF OUR POLITICS AND CULTURE AS ASPECTS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE THAT ARE IN NEED OF ATTENTION AND REPAIR.

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FAILED , THEY RELIED UPON THEIR CONSIDERABLE WARRIOR SKILLS. AND IN PARIS, FRENCH DIPLOMACY WAS OFTEN IMPROVED BY DELAYING FUTURE DISCUSSION UNTIL AFTER SHARING LUNCH AND THE BENEFITS OF FRANCE’S LEGENDARY CUISINE.

THIS DIVIDE BETWEEN AGGRESSION AND COOPERATION IN THE HUMAN SPECIES IS ONE THAT, DESPITE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE, WHEREAS OTHER SPECIES SUCH AS ELEPHANTS AND WOLVES, FORM TRIBES WHICH ARE ABLE TO REGULATE THEIR OWN NUMBERS, HABITS AND TERRITORY IN VERY EFFECTIVE WAYS. THAT OUR HUMAN SPECIES HAS SO FAR FAILED IN THIS IS QUITE REMARKABLE.

OTHERNESS IS A TELLING COMPONENT OF OUR COMMON HUMAN NATURE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE MAY PRETEND OR PROCLAIM OTHERWISE; AND IT IS ARGUABLY EVER PRESENT IN THE THREE AREAS OF ENDEAVOR THAT DOMINATE OUR 21ST CENTURY EXISTENCE — COMMERCE, RELIGION AND POLITICS. IN ALL OF THESE WE ARE TOLD THAT OTHERNESS IS EITHER A VANISHING ABERRATION OR A FALSE READING OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. IT IS NEITHER; RATHER, IT HAS PROVED TO BE A DURABLE ASPECT OF OUR SPECIES’ TIMELINE.

IT IS A PECULIARITY OF OUR PARTICULAR TIME WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON RACE THAT “OTHERNESS” CAN BE VIEWED AS ANOTHER FORM OF RACISM. IT IS NOT. IT HAS BEEN PUT TO THE USES OF RACISM, BUT IT PREDATES OUR MODERN CONCERNS ABOUT RACE AND HAS LONG BEEN PRESENT IN MANY ASPECTS OF OUR LIFE — RELIGION, COMMERCE, DRESS, DIET, EDUCATION, SPORTS, LABOR, FINANCE, REAL ESTATE, TRANSPORTATION AND, OF COURSE, ABOVE ALL, POLITICS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL OF THESE AREAS ARE HATE-FREE. THEY AREN’T, BUT THEY DO SHOW THAT THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE ON OUR PLANET HAS FAVORED MANY FORMS AND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM.

OTHERNESS RECOGNIZES THIS VARIETY WITHOUT CALLING ON THE HATRED AND VIOLENCE OF RACISM; NOR DOES IT ACCEPT THE FORCED CREATION OF DIFFERENCES AND THEIR DEEP DIVISIONS THAT ARE OFFERED BY MULTICULTURALISTS (MC) WHOSE TRUE GOAL IS TO MAGNIFY AND INTENSIFY FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS. OTHERNESS WILL NOT GO AWAY. IT IS A FACT OF OUR NATURAL LIFE AND ITS EVOLUTION, AND DOES NOT NEED THE BURDEN OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE IMPOSED BY HATE GROUPS.

OTHERNESS HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE THE BEGINNING, EXISTING WHEREVER DIFFERENCES OCCUR AND PASSING FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT BY SUCH POWERFUL MASS MECHANISMS AS RELIGION, WAR, WEALTH, SCIENCE AND DISEASE; AND SURFACING IN OUR LIVES THROUGH RACIAL, CULTURAL, ETHNIC, POLITICAL, DIETARY, WORSHIP, DRESS AND OTHER PRACTICES.

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TO CONTINUE TO EXIST OVER THEIR BILLIONS OF YEARS OF LIFE, ALL OUR PLANET’S SPECIES — ANIMAL AND PLANT — HAVE HAD TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR FORM AND BEHAVIOR TO REACH BALANCE WITH THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL REQUIREMENTS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. THIS SEEMINGLY ENDLESS PROCESS OF BALANCING AND REBALANCING WE HAVE CALLED “EVOLUTION”, AND THE LAWS IMPOSED BY OUR ENVIRONMENT WE REFER TO AS “NATURE”.

IT IS A SYSTEM OF ALMOST UNLIMITED VARIATION WITH THE ABILITY TO CHANGE ITS OWN RULES OF CONDUCT AND, THEREFORE, ALSO THOSE OF ITS SPECIES, SUB-SPECIES AND MICRO-SPECIES, WHETHER CALMLY AND GRADUALLY OVER TIME, OR QUICKLY AND VIOLENTLY.

THIS IMMENSITY OF VARIATION EXTENDS TO OUR OWN SPECIES THROUGH SUCH DIFFERENT MEANS AS GEOGRAPHY, FOOD SOURCES AND GENETICS. THIS LAST, GENETICS, CAN BE VIEWED AS EITHER A CREATOR OR INHIBITOR OF VARIATION. WE VIEW IT AS THE FORMER BECAUSE IT ALLOWS CONTINUING AND CONSIDERABLE, BUT LIMITED, VARIETY. ALTHOUGH WE ALLOW ENOUGH DIVERGENCE TO MAINTAIN THE GENE POOL’S VITALITY, WE STAY CLOSE TO OUR MODEL EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL GROSS MUTATION OR OTHER “WRONG TURN”, MOST OF WHICH DEAD-END OR SELF-DESTRUCT.

OTHERNESS IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS WAS MOSTLY ACCEPTED AS A MEANS OF KEEPING CULTURES, PEOPLE AND IDENTITIES SEPARATE UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF OUR PRESENT AGE OF INSTANT, MASS COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION WHEN A COMBINATION OF LEFTIST POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL INTERESTS COMBINED IN PROPOSING THAT POLITICAL CORRECTNESS (PC) AND MC COULD HEAL SOCIETY’S WOUNDS, REMOVE ITS INEQUALITIES AND IN THE PROCESS ELIMINATE OTHERNESS. AS TEMPTING AS THIS COULD BE FOR SOME, IT IGNORED MILLIONS OF YEARS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION IN WHICH MOST HUMAN GROUPS HAVE,

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, REGARDED THEIR FELLOW HUMANS AS THE OTHER.

IN THE NE, WE ARE THE OTHER;
AND HERE, MUSLIMS ARE.

THIS VIEW HAS BEEN WITH US THROUGH ALL OUR AGES AND STAGES. IT HAS BEEN A KEY FORCE BEHIND OUR CENTURIES OF RELIGIOUS WARS AND IS HIGHLY EVIDENT IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS OF THE NEAR EAST (NE). THERE, NOTHING IS MORE UNLIKELY THAN CHRISTIANITY CONVERTING ISLAM; WHEREAS IN THIS COUNTRY THE REVERSE OF ISLAM REPLACING CHRISTIANITY/JUDAISM IS EQUALLY REMOTE. THERE IS A SIMPLE WAY OF VIEWING THE OTHER THAT ROBS IT OF MUCH OF ITS FEAR. IT ACCEPTS THAT, AS OUR WORLD IS ONE OF UNCOUNTABLE DIFFERENCES, THE OTHER IS A UNIVERSAL PRESENCE. IN THE NE, WE ARE THE OTHER; AND HERE, MUSLIMS ARE.

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OUR WESTERN CIVILIZATION (WCIV) HAS BEEN ON A FAST AND POWERFUL “ROLL” FOR THE PAST 500 YEARS, PRIMARILY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ENORMOUS TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PRINTING PRESS, AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT, INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND WWS I AND II; AND OUR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS IN NO SMALL MEASURE WERE ENCOURAGED AND ENABLED BY TECHNOLOGY’S NEW DISCOVERIES AND DIRECTIONS.

WCIV HAS TENDED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED BOTH ITS EXTRAORDINARY TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE PLACE AMONG NATIONS THAT THEY HAVE MADE POSSIBLE. THIS IS AN UNREALISTIC AND NARROW VIEW, AND ALREADY SIGNS OF CHANGE ARE EVIDENT. WCIV’S DEBT TO TECHNOLOGY WILL HAVE TO BE REPAYED.

NOT SO, ELSEWHERE. IN OTHER CIVILIZATIONS AROUND OUR GLOBE TECHNOLOGY REMAINED MOSTLY THE SAME WITH MINOR ADVANCES AND FEW BENEFITS. MOST NOTABLE AMONG THESE WAS THE ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION BORN AND CENTERED IN THE NE WHOSE FAITH, EDUCATION AND LAWS KEPT IT IN A MOSTLY STATIC CONDITION EVEN AFTER THE IMPORTANT OIL DISCOVERIES OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. IT WAS NOT UNTIL TV AND COMPUTERS COMBINED WITH OIL REVENUES TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME IMAGES OF THE WORLD BEYOND ISLAM THAT IT BEGAN TO CHANGE, AND THEN ONLY GRUDGINGLY.

THERE CAN BE NO MORE STARKLY DIFFERENT VIEWS OF PAST CULTURAL HISTORY AND FUTURE DESTINY THAN THE WEST’S FIVE HUNDRED YEAR EMBRACE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ISLAM’S LIFE-CONTROLLING COMMITMENT TO THE COMMANDS AND BELIEFS LAID DOWN BY THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD. FOR EACH, HOWEVER, THERE IS A CLEAR PATH AHEAD TO THE ABYSS VIA THEIR DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS SUSTAINED HUMAN

LIFE ON OUR PLANET. FOR WCIV, ITS PATH IS CONTINUATION OF THE WAY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION WITHOUT REGARD TO ITS EFFECT ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT WE AND ALL OTHER SPECIES REQUIRE. FOR ISLAM, IT IS NOT INDUSTRIALIZATION THAT WILL MAKE IMPOSSIBLE CLAIMS UPON OUR RESOURCES, BUT RATHER THE HIGH FERTILITY PRACTICES COMMANDED BY THE QURAN. IN EITHER CASE, WESTERN OR ISLAMIC, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT LIFE ON OUR PLANET EARTH AT THE END OF THIS CENTURY WILL BE OF FAR GREATER DANGER AND LESS COMFORT THAN WHAT WE HAVE KNOWN AND ENJOYED IN THE PAST. THIS, IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN THE LIFE ON OUR PLANET WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED, IS NOT AN EITHER/OR CHOICE. BOTH PATHS ENCOURAGE EXCESS AND MUST BE REJECTED IN FAVOR OF ONE THAT WILL OFFER THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

THERE IS LITTLE PERMANENCE IN OUR WORLD,
AND EVEN LESS IN OUR POLITICS.

TODAY AMERICA IS IN A MOMENT OF ENORMOUS POLITICAL PENDULUM CHANGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY YEARS OF LEFTIST/PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF MANY OF OUR NATION’S INSTITUTIONAL LEVERS OF POWER. THIS CONCENTRATION IN OUR COURTS, BUREAUCRACY, CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY LED TO, FIRST, OVERREACH IN THOUGHT AND INFLUENCE, AND THEN TO THE INEVITABLE NEXT STAGE IN WHICH EXISTING LAW AND PROCESS IS IGNORED, MISREPRESENTED AND/OR CONTRADICTED. THE ACCUMULATION OF THIS POWER AND ITS EXERCISE LULLED THE LEFT INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY, INTO THINKING OF ITS ADVANTAGE AS PERMANENT. THERE IS LITTLE PERMANENCE IN OUR WORLD, AND EVEN LESS IN OUR POLITICS.

BY OVERPLAYING ITS HAND THE LEFT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY AND ISSUED AN INVITATION FOR THE POLITICAL PENDULUM TO CHANGE DIRECTION. THIS WAS ALL THAT THE CENTER AND CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS NEEDED TO REACH VOTERS AND FIELD CANDIDATES FOR THE GOP NOMINATING CAMPAIGN WHICH OPENED WITH A RECORD NUMBER (17) OF CONTESTANTS MOST OF WHOM MERELY DUSTED OFF AND REUSED SPEECHES AND POLICIES FROM PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS.

TRUMP’S LEADERSHIP IN THE OPINION POLLS EMERGED EARLY AND STAYED STRONG, TAKING BOTH PUNDITS AND POLITICIANS BY SURPRISE. IT SHOULDN’T HAVE. HE HAS MANY FAULTS, WHICH WOULD HAVE DONE IN THE OTHERS WITH WHOM HE SHARED THE “DEBATING” STAGE, BUT OVERRIDING THEM WAS HIS ABILITY TO SENSE THE KIND OF CHANGE THAT MANY AMERICANS WANTED AND THOUGHT WAS LONG OVERDUE. AND HE SPOKE TO THEM IN DIRECT AND BLUNT LANGUAGE, NOT THE SAME, ENDLESS PROMISES OF THE PAST FROM BOTH PARTIES THAT WERE NEVER KEPT.

WE HAVE SAID THAT AMERICA HAS BECOME MORE A NATION OF LABELS THAN LAWS. TRUMP’S CANDIDACY IS A LABEL. WHETHER YOU LIKE HIM OR NOT, WHETHER HE WINS OR LOSES, IT SAYS THAT OUR SYSTEM CAN SENSE DANGER AND ATTEMPT TO

CORRECT ITSELF; AT A TIME SUCH AS NOW, WHEN OUR NATION AND CIVILIZATION ARE UNDER ATTACK BY MANY FORCES, THAT IS IMPORTANT. THERE ARE FOUR MONTHS LEFT BEFORE THE ELECTION IN WHICH ANY NUMBER OF PRESENTLY UNFORESEEABLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN. ALL THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT OUR POLITICAL PENDULUM HAS MOVED IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

IF SO, WILL OUR LAWS BECOME ONLY LABELS ?

THE RESULT OF THIS MOTION IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED. WILL IT COMPLY WITH OUR HISTORY AND PEACEFULLY PRODUCE A NEW PARTY AS IT DID DURING THE MOMENTOUS SHIFT PRIOR TO OUR CIVIL WAR WHEN THE ESTABLISHED WHIG PARTY DIED AND THE GOP WAS BORN ? OR WILL THE MEANNESS, EXCESS AND CORRUPTION OF OUR TIME COMBINE TO BREAK WITH THE PAST AND LEAVE US EXPOSED TO A FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF OUR TRADITIONS AND PRECEDENTS ? IF SO, WILL OUR LAWS BECOME ONLY LABELS ?

ONENESS

AND, THEN, THERE IS “ONENESS”, THE OPPOSITE OF OTHERNESS. IT LIES AT THE HEART OF THE SELF; IT IS THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK WE SEEK AS WE BREAK HUMANITY DOWN FROM SPECIES TO CIVILIZATIONS, TO NATIONS, TO TRIBES, TO INDIVIDUALS AND THEN TO THE SELF. ONENESS AND OTHERNESS; YIN AND YANG; LIKE TWO BINARY STARS IN ORBIT, HURTLING THROUGH HUMANITY; LOCKED INTO THEIR FIXED POSITIONS BY THEIR OPPOSING FORCES, JUST AS GRAVITY AND CENTRIFUGAL FORCE OPPOSE EACH OTHER IN OUTER SPACE. AT THE CENTER, MAINTAINING A CONSTANT DISTANCE BETWEEN ONENESS AND OTHERNESS, IS THAT IDENTITY WITH WHICH WE SHARE ALL OUR DAYS AND YET WHICH AT OUR END IS NOT COMPLETELY KNOWN. AND NOWHERE IN OUR COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF PUBLIC LIFE ARE THESE TWO PRIMAL FORCES, ONENESS AND OTHERNESS, MORE FREQUENTLY OR FUTILELY INVOKED THAN IN POLITICS.

POLITICS AND WHAT THE MEANING OF “IS” (OR ANYTHING ELSE) IS

LANGUAGE IS A PRECISION TOOL THAT ALL SPECIES HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THEIR CONTINUING EVOLUTION. AS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT HAS BECOME MORE COMPLEX, LANGUAGE HAS HAD TO GROW IN SIZE AND SPECIFICITY. FOR INSTANCE, “DWELLING” IS A GENERAL TERM THAT LACKS DETAIL, WHEREAS “HOUSE”, “TENT”, “CAVE” AND “CASTLE” ARE MORE SPECIFIC AND CONVEY MORE INFORMATION. AND WE HAVE HAD TO CONSTANTLY HONE AND EXPAND OUR LANGUAGE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE THAT WE HAVE WROUGHT.

POLITICS IS A MINEFIELD FOR LANGUAGE WHERE POLITICIANS TREAD CAREFULLY TO AVOID ANY MEDIA EXPLOSION OF THE FACTS OR INTENTIONS OF THEIR COMMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE. DIRECT ANSWERS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS ARE RARE AND, AS WE SEE IN OUR NOMINATING DEBATES, THE FAVORED TECHNIQUE FOR AVOIDANCE IS FOR THE POLITICIAN TO REPLY WITH “THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION”, EMPLOY A LINK SENTENCE OR TWO AND THEN SEEK REFUGE IN HIS/HER STANDARD “STUMP SPEECH” WHICH RESTATES THE CANDIDATE’S BROAD QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE AND IS SUPPORTED BY A FEW CAREFULLY SELECTED POSITIONS OR ACTIONS WITH WHICH A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF VOTERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO AGREE.

LANGUAGE IN POLITICS IS NOT LIKE OTHER LANGUAGE. OFTEN IT IS INTENDED TO CONCEAL, RATHER THAN REVEAL; OR TO BE AMBIGUOUS OR TO SERVE AS A CODE, PROVIDING A SCREEN RATHER THAN A DIRECT STATEMENT. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN OUR POLITICIANS’ SPOKEN AND BODY LANGUAGE WE MAY DISCERN TRUTH, BUT EVEN THAT IS NOT ASSURED.

IN TODAY’S MULTI-MEDIA, MULTI-MESSAGE, MULTI-MEANING POLITICAL WORLD WE HAVE TO BE ALERT TO NEWS AND NUANCE, TO WHAT IS SAID AND WHAT IS NOT SAID, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT IS INTENDED AND WHAT IS NOT INTENDED. IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY.

FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE GOP CAMPAIGN THERE WERE MANY VOICES IN THE EARLY “DEBATES” USING THE SAME LANGUAGE, BUT PROBABLY WITH DIFFERENT INTENTIONS. EVEN AFTER THIS CROWDED FIELD HAD BEEN REDUCED TO THREE WE COULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE SAME WORDS SPOKEN BY DIFFERENT CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE THE SAME INTENDED RESULT.

TRUMP HAS SPOKEN OF “MAKING AMERICAN GREAT AGAIN” AND CREATING CHANGE BY DRAWING TO THE GOP NEW VOTERS, INDEPENDENTS AND EVEN DEMOCRATS WHO, BY JOINING WITH REPUBLICANS, WILL THEN UNITE TO MAKE THE CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY POSSIBLE. TRUMP’S MESSAGE FROM THE BEGINNING HAS BEEN ONE OF CHANGE WHICH, IF HE IS ELECTED, WE ARE CONFIDENT HE WILL PURSUE.

GOV. KASICH OF OH, WHILE TRAILING FAR BEHIND TRUMP IN BOTH FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND DELEGATES WON, ALSO CALLED UPON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND JOIN HIM IN HIS CAMPAIGN THAT HE HOPED WOULD REPRESENT ALL AMERICANS. BUT HIS MESSAGE WAS NOT ONE OF CHANGE. HIS CLAIMED FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY SUCCESSES DERIVED FROM HIS ELECTED POSITION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND FROM HIS SERVICE ON A BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOVERNMENT WASTE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. HE ALSO POINTED TO HIS RECORD OF FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT IN OH, BUT IT IS TO WASHINGTON THAT HE HAS STATED “I CAN’T WAIT TO RETURN”, AND IT IS OUR WIDE FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT THERE THAT IS AT THE ROOT OF MANY OF THE NATION’S PROBLEMS.

THE CALLS TO BRING AMERICANS TOGETHER MAY SOUND THE SAME, BUT IN VIEW OF THESE TWO CANDIDATES’ BACKGROUNDS, THE RESULTS WOULD MOSTLY LIKELY BE VERY DIFFERENT — CHANGE FROM TRUMP AND DC STATUS QUO FROM

KASICH. MOST AMERICANS ARE SATISFIED BY PARTY LABELS AND HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR INTEREST TO SORT OUT THE REALITIES OF CODED POLITICAL LANGUAGE. THIS IS, IN EFFECT, A KIND OF MASS DISENFRANCHISEMENT WHICH WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME, IF ANY, WHEN THE POLITICIANS AND PARTIES SEE FIT TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS.

LANGUAGE, OF COURSE, IS ALSO A KEY FACTOR IN HOW CANDIDATES PRESENT NOT ONLY THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO THEIR CAMPAIGNS' ISSUES. IN APRIL, WHEN CO DELIVERED FAR FEWER DELEGATES TO TRUMP THAN HIS POPULAR VOTE INDICATED, HE ATTACKED THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE (RNC) AND ITS RULES. THE LATTER HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A WAY OF CHANNELING PARTICIPATION AT LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION'S PURPOSE OF DECIDING UPON, DECLARING AND PROMOTING ITS CANDIDATE. IT NEEDS TO BE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS FOR BOTH PARTIES THE APPEARANCE OF VOTER IMPACT UPON THE FINAL RESULT IS FAR GREATER THAN THE REALITY.

REGARDLESS OF THE CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES THAT ARE EXCHANGED, THERE IS NO SUPREME ARBITER THAT CAN RENDER A DECISION AND DECLARE A WINNER UNTIL THE PUBLIC WEIGHS IN WITH ITS VOTE IN NOVEMBER. THANKFULLY, CAMPAIGN ISSUES USUALLY HAVE LONGER LIVES THAN CAMPAIGN RHETORIC, AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN THE ISSUE IS ONE AS ARCANE AS POLITICAL CONVENTION REGULATIONS.

THE FAST AND CONSTANT FLOW OF MSM CAMPAIGN COVERAGE MEANS THAT MOST CANDIDATES' WORDS ENJOY A "SHELF LIFE" OF LESS THAN 48 HOURS. BUT ISSUES CAN BE A HARDIER BREED AND CAN RESURFACE WHEN SUMMONED BY EITHER VOTERS, CIRCUMSTANCE OR CANDIDATES THEMSELVES. THE MATTER OF THE RNC'S RULES AND ITS OPPOSITION TO TRUMP'S CANDIDACY IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF SUCH A "BOOMERANG" ISSUE.

THE RNC'S POSITION DEFENDS THE STATUS QUO, DATED RULES AND, NOT INCIDENTALLY, THE AUTHORITY AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF THE RNC'S LEADERS. IS THIS STANCE THE BANNER UNDER WHICH DELEGATES MAY BE EXPECTED TO GATHER AT THE CONVENTION ? AND IN THE GENERAL ELECTION, IS IT MORE LIKELY TO PROVIDE AN ADVANTAGE TO THE GOP OR A TARGET FOR THE DEMOCRATS ?

AS TRUMP'S WHOLE CAMPAIGN IS BASED ON CHANGE, HIS CHALLENGE OF THE GOP'S DELEGATE SELECTION AND ITS CONVENTION PROCEDURE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE MESSAGE HE HAS DELIVERED SINCE HE FIRST ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY. IT CAN BE CLAIMED AS A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF HIS CALL FOR OTHER REFORMS IN OUR POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT.

TRUMP'S CANDIDACY IS BASED ON A PROTEST VOTE BY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO VIEW THEIR LIVES AS HAVING BEEN UNFAIRLY AND NEGATIVELY ALTERED BY THE POLICIES AND VALUES OF OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST GENERATION. THIS HAS ENABLED HIM TO APPEAL TO SURPRISINGLY LARGE NUMBERS IN BOTH PARTIES AND TO INDEPENDENTS. IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HIS CONFRONTATION WITH THE RNC WILL BE SEEN AS ANOTHER, AND NECESSARY, FORM OF CHANGE THAT WILL

TRANSLATE INTO VOTER APPEAL/SUPPORT.

THE RNC'S POSITION IS NOT A HAPPY ONE, FOR IT MAY BE LEFT WITH A DEEPLY DIVIDED ORGANIZATION INCAPABLE OF RETAINING AND/OR EXERCISING ITS NUMERICAL ADVANTAGES IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE. PRAGMATISM ON BOTH SIDES REQUIRES THAT THEY PUT THEIR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND JOIN TOGETHER IN AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN, BUT TIME IS SHORT.

SOME CHANGE IS INSTANT, AND SOME GRADUAL, AND POLITICAL UPHEAVAL CAN BE EITHER, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH. AFTER THE GLARING POLICY AND CONSTITUTIONAL FAILURES OF THE CLINTON, BUSH II AND OBAMA PRESIDENCIES, AMERICA MUST BEGIN THE TASKS OF RESTORING AND ELEVATING ITS GOVERNMENT. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, THE POSSIBILITY OF A GOP DEFEAT AND A RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY THE CLINTONS IS WORRISOME.

“WAR IS THE CONTINUATION OF POLITICS BY OTHER MEANS”²

POLITICS HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS “WAR . . . BY OTHER MEANS” WHICH DOES JUSTICE TO THE LEVEL OF INTENSITY THAT OUR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS CAN REACH. INVARIABLY, WHETHER FOR STATE, LOCAL OR FEDERAL OFFICE, THERE IS ENOUGH INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MONEY AND POWER AT STAKE TO ASSURE AN ENDLESS STREAM OF HYPE OVER TOO LONG A TIME FRAME. WHAT WE MUST RECOGNIZE AT THE ROOT OF ALL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING IS THAT VOTER VERDICTS ARE DELIVERED MOSTLY ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THE CAMPAIGNERS PROMISE WILL OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS, IN ITS OWN WAY, AN ADMISSION OF PAST FAILURE, FOR, IF ALL PARTS OF OUR SOCIETY WERE FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE NEED FOR CHANGE AND OUR SOCIETY WOULD BE CONTENT TO ENJOY A FAIR AND SUCCESSFUL DISTRIBUTION OF OUR NATION'S MANY BENEFITS.

... IT IS EVIDENT THAT POLITICS IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF TRUTH.

HOWEVER, EVEN WITHIN THE POLITICAL REALM IN WASHINGTON THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS POOR, THAT “WASHINGTON IS BROKEN” AND NEEDS TO BE FIXED — A CONSENSUS SO BROAD THAT MANY CANDIDATES IN STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS HAVE SEEN FIT TO PUT ITS MESSAGE TO USE IN THEIR CAMPAIGNS. IN OUR NOMINATING PROCESS' PRESENT FORM, WHETHER CANDIDATES ARGUE OVER PAST RECORDS OR PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT POLITICS IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF TRUTH.

WE CANNOT CONTROL THE THOUGHT/SPEECH ELEMENT IN CAMPAIGNING; NOR SHOULD WE, BECAUSE IT CAN OFFER VALID GROUNDS FOR SUPPORT OR REJECTION. BUT WE COULD AND SHOULD, REDUCE ITS LENGTH FROM ITS PRESENT TEN MONTHS TO TWO.

MUCH OF OUR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IS BASED

ON THE ENGLISH MODEL WHICH WE LIVED UNDER UNTIL WE ESTABLISHED OUR INDEPENDENCE, AND WHICH WE ALTERED TO ADAPT TO OUR MUCH LARGER TERRITORY AT A TIME WHEN TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRIMITIVE.

TODAY, BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE IN A FIXED TIME FRAME OF SIX WEEKS, AND WE SHOULD DO THE SAME, AS THE TECHNOLOGY IS READILY AVAILABLE TO COMPRESS THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS INTO SUCH A PERIOD. THERE WOULD BE LOUD AND INSTANT OPPOSITION TO SUCH A CHANGE FROM A VARIETY OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS — MOST NOTABLY OUR MSM WHO WOULD LOSE MANY HOURS OF PROGRAMMING AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING REVENUES; AND ALSO FROM OUR POLITICAL ELITES — THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES AND OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES BOTH OF WHICH HAVE BECOME OVERLY DEPENDENT UPON OUR TEN MONTH CAMPAIGN PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING FUNDS AND MEDIA COVERAGE.

SO THERE WE HAVE IT — THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF TECHNOLOGY’S ABILITY TO BENEFIT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE. BUT WILL IT HAPPEN ? PROBABLY NOT, AT LEAST NOT NOW; NOT UNTIL WE ARE ACTUALLY THREATENED BY THE STATUS QUO, OR UNTIL OUR SPECIAL INTERESTS CAN DEVISE A WAY TO PROTECT OR INCREASE THEIR PROFITS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT “TECHNOLOGY CHANGES EVERYTHING”; PERHAPS WE SHOULD ADD “EXCEPT POLITICS”.

THE VIEW FROM MOUNT RUSHMORE

INTERSTATE 90 FOLLOWS A STRAIGHT PATH ACROSS S. DAKOTA FROM ITS EASTERN BORDER WITH IOWA TO THE WYOMING LINE IN THE WEST. AT RAPID CITY, IF WE EXIT AND HEAD SOUTH FOR ABOUT 20 MILES, WE FIND OURSELVES AT MT. RUSHMORE. OUR FIRST GLIMPSE FROM MILES AWAY REVEALS A ROCKY PEAK WITH A FLAT WHITE SPOT ON ITS FACE WHICH, AS WE APPROACH, IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE 60 FOOT TALL STONE SCULPTURES OF THE BUSTS OF FOUR EXTRAORDINARY AMERICAN PRESIDENTS — WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, LINCOLN AND THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

IT IS THE WORK OF GUTZON BORGLUM WHO OVERSAW EVERY ASPECT OF ITS PROGRESS BEGINNING WITH ITS ORIGINAL DESIGN IN 1927 TO ITS COMPLETION IN 1941. THE ENORMOUS SCALE OF THIS UNDERTAKING POSED MANY CHALLENGES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS THAT ITS SCULPTOR WORKED WITH A JACKHAMMER SUSPENDED IN A SLING-SEAT BY CABLES RATHER THAN WITH HAMMER AND CHISEL IN THE CONTROLLED COMFORT OF A STUDIO.

WE CAN ONLY WONDER HOW THIS MONUMENTAL WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED, ESPECIALLY WHEN MOST OF ITS CONSTRUCTION OCCURRED DURING THE PAIN OF OUR GREAT DEPRESSION (GD) YEARS. MT. RUSHMORE IS A UNIQUE AND GRAND EXPRESSION OF PATRIOTISM, OF BORGLUM’S APPRECIATION OF AMERICA’S PAST AND ITS INTENTIONS EXPRESSED IN OUR CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (DI).

AS BORGLUM DIED IN 1941, AGE 74, HE WAS UNABLE TO

EXPERIENCE THE MASSIVE CHANGE IN AMERICA THAT COMMENCED WITH WW II AND CONTINUED AND ACCELERATED IN THE POSTWAR YEARS. LIKE ANY ARTIST OR VISIONARY, HE WAS ENERGIZED BY THE VISION HE HARBORED AND THE NEED TO CONVERT IT INTO REALITY. HAD HE LIVED TO OUR TIME, MIGHT HE HAVE CHOSEN FDR INSTEAD OF TR, OR MIGHT HE HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO RACIALLY REWRITE HISTORY TO REMOVE THE FIGURES OF SLAVE OWNERS WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON ?

BORGLUM’S CHOICES ARE NOT CONTROVERSIAL, BUT ARE INTERESTING, CONSIDERING THAT HIS TIME FRAME WAS THE 138 YEARS FROM 1789-1927. ALL FOUR SOUGHT AND REACHED POLITICAL OFFICE, BUT THERE ARE NOTABLE DIFFERENCES IN THEIR TIMES AND TALENTS.

TWO, WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN, WERE CHALLENGED BY WARS — WASHINGTON BEFORE THE NATION WAS EVEN FORMED IN OUR REVOLUTION AGAINST ENGLAND, AND LINCOLN DURING THE AGONY OF OUR CIVIL WAR. EACH REQUIRED THE PRESIDENT TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN THE CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT. WASHINGTON’S MILITARY BRILLIANCE AND ENDURANCE EARNED HIM THE RESPECT AND AFFECTION OF HIS FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WHICH CARRIED OVER INTO CONGRESS WHEN HE BECAME PRESIDENT. IN THIS VERY EMOTIONAL PERIOD, WHEN THE THIRTEEN COLONIES WERE CONVERTING TO STATEHOOD, DIFFERENCES WERE MANY AND COULD EASILY BECOME ANTAGONISMS. ONLY WASHINGTON HAD THE STATURE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE MANY VERY THORNY ISSUES AND TO DRAW FROM THEM A FRAGILE SENSE OF ORDER. HIS WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND WITHOUT HIM OUR “NOBLE EXPERIMENT” MIGHT EASILY HAVE FOUNDERED.

LINCOLN’S CONCERN WITH ORDER WAS OF A DIFFERENT KIND, AS HE WAS TASKED WITH KEEPING THE NATION TOGETHER WHEN IT WAS RIVEN BY DISSENT OVER THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ARGUMENTS ATTACHED TO SLAVERY. HIS LODESTAR FROM WHICH HE NEVER WAVERED WAS THE UNION, DIVIDED IN OPINION PERHAPS, BUT INTACT. THAT HE WAS ABLE TO SUCCEED DURING FOUR YEARS OF CIVIL WAR, WITH ITS HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE IN THE EARLY BATTLES AND THE PROLONGED CRITICISM OF HIS COMMANDERS AND HIMSELF FROM THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS, TESTIFIES TO HIS SKILL IN INSTILLING AND MAINTAINING ORDER UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE OTHERS, JEFFERSON AND T. ROOSEVELT, WERE OF A DIFFERENT MODEL. BY THE STANDARDS OF ANY TIME THEY WERE HIGHLY EDUCATED, BRILLIANT INDIVIDUALS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS. THEY WERE “ADVANCE MEN” LEADING AMERICA INTO TWO VERY DIFFERENT CENTURIES — JEFFERSON TAKING OFFICE IN 1801 AND T.R. ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER IN 1901.

IT WAS JEFFERSON WHO ENABLED OUR 19TH CENTURY OF TERRITORIAL EXPANSION BY HIS VAST LOUISIANA PURCHASE FROM FRANCE IN 1803 WHICH TRANSFORMED AMERICA FROM A MOSTLY EAST COAST REGIONAL GROUP OF STATES INTO A MAJOR CONTINENTAL POWER. TR, A CENTURY LATER, SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS OF AMERICA BECOMING, AND BEING RECEIVED AS, AN IMPORTANT WORLD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER BY

SENDING OUR NAVY'S "GREAT WHITE FLEET" AROUND THE WORLD AND CONSTRUCTING THE PANAMA CANAL.

THESE FOUR GREAT AMERICANS HAVE BEEN PART OF AN AMERICA THAT CHANGED THE WORLD. NOW, LOOKING OUT FROM THEIR MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY, WHAT DO THEY SEE ? WHAT IS THERE IN OUR PRESENT POLITICAL LIFE, FOR INSTANCE, THAT RELATES TO THEIR OWN TIME ? IS WHAT THEY SEE THE RESULT OF WHAT THEY HOPED AND LABORED FOR ? IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY. WHY ? WHAT HAPPENED ? AND WHAT COMES NEXT ?

* * *

OUR FOUR HEROIC PAST PRESIDENTS (PPs) MUST LOOK QUESTIONABLY AT THE AMERICA THAT STRETCHES OUT BENEATH THEM FROM THE BASE OF MT. RUSHMORE AND AT THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED. ESPECIALLY DISTURBING TO WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON MUST BE THE \$20 TRILLION MASS OF DEBT THAT SHAPES OUR EFFORTS, ATTITUDES AND INSTITUTIONS.

AT THE TIME OF OUR FOUNDING ONE OF THE MOST VEXING ISSUES OUR FOUNDERS FACED WAS THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL STATES' DEBTS INTO A SINGLE NATIONAL LIABILITY, AS THERE WERE WIDE DIFFERENCES IN THE SIZES AND TERMS OF THE THIRTEEN COLONIES' DEBTS. EVENTUALLY, THE MATTER WAS RESOLVED BY COMPROMISE AND POLITICAL PERSUASION WITH THE RESULT THAT THE NEW FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ABSORBED THE COLONIES' OBLIGATIONS AND BACKED THEM WITH THE "FULL FAITH AND CREDIT" OF THE NEW U.S.A.

DURING THE FIRST CENTURY OF OUR EXISTENCE DEBT WAS REGARDED NEGATIVELY BY OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE AND PLAYED A RELATIVELY MINOR ROLE IN THE NATION'S FINANCES. MOST OF ITS INCOME CAME FROM TRADE TARIFFS WHICH WERE SET BY THE CONGRESS AND, WHILE "PANICS" WERE FREQUENT AND PAINFUL, THERE WAS NO CENTRAL BANK, SUCH AS THE FEDERAL RESERVE, THAT COULD COORDINATE AND IMPOSE A NATIONAL FORM OF RELIEF.

STILL, THE SIZE OF OUR DEBT TODAY AND OUR POLITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT ARE BEYOND REASON AND EVEN SIMPLE DANGER. MOST OF OUR PRESENT \$20 TRILLION OF LIABILITY HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE SPAN OF 35 YEARS COMMENCING WITH PRES. REAGAN'S INAUGURATION IN 1981. AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT BEEN DUE TO UNUSUAL FISCAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE BEEN THRUST UPON US.

... TO MARGINALIZE THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND WILL.

THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT WE HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT OUR DEBT CRISIS BY OUR OWN PERVASIVE FAILURE OF WILL AND DUTY. WE HAVE ENGAGED COLLECTIVELY IN THE POLITICS OF "MORE" BY THE CONGRESS, THE WHITE HOUSE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND

THE ALL-POWERFUL MSM. THIS ARRAY OF MONEY AND POWER HAS BEEN ABLE TO MARGINALIZE THE PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND WILL.

IT IS CONGRESS THAT PREPARES OUR NATIONAL BUDGET AND DETERMINES OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES WHICH HAVE NOT INCLUDED ANY MEANINGFUL DEBT REDUCTION. ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL VOICES OFTEN EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE DEBT, WHEN THE TIME FOR DEBATE IS OVER AND SPENDING LEGISLATION MUST BE PASSED, THE CONGRESSIONAL PHRASEOLOGY SHIFTS AWAY FROM "REDUCING THE DEBT" TO "CUTTING SPENDING". THESE ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT MIND-SETS. THEY ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE, ALTHOUGH OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES USE THEM IN WAYS DESIGNED TO FOSTER THAT IMPRESSION.

OUR FOUR PPs WILL DETECT ANOTHER BREAK FROM OUR PAST IN OUR TREATMENT OF DEBT CAUSED BY WAR. FOR MOST OF OUR HISTORY WARS ENTAILED A SPIKE IN DEBT TO PAY MILITARY EXPENSES WHICH WAS THEN REDUCED TO ITS NORMAL LEVEL WITHIN A FEW YEARS. THIS MODEL WAS ABANDONED FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ AS, FOR REASONS OF CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGICAL PURITY, NO TAXES WERE LEVIED TO SUPPORT IT. THERE WAS LITTLE TRANSPARENCY AND LESS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACTIONS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES THAT SHOCKED EVEN THE DC BUREAUCRACY. THE CREDIT CARD MENTALITY WAS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE WHITE HOUSE, IN CONGRESS AND AT THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE (DOD).

... BUT WE AND OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE FAILED EACH OTHER.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER ENDEAVORS SUCH AS FOREIGN AID, WELFARE, EDUCATION, AND IMMIGRATION WHICH MAY BE EXCUSED TODAY AS TEMPORARY MATTERS OF FINANCIAL AND/OR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCE, BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS DISHONORABLE BY OUR 4 PPs. HONOR IN GOVERNMENT MAY JUST BE TOO QUAIN A CONCEPT FOR US TO ENTERTAIN. TIME PASSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, BUT WE AND OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE FAILED EACH OTHER.

IT IS NOT JUST OUR PURSUIT OF MONEY AND POWER THAT HAS SHIFTED OUR PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF OUR HISTORY AND OUR FUTURE. AS INDIVIDUALS, WE HAVE BEEN PERSUADED THAT WE SHOULD LET OUR INSTITUTIONS EXERCISE OUR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POWERS FOR US. WHY, THEN, SHOULD WE BE SURPRISED WHEN WE FIND THAT POLITICAL PARTIES, BANKS, TRADE GROUPS, RELIGIONS, UNIONS, MSM, THE CONGRESS, INSURANCE COMPANIES OR OTHERS EMPLOY OUR POWER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY FOR OUR BENEFIT ?

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ITS GOVERNMENT ARE OVERLOADED WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS WHICH ARE NOW FIRMLY FIXED AND IN CONTROL OF BOTH THE DC BUREAUCRACY AND OUR ELECTIVE OFFICES. THESE INTERESTS WILL NOT LEAVE QUIETLY OR OF THEIR OWN ACCORD. THEY HAVE HAD THE TASTE

OF VICTORY — OF POLITICAL BLOOD AND POWER — AND CAN ONLY BE DISLODGED IF AMERICAN CITIZENS AWAKE, DEMAND THE RETURN OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS AND THEN USE THEM CAREFULLY AND INTELLIGENTLY. IN DOING SO, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RID OURSELVES OF OUR ADDICTION TO APPLYING LABELS, TRUE OR FALSE, TO THOSE PEOPLE OR FORCES WITH WHOM WE MUST INTERACT. THIS IS MOSTLY A MATTER OF WILL, OF STATING THAT WE HONOR OUR COUNTRY’S HISTORY AND TRADITIONAL VALUES AND WILL MAKE THE EFFORT NECESSARY TO RECLAIM OUR RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATORY CITIZENSHIP.

THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY PROCEDURE AND IS UNLIKELY TO GAIN THE TRACTION NECESSARY FOR PROGRESS UNLESS IT HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF A CREDIBLE GROUP OF SPONSORS AND DISTINGUISHED LEADERS. THE ALTERNATIVE IS CLEAR — MORE OF THE SAME PEOPLE AND THINKING THAT HAVE STEADILY REDUCED THE QUALITY OF OUR LIFE AND GOVERNMENT.

AND, FINALLY, THERE IS A MORAL ELEMENT IN OUR DEBT’S DISCONNECT FROM OUR 4 PPS. THEY SERVED THE NATION DURING A CENTURY IN WHICH IT FACED NUMEROUS PROBLEMS — NOT AS A SUPERPOWER, BUT AS A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT HAD FOUGHT AND DEFEATED THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST OF THE OLD ORDER. ITS STRUGGLES TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AND TO SURVIVE THE PERILS OF ITS NEW, UNCHARTED TERRITORY WERE REAL AND CONSTANT, AS WAS ITS NEED TO BOOTSTRAP ITSELF FINANCIALLY BY ENGAGING IN AND PROSPERING FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE LONG DOMINATED BY ENGLAND, FRANCE AND SPAIN.

THE VIEW FROM ATOP MT. RUSHMORE IS LONG IN TIME AND BROAD IN SCOPE. WHAT ARE OUR 4 PPS TO THINK OF OUR 180° TRANSIT FROM THE WORLD’S RICHEST COUNTRY AND LARGEST CREDITOR TO OUR PRESENT STATE OF QUESTIONABLE SOLVENCY WITH A DEBT SO LARGE THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP OF OUR FIVE MOST RECENT PRESIDENCIES HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN ANY SPECIFIC ACTION OR DISCUSSION INTENDED TO REDUCE OUR DEBT ?

A TIME OF CONTRADICTIONS

THIS IS NOT JUST A FINANCIAL ISSUE. OUR PROLONGED FAILURE TO APPLY CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO OUR UNCONTROLLED BORROWING IS ONE MEASURE OF HOW MUCH THE PRESENT CHARACTER AND CULTURE OF OUR NATION CONTRADICT ITS ORIGINS. WE DO NOT SHARE THE SAME COMMITMENT TO OUR NATIONAL IDEALS AND TO EACH OTHER THAT PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED COHESION. IT IS LONG GONE FROM OUR NATION’S CAPITAL. OUR FOUNDERS, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES, SHARED A UNITY OF PURPOSE IN CREATING OUR GOVERNMENT AND ASSURING ITS SURVIVAL, WHEREAS TODAY NO SUCH COMMON VISION EXISTS; AND GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A GROWING NUMBER OF COMPETING ELEMENTS INTENT ON EMPLOYING THEIR RESOURCES TO FURTHER THEIR SEPARATE INTERESTS AND IDENTITIES . THIS IS MOST NOTABLE IN THE CONGRESS AND IS A MARK OF THE SUCCESS OF MC AND PC IDEOLOGY.

AS WITH DEBT AND OUR LOST UNITY, OUR TREATMENT

OF THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE OFFERS WHAT MUST SEEM LIKE A VERY BLURRED READING OF OUR CONSTITUTION TO OUR MT. RUSHMORE PRESIDENTS. THE TWO EARLIEST OF THESE, WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON, HELD OFFICE AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS STRUGGLING TO DEVELOP ITS ECONOMY, GOVERNMENT AND CHARACTER AND TO EXPRESS ITS NEWLY GAINED FREEDOM FROM ENGLISH RULE. IT WAS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF FORMING A CULTURE WHICH COULD MAKE USE OF ITS EUROPEAN ANTECEDENTS AND YET INCREASINGLY REFLECT ITS UNIQUE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. IMMIGRATION IN OUR EARLY DAYS WAS NOT ENCOURAGED, AND THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE ADMITTED HAD TO PAY A HEALTHY ENTRY FEE AND HAVE A SPONSOR HERE TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLIC CHARGES OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

AS THE 19TH CENTURY TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICA’S ECONOMY FROM AGRARIAN TO INDUSTRIAL REQUIRED MORE AND DIFFERENT WORKERS, IMMIGRATION WAS ALLOWED TO PROVIDE THEM AND A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE PROCESS AND TO STABILIZE OUR LABOR SUPPLY. IN THE 20TH CENTURY IT WAS ALSO USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE TO BAR ENTRY TO NAZIS AND COMMUNISTS EAGER TO EXPORT THEIR VIOLENCE AND AUTHORITARIANISM TO AMERICA. DURING THIS TIME MOST OF THE IMMIGRANTS THAT WE ACCEPTED CAME FROM THE NORTHERN TIER OF WESTERN EUROPE.

THIS ALL CHANGED IN 1965 WITH THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION’S PASSAGE OF THE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT (IRCA) WHICH TURNED THE COURSE OF OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY, LIKE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEBT, 180°. THE EXTENT OF THIS REVERSAL IS MIND-BOGGLING. RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT DETERMINING THE NUMBER AND ORIGINS OF ALIENS TO BE ADMITTED, THESE TWO BASIC CONTROL ELEMENTS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE MIGRANT, AND WHAT HAD BEEN A PRIVILEGE THAT AMERICA HAD GRANTED BECAME A RIGHT THAT IMMIGRANTS DEMANDED, NOT ONLY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT BY EXTENSION TO A WIDE REACH OF FAMILY MEMBERS. THIS PROCESS BECAME KNOWN AS “CHAIN MIGRATION”.

ANOTHER KEY EXTENSION OF IRCA WAS ITS ENDING OF THE SPECIAL STATUS THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD ENJOYED WITH A CORRESPONDING MASSIVE INCREASE IN ADMISSIONS FROM ORIENTAL, LATIN AND AFRICAN CULTURES. SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY, CHIEF SPONSOR OF IRCA, CLAIMED THAT ITS EFFECT WOULD BE MINIMAL AND COSMETIC WHICH WAS BELIEVED BY AN INATTENTIVE CONGRESS. THE ACTUAL CONSEQUENCE HAS BEEN JUST THE OPPOSITE — WIDE AND DEEP CHANGE TO OUR SOCIETY AND IMMIGRATION LAW WITH A GROWING LOSS OF CONTROL BY OUR GOVERNMENT OVER BOTH.

AGAIN, EVEN ACCEPTING THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE RESULTING FROM THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THE REVERSAL OF OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY FROM THAT WHICH SERVED THE NATION’S PURPOSE FROM 1789 UNTIL 1965 ? THE ANSWER IS THAT, AGAIN, A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING ORDERED BY MC AND PC HAS PREVAILED. IN A STUNNING CONTRADICTION THIS NEW ORDER IS ABLE TO DECRY WCIV ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND VALUES WHILE GRANTING PREFERRED IMMIGRATION STATUS

TO THIRD WORLD CULTURES.

THIS LAST WORD IS KEY, FOR IMMIGRATION IS NOT ONLY A “GAME CHANGER” DUE TO ITS POPULATION NUMBERS; IT HAS ALSO QUIETLY, BIT BY BIT, PERSON BY PERSON, UNDERTAKEN TO CHANGE WCIV CULTURE. WE MAY NOT CONCERN OURSELVES WITH, OR RESPOND TO, THIS INCREMENTAL MAKE-OVER, BUT IT IS REAL AND IS BEING RELENTLESSLY PURSUED BY A POWERFUL MIX OF INTERESTS IN OUR SOCIETY AND ELSEWHERE.

SO FAR, WE HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH ADMISSION, BUT IT IS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN OUR IMMIGRATION PROCESS. THOSE WHO FAVOR OUR OPEN IMMIGRATION POLICIES THINK THERE IS MORE THAT WE CAN DO AND, NOT SURPRISINGLY, OUR GOVERNMENT HAS DETERMINED THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO NEW ARRIVALS, BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL, A VARIETY OF SERVICES AND/OR CASH PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOLING, FOOD, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, CLOTHING, LANGUAGE TRAINING, ETC. AS A POPULAR PHRASE IN WASHINGTON PUTS IT, “NOTHING IS OFF THE TABLE”. BUT THESE AMOUNTS ADD UP AND, AS MANY ARE AWARDED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS, LARGE FAMILIES FROM HIGH FERTILITY CULTURES CREATE HIGH COSTS FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER TO WHOM CONGRESS SENDS THE BILL.

IN OUR DEMOCRACY, BECAUSE CONGRESS WRITES LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO CARRY OUT THE GOVERNMENT’S POLICIES, WE CLAIM THAT VOTERS HAVE A VOICE IN THE PROCESS THROUGH THEIR ELECTION OF THEIR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, BUT THIS IS MORE THEORY THAN FACT. THE AMOUNTS THAT CONGRESS APPROPRIATES ARE MARKED FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY AND ARE THEN BROKEN DOWN AND DISTRIBUTED VIA THE BUDGETING PROCESS TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS. AT NO POINT IS IT LIKELY THAT A TAXPAYER IN AZ, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH HIS SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT IMPENDING EXPENSES FOR LOCAL IMMIGRANT SERVICES AND SUPPORT.

IMMIGRATION, HOWEVER, IS NOT JUST AN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ISSUE. RATHER, COMBINING ALL THESE, AS IT DOES, AND ADDING RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC CONFLICTS, IT HAS BECOME A HIGHLY DIVISIVE ELEMENT IN OUR CULTURE WHICH, NOW IMPLANTED, WILL SEEK TO ADD TO ITS SEPARATIST POLITICAL POWER AND STATUS. CULTURE CAN BE CHANGED BY CONSCIOUS EFFORT. THE MC KNOW THIS AND APPLY IT IN A NEGATIVE WAY. AMERICA — ITS PEOPLE, ITS GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA, THE MSM, ETC. — MUST APPLY THE SAME REALIZATION AND ALSO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN AGENCY IN DETERMINING THE DIRECTIONS AND QUALITY OF ITS CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT; AND IF, AS WE SUSPECT, IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT OUR HISTORICAL CULTURE IS IN NEED OF RESTORATION AND PROTECTION, ANY SUCH EFFORT SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY STATUS IN OUR NATIONAL POLITICAL DEBATE.

HERE AGAIN, AS IN SO MANY OTHER AREAS OF CONTENTION IN OUR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIVES, THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM HAS REACHED DOWN BELOW THE SURFACE OF DAILY EXISTENCE AND HAS ATTACHED ITSELF TO OUR BASIC IDENTITY.

THERE IS RISK INVOLVED; WE CAN EITHER OPT FOR LIBERATION OR FOR CONTINUING OUR PRESENT PARALYSIS. THE CHOICE IS OURS.

“SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS...”³

ALL OF OUR MT. RUSHMORE PRESIDENTS, IF THEY WERE TO READ THE LINES ABOVE, WOULD BE STRUCK BY TWO VERY DIFFERENT MEANINGS AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CHANGING TIMES AND OUR AMERICAN IDENTITY HAVE ESTABLISHED FOR THEM. THE REFERENCE TO “SCHOOL DAYS” FOR ANYONE WHO ATTENDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEFORE OUR 20TH CENTURY ARRIVED DELIVERS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT IMAGE THAN THAT WHICH PORTRAYS OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TODAY.

THE ACADEMIC DIRECTIONS, METHODS AND STANDARDS WERE ALL MORE DEMANDING OF STUDENTS’ TIME, EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENT. DISCIPLINE WAS FIRM, NOT CASUAL, AND READILY IMPOSED WITHOUT BEING BURDENED BY THE CONSIDERATION THAT IT MIGHT LESSEN THE STUDENTS’ SENSE OF SELF-WORTH. IN MANY COMMUNITIES, WHERE SCHOOLS WERE SMALL IN SIZE AND STAFF, THE HOURS OF INSTRUCTION WERE LONG AND STAFF OFTEN TAUGHT MULTIPLE COURSES.

THERE WERE OCCASIONAL BREAKS BETWEEN CLASSES TO ALLOW FOR SOME PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND RELAXATION, BUT THERE WERE NONE OF THE TRAPPINGS OF TEAM SPORTS WITH COACHES, TRAINERS, SCHEDULES, UNIFORMS, TRAVEL, PLAYING FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT THAT ARE CURRENTLY VIEWED AS BASIC NECESSITIES FOR BOTH INTRA AND INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION.

TR, 1858—1919, WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR PRESENT NATIONAL OBSESSION WITH SPORT WHICH BEGAN WITH THE FIRST INTER-COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONTEST IN 1852.⁴ AND, AS THERE IS A FIXED NUMBER OF HOURS IN THE DAY, ANY INCREASE IN THE TIME ALLOWED FOR ATHLETICS REDUCED THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR STUDY. ACADEMICS WILL ARGUE THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES PERMIT THE PURSUIT OF BOTH SPORT AND LEARNING WITHOUT COMPROMISING STANDARDS, AND THERE IS SOME TRUTH THAT TWEAKING SOME AREAS AND ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE, BUT THERE IS NO DENYING THAT EDUCATION IN AMERICA IN THE TIME OF OUR MT. RUSHMORE PRESIDENTS BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO OUR PRESENT MODEL AT ANY LEVEL — PRIMARY, SECONDARY OR COLLEGE.

THE OTHER YAWNING DIVIDE BETWEEN THEN AND NOW CONCERNS “DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS”. IN THE 19TH CENTURY, AND WELL INTO THE 20TH, THE ALMOST UNIVERSAL IDENTIFICATION OF “THE GOLDEN RULE” WAS “DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU” WHICH HAS WITHSTOOD ITS PASSAGE FROM BIBLICAL TIMES WITHOUT ANY LOSS OF ITS VALUES FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT ITS MESSAGE IS SO BROAD AND SO FAIR THAT IT TRANSCENDS LOCAL OR SPECIAL DIVISIONS.

BECAUSE BEING ON THE SIDE OF “THE GOOD” IN THE WORLD ASSURES THAT WE WILL BE THE TARGET OF MEANER FORCES, OUR COUNTRY’S POSTWAR PURSUIT OF MONEY AND

POWER THAT CULMINATED IN OUR SUPERPOWER STATUS PRODUCED A NEW GOLDEN RULE — “HE WHO HAS THE GOLD MAKES THE RULES”. THIS IS ANOTHER CONTRADICTION OF WHAT WAS WIDELY HONORED IN OUR COUNTRY’S PREVIOUS ATTITUDES AND CULTURE.

... WHERE MONEY DANCES WITH
POWER AND THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS.

IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA A MAJOR SUBSET OF OUR NEW RULE IS THE INCREDIBLE STRUCTURE WE HAVE BUILT TO DEVELOP, PROMOTE AND PRESENT SPORT COMPETITION FROM LITTLE LEAGUES, TO HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND THEN TO THE PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES. IT IS IN THE LATTER WHERE THE DREAMS OF PARENTS, ATHLETES AND COACHES GATHER TO FIND A NEW LIFE OF WEALTH AND FAME AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR SOCIETY AND CULTURE, WHERE MONEY DANCES WITH POWER AND THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS.

EDUCATION IS A PARALLEL PATH THAT MOSTLY FOLLOWS THE PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR EARLY SCHOOL, TEEN AND THEN COLLEGE YEARS AND POSES ITS OWN PERILS, WHETHER VISIBLE OR DISGUISED. ONE OF THESE IS THE COMPETITION FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE’S TIME AND EFFORT BETWEEN STUDY AND SPORT WHICH IS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED FOR THOSE FROM LOWER INCOME AND ETHNIC MINORITY HOMES FOR WHOM FROM THEIR EARLIEST YEARS THE WEALTH/FAME OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS IS A WAY OUT OF THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO A LIFE EQUAL TO OR, MORE LIKELY, FAR BETTER THAN THAT OF THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS TO WHOM THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE. THIS PARTICULAR CAREER CHOICE IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL ONE, AS THE STUDENT LURED BY THE GLITTER OF EXCELLING AS A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE IS ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW WHERE HIS TALENT CAN TAKE HIM BY A PERSUASIVE SUPPORT GROUP OF FAMILY, FRIENDS, CLERGY, COACHES, TRAINERS, SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND TEAMMATES. WE MAY BE TEMPTED TO THINK THIS SUPPORT IS SELFLESS, BUT ALL TOO OFTEN SUCH ADVICE CAN CARRY WITH IT A BENEFIT IN FAME OR FORTUNE, OR BOTH, FOR THE ONE WHO GIVES IT.

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IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE THAT, AS WITH SO MANY OTHER PARTS OF OUR CULTURE, AT THE ROOT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WE FIND AGAIN THE MATTER OF IDENTITY. RICH DONORS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO GIVE MONEY TO FOUND COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES BEARING THEIR NAME. PROMINENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, LELAND STANFORD, MATTHEW VASSAR, JAMES B. DUKE, CORNELIUS VANDERBILT AND ELIHU YALE.

WE ARE FIXATED BY LABELS IN AMERICA, AS WELL AS NICKNAMES, ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, ETC. BUT THE PRICE OF LABELS WE APPLY TO OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IS

DROPPING. THE DONORS MENTIONED ABOVE GAVE SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IN RETURN FOR WHICH THEY WERE HONORED BY NAMING THE UNIVERSITIES AFTER THEM. OUR ACADEMIES, WANTING TO INCREASE THEIR CASH FLOW AND RECOGNIZING THE TIE BETWEEN IDENTITY AND GIVING, HAVE WIDENED THEIR MARKET BY APPLYING DONOR NAMES TO GATES, RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES, GYMNASIUMS, STADIUMS AND OTHER LESS COSTLY CAMPUS FACILITIES. THIS DOWNSIZING HAS NOW REACHED A TRULY RETAIL LEVEL WHERE FOR ABOUT ONE OR TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS A BRICK IN A COURTYARD OR A NAME PLATE ON AN INDIVIDUAL LOCKER CAN BEAR A DONOR’S NAME. THE EXACT AMOUNT CAN VARY AND IS NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE INCREASED ALUMNI GIVING AND CONTACT THAT HAS RESULTED, AND THE PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTITY IN OUR CULTURE WHETHER IT IS SOUGHT BY THE STUDENT ATHLETE, THE WEALTHY DONOR OR THE INSTITUTION, ITSELF.

* * *

NO INQUIRY INTO ANY ASPECT OF AMERICAN EDUCATION SHOULD IGNORE ITS EXTRAORDINARY PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY. ITS TWO SYSTEMS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, RECEIVE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR WITH WHICH THEY PAY THEIR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES, CREATE ENDOWMENTS AND EXPAND THEIR PHYSICAL PLANTS. WHETHER PROVIDED BY THE STATES OR BY PRIVATE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS, OUR SUPPORT OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN A CONSTANT IN OUR TWO PLUS CENTURIES OF DEVELOPMENT.

TODAY, OUR EDUCATIONAL SECTOR IS ONE OF THE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL IN OUR ECONOMY. THE VALUE OF THE LAND TO WHICH IT HOLDS TITLE IS ALMOST BEYOND MEASURE (FOR EXAMPLE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OWNS THE LAND BENEATH ROCKEFELLER CENTER IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN). ITS HOLDINGS INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE USUAL CAMPUS ELEMENTS SUCH AS PLAYING FIELDS, STADIUMS, RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS, LABORATORIES, DINING HALLS, CLASSROOMS, ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES, LIBRARIES AND OPEN SPACES, BUT ALSO COMMERCIALY DEVELOPED PROPERTIES SUCH AS URBAN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS, MINES, OIL FIELDS AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, AND UNDEVELOPED LAND USED FOR NATURAL SCIENCE STUDY, AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY PROGRAMS OR SIMPLY CONSERVATION.

... TO DETERMINE WHAT IS TRUTH IN ACADEMIA,
WHAT WE WILL TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION.

NO AREA OF INTEREST AS BROAD AS EDUCATION COULD EXIST IN AMERICA WITHOUT BEING IMMERSSED IN OUR POLITICAL ARGUMENTS, ELECTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT MADE A REASONABLE EFFORT TO KEEP POLITICS, IF NOT OFF-CAMPUS, AT LEAST OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, BUT THE MOUNTING PRESSURE AGAINST WCIV CULTURE THAT EMERGED FOLLOWING WW I HAS GROWN STEADILY TO THE POINT WHERE THE TEACHING

OF THEORY AND CULTURE OPPOSED TO WCIV HAS TURNED COLLEGE COURSE CATALOGS INTO FIELDS WHERE STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS AND ALUMNI BATTLE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS TRUTH IN ACADEMIA, WHAT WE WILL TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION.

THE PLACE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA IS UNIQUE IN ANOTHER WAY. IT IS NOT JUST A CREATURE OF GOVERNMENTAL, ECONOMIC OR ACADEMIC POWER AND PURPOSE. IT IS ALSO THE PLACE TO WHOSE CARE AND CONTENT WE ENTRUST OUR CHILDREN ON A DAILY BASIS FOR THE PERIOD FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH COLLEGE. IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT, AS OUR SOCIETY/CULTURE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIVIDED, THOSE DIVISIONS ARE REFLECTED IN THE MICROCOSM OF SCHOOL LIFE AND OUR TRUST CAN APPEAR TO BE MISPLACED. AT THE ROOT OF THIS BREAKDOWN HAS BEEN A GROWING TREND FOR PARENTS TO REDUCE THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT HOME AND TRANSFER IT TO OUR SCHOOLS. IN LOW INCOME AREAS, WHERE PARENTS OFTEN WORK MORE THAN ONE JOB, SCHOOLS FIND THEMSELVES HAVING TO FURNISH FOOD, DAY CARE, MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN PROVIDED AT HOME. THIS SHIFT FROM HOME TO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY HAS HAD BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES THAT HAVE ADDED TO THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY OUR SOCIAL/CULTURAL CHANGE.

SHOULD WE CARE ? YES ! WHY ? BECAUSE OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY IS AT STAKE, AND CAN BE ALTERED. DO WE CARE ENOUGH TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION ? WE WOULD HOPE SO, BUT THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION BECAUSE THE COUNTER BALANCE THAT'S NOW NEEDED IN OUR SOCIETY WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME THE ENTRENCHED INTERESTS OF OUR MSM, COMMERCIAL, POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL SECTORS.

THE BATTLE LINES HAVE BEGUN TO FORM. ON THE LEFT ARE THE FORCES AND PHILOSOPHIES OF MC, PC AND OTHER SYSTEMS WHICH ELEVATE GROUP THOUGHT, INTERESTS AND IDENTITY OVER THOSE OF INDIVIDUALS. ONCE WEAK AND SCATTERED, THEY NOW HAVE MOMENTUM; THEY ARE NO LONGER SLOW OR SILENT, BUT HAVE ENTERED OUR POLITICAL MAINSTREAM AND CAN REACH OUR LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL POWER LEVERS.

BUT HERE'S THAT MAGIC WORD AGAIN, "IDENTITY", AND IN THIS INSTANCE IT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RESIST THE KIND OF GROUP THINKING AND POLITICAL INTERDEPENDENCE THAT THE EU HAS BROUGHT TO EUROPE. THE TRUTH IS THAT "IDENTITY" IS NOT ONLY THE KEY TO HOW WE SEE OURSELVES, BUT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT IN HOW WE PERMIT OTHERS TO SEE US.

IT'S EVIDENT NOW THAT IN OUR POSTWAR PURSUIT OF WEALTH AND SUPERPOWER STATUS WE FAILED TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THE SIREN-SONGS OF THE LEFT. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE RIGHT IS ALWAYS RIGHT. IT ISN'T, AND IT HAS OFFERED AN ARRAY OF ERRORS ALL ITS OWN. BUT MAJOR CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT, AND EVEN BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE CENTER ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING AND WILL REACH FLASH-POINTS SOON. UNFORTUNATELY, THE AMERICAN VOTER HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED OR AROUSED TO BE ABLE TO TURN BACK THE LEFTIST TIDE BY

LEGISLATION WHICH IS CUMBERSOME AND MUST MOVE ALONG GOVERNMENT TRACKS WHERE IT CAN EASILY BE STALLED, DEFEATED OR ALTERED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

IDENTITY IS A CONCEPT THAT AMERICANS CAN COMPREHEND AND CAN EMOTIONALLY ENGAGE. IT COULD POWER A COUNTER FORCE WITHOUT THE MANY RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM. ANY ISSUE FRAMED BY AMERICA'S PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND HISTORICAL TRADITIONS WOULD GATHER ENORMOUS PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT AND COULD BE PRESENTED IN A WAY THAT MAKES IT RELEVANT TO OTHER CONTEMPORARY ISSUES — THE ENVIRONMENT, IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION, TAX REFORM AND MORE. WE COULD BEGIN THE NECESSARY WORK OF CLOSING THE GAP THAT WE OPENED UP BETWEEN THE EARLIER AMERICA AND OURSELVES.

“AND WHY ARE WE NOT WHO WE WERE ?”

OUR SUBTITLE QUESTION IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANY WE MIGHT ASK TO CLARIFY AMERICA'S CULTURAL STATUS EARLY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IT HAS EXPERIENCED SEVERAL SHIFTS BROUGHT ABOUT BY POLITICALLY INDUCED HUMAN INTERVENTION THAT MAY HAVE SEEMED INNOCUOUS WHEN INITIATED BUT HAVE TURNED OUT TO HAVE UNFORESEEN NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.

OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH UNDER FOUR PRESIDENTS (2 BUSHES, CLINTON AND OBAMA) OVER A PERIOD OF 28 YEARS FAILED TO ENFORCE THE TERMS OF OUR IMMIGRATION AMNESTY GRANTED BY PRES. REAGAN IN 1986; AND CONGRESS SIMILARLY REFUSED TO USE ITS POWER TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT COULD HAVE FORCED ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO “TAKE CARE THAT THE LAWS BE FAITHFULLY EXECUTED.”⁵

IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH ASKING HOW TWO OUT OF OUR THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CAME TO DISMISS LAWS OF THE LAND THAT HAD BEEN DULY PASSED AND AUTHORIZED BY THEIR PREDECESSORS. THIS IS NO SMALL MATTER IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OUR COUNTRY THE FAILURE OF OUR CRITICAL IMMIGRATION LAW PROCESS HAS BEEN AS DAMAGING AS ITS CONSEQUENCES. WHY HAVE WE ALLOWED OUR GOVERNMENT IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW TO SELECTIVELY DECIDE WHICH OF OUR LAWS IT WILL ENFORCE AND, FAR MORE SERIOUSLY, WHICH IT WON'T ?

WE KNOW WHAT TOOK PLACE. SIMPLY PUT, POWERFUL POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM THE COMMERCIAL/CORPORATE SECTORS ON THE RIGHT AND FROM LIBERAL SOCIAL INTERESTS OF THE LEFT DELIVERED A 1-2 KNOCKOUT PUNCH TO OUR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE “CAVED” AND OUR CLAIM TO BE A “NATION OF LAWS” WAS REDUCED TO AN ERRANT LABEL.

IN THE POLICY, ADMINISTRATIVE, ENFORCEMENT AND LEGAL CHAOS THAT HAS ENSUED THE LEFT ASSERTS THAT OUR PRESENT ATTITUDE ALLOWING OPEN BORDERS MAKES US STRONG. THIS IS WRONG. WHAT IT HAS TRIED TO DO IS TO MAKE AMERICA A REFLECTED IMAGE OF WORLD POPULATIONS AND THEIR MANY DIVISIONS. THE MC AND THE OPEN BORDERS CROWD HAVE SUCCEEDED OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY IN CUTTING US UP INTO

MORE AND SMALLER PIECES, (I.E., IDENTITIES) A PROCESS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE LONG TERM NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR CULTURE, EVEN IF WE WERE TO MANAGE A CHANGE OF POLICY.

THIS IS BECAUSE, AS OUR CULTURE HAS BEEN CHANGED, SO ALSO HAS THE NATIONAL IDENTITY WE ENJOYED BEFORE WE LEGISLATED IT AWAY. ITS REMNANTS LITTER THE FLOORS OF CONGRESS AND OUR COURTS, AND THEN ARE SWEEPED AWAY. WE CAN NO LONGER MAKE THE RESPONSES THAT WE COULD BEFORE WE UNDERTOOK OUR NATIONAL “MAKE-OVER”.

WE SHOULD RECALL OUR TOTAL REVERSALS IN IMMIGRATION POLICY UNDERTAKEN “WITHOUT BENEFIT OF LAW”. OUR ADMISSIONS CRITERIA REGARDING IMMIGRANTS’ LANGUAGE, HEALTH, AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WERE SO THOROUGHLY UP-ENDED THAT TODAY THERE ARE NO MEANINGFUL RESTRICTIONS, AND BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL ENTRANTS ARE FURNISHED WITH CONTINUING FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT COURTESY OF THE U.S. TAXPAYER.

AND EQUALLY BIZARRE HAS BEEN OUR RETREAT FROM OUR WARTIME PROHIBITION OF ENTRY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL BELIEFS SUCH AS COMMUNISM AND NAZISM TO OUR WELCOMING THOSE WHO PROFESS AS ALIEN A CULTURE AS ISLAM. THIS COMPARISON OF COMMUNISM/NAZISM TO ISLAM IS BASED ON THEIR METHODS, NOT THEIR MESSAGES. IN EACH CASE A VIOLENT, AUTHORITARIAN MINORITY FORCED ITSELF UPON UNWILLING COMMUNITIES, DESTROYED THEIR EXISTING PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT, USURPED THE PEOPLE’S POWER AND REPLACED IT WITH THAT OF THE NEW STATE. AS FOR THEIR MESSAGES, UP TO NOW AMERICA HAS RELIED UPON ITS CONSTITUTION AND DUE TO PROTECT AND DEFEND ITSELF, BUT WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA IN WHICH OUR ENEMIES EMPLOY FALSE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL IDENTITIES TO ATTACK US, AS WELL AS CLANDESTINE INFILTRATION, VIOLENCE, RANDOM TERRORISM AND OUR OWN LAWS AND VALUES.

REPEAT: WE ARE IN THE GRIP OF A VICIOUS CYCLE AS OUR CULTURE CHANGES OUR IDENTITY AND VICE-VERSA. WHY IS THIS SUCH AN URGENT MATTER? THE ANSWER TO THAT LIES IN THE NATURE OF ISLAM WHICH IS A MAJOR FORCE THAT FOR CENTURIES HAS DEFINED LIFE AND THOUGHT FROM ITS CENTER IN THE NE WESTWARD ACROSS NORTHERN AFRICA, AND TO THE EAST ALONG RUSSIA’S SOUTHERN BORDER, ACROSS THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT AND THROUGHOUT SE ASIA. IT COMMANDS TOTAL COMPLIANCE WITH ITS RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PATTERNS AND IS WILLING TO USE VARIOUS FORMS OF FORCE, WHICH IT REGARDS AS DIVINELY ORDAINED BY THE QURAN, TO PUT AND KEEP THEM IN PLACE.

... MUSLIM LIFE SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

HERE WE HAVE ARRIVED AT ONE OF THE KEY CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN ISLAM AND WCIV. LOOKING BACK

TO THE 15TH CENTURY, ISLAM THEN HAD EXPANDED FROM ITS DESERT ORIGIN TO CONTROL LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND CONSIDERABLE TERRITORY EXTENDING OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM ITS CENTER IN MECCA. IT WAS THE PRIME ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL FORCE IN THIS AREA AND POSSESSED THE ADVANCED MATHEMATICAL SKILLS OF ITS TIME. AND YET, THROUGH EIGHT CENTURIES OF WARS, MULTIPLE CALIPHATES, TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND THE PASSAGE OF TIME, MUSLIM LIFE SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

THE CONTRAST WITH WCIV IS STRIKING! IN THE WEST, NEW NAVIGATIONAL TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS OF THE 15TH CENTURY USHERED IN THE GREAT AGE OF EXPLORATION WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THEN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. THESE THREE PERIODS, THE LAST OF WHICH INCLUDES OUR PRESENT TIME, BROUGHT UNBELIEVABLE CHANGE TO WCIV AND TO THE WORLD WHICH THE MUSLIM MIND AND CULTURE MANAGED TO RESIST UNTIL OUR CONTEMPORARY LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY WAS ABLE TO DELIVER INSTANT INFORMATION BY SOUND AND SIGHT TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, TO ALL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL LEVELS AND TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. THIS CONTRAST HAS BEEN SO NOTABLE AND ENDURING THAT WE CAN ASSUME THAT IT RESULTS FROM ISLAM’S MOST COMPELLING DIFFERENCE WITH THE WEST — ITS SYSTEM OF EDUCATION BASED EARLY AND WITHOUT CONTRADICTION OR INQUIRY ON THE QURAN.

THE GROWING CONFLICT BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST PRESENTS WHAT MAY BE THE MOST SERIOUS CONTRADICTION OF OUR TIME. CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM ARE THE TWO LARGEST RELIGIONS IN OUR WORLD WITH A COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 3.8 BILLION PEOPLE — 2.3 CHRISTIAN (33%) AND 1.5 MUSLIM (22%) OUT OF AN ESTIMATED TOTAL WORLD POPULATION OF 7 BILLION.⁶ ISLAM CLAIMS TO BE A RELIGION OF PEACE, AND YET IT SPONSORS RELIGIOUS WAR IN AFRICA, THE NE AND ASIA AND TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATIONS HERE, IN EUROPE AND ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS. WE HAVE NO WAY OF MEASURING HOW MANY MUSLIMS EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF VIOLENT ISLAM, BUT, WHATEVER THE NUMBER, THE ACT OF RELIGIOUS KILLING DRAWS A DEEP LINE OF DIVISION BETWEEN THESE TWO FAITHS.

AND IT REVEALS A CULTURAL CONTRADICTION SO BASIC THAT WE MUST QUESTION WHETHER ANY BLENDING OF THESE TWO CULTURES IS POSSIBLE AND, IF NOT, WHETHER ANY MEANINGFUL ASSIMILATION CAN TAKE PLACE IF WE INVITE A SIGNIFICANT MUSLIM PRESENCE TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AND TO PEACEFULLY COEXIST IN OUR CULTURE. MUSLIM HISTORY, FAR MORE THAN OURS, SUGGESTS THAT SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD FAIL.

FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER THIS SITUATION. TWO FRIENDS, A AND B, WHO FORMERLY ATTENDED THE SAME RELIGIOUS SERVICES BUT WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IN CONTACT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MEET BY CHANCE. B REVEALS HE HAS CHANGED HIS FAITH; AN ARGUMENT FOLLOWS; TEMPER FLARE INTO VIOLENCE AND A KILLS B. IF A WAS A JEW OR A CHRISTIAN, HE WOULD BE GUILTY OF VIOLATING BOTH THE BASIC MORAL LAW OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND WCIV CRIMINAL LAWS, AND

EPILOGUE

WOULD BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY. IF, HOWEVER, THE SHOOTER WAS A MUSLIM, HE COULD BE VIEWED BY ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LAW (SHARIA) AS HAVING ACTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ONE OR BOTH OF THEM AND EVEN BE ENTITLED TO BE REWARDED IN HIS AFTER-LIFE.

THIS TRANSCENDS MATTERS OF INDIVIDUAL FAITH. RATHER, IT POSES THE MAJOR CULTURAL CONTRADICTION OF OUR TIME, AS THE SAME ACT THAT IS CLEARLY CONDEMNED BY WCIV'S JUDEO-CHRISTIAN (J-C) CULTURE CAN BE LAUDED AND CELEBRATED BY ISLAM. OTHER ISSUES THAT ALSO INVOLVE VIOLENCE PRESENT SIMILAR DIFFERENCES AND RAISE THE QUESTION THAT CAN NO LONGER BE AVOIDED — IF WCIV GRANTS ISLAM EQUAL STATUS WITH ITS J-C HERITAGE, WILL IT ACCEPT ISLAM AS AN AGGRESSIVE CO-CULTURE WITH DIFFERENCES IT MUST ALLOW, OR WILL IT DO SO HOPING TO CONVERT ISLAM TO AN ENTITY MORE LIKE THE J-C MODEL. IN EITHER CASE THE POSSIBILITY OF A TROJAN HORSE RESULT IS STRONG.

WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY MUSLIMS ACCEPT THE VIOLENCE SEEMINGLY AUTHORIZED BY THE QURAN, BUT IT IS NOT THEIR NUMBERS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT; IT IS THE CONTINUING ACTS OF RELIGIOUS/ POLITICAL VIOLENCE THAT ARE OCCURRING WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY AROUND THE WORLD. EUROPE IS IN THE PROCESS OF LOSING ITS HISTORIC CULTURAL AND POLITICAL IDENTITY TO THE MUSLIM POPULATIONS IT HAS ADMITTED. WE STILL HAVE TIME TO ACT AND MUST RECOGNIZE THAT OUR WCIV CULTURE IS AT RISK.

* * *

A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN OUR CULTURAL EQUATION IS POPULATION. AS PEOPLES' ACTIONS, INTERESTS AND TASTES FORM OUR CULTURE, EACH PERSON IS A BUILDING BLOCK OF OUR NATIONAL POPULATION, SO THAT CULTURE AND POPULATION OFTEN SHARE A COMMON DIRECTION AND DESTINY.

POPULATION HAS RHYTHMS, HOWEVER, THAT CAN DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM ITS CULTURAL COUNTERPARTS. THEY TEND TO BE LARGER IN NUMBER, TO BE EXPRESSED WITH THE LOUDNESS OF CROWDS AND BE MORE ENGAGED WITH MASS RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION, WHETHER POLITICAL OR SOCIAL. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN POPULATION EXERTS FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE OUR COUNTRY'S DIRECTION OR TO REMOVE OUR HISTORICAL SAFEGUARDS ? THE POPULATION CLOCK, FOR INSTANCE, CAN BE ADJUSTED BY POLICY TO RUN FASTER OR SLOWER, BUT IT CAN'T BE TURNED BACK. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE THREAT OF HIGH FERTILITY SEGMENTS, SUCH AS MUSLIM POPULATIONS, INCREASES. BECAUSE GEOMETRIC INCREASE IS QUIET AND GRADUAL, HIGH FERTILITY GROUPS OUTPACE THOSE WITH LESSER GROWTH AND IN A FEW GENERATIONS ATTAIN LEVELS AT WHICH THEIR POLITICAL NOISE IS SO LOUD THAT ITS INFLUENCE FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF ITS NUMBERS.

NOW, AS OUR POLITICAL CONVENTIONS DRAW NEAR, AMERICA IS POISED AT THE KEY POINT OF WHAT MAY WELL BECOME THE MOST UNUSUAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN ITS HISTORY. IN THE RECENT PRIMARIES WE WITNESSED THE EMERGENCE IN BOTH PARTIES OF GLARING POLICY AND PERSONALITY DIVISIONS. IN EARLIER TIMES POLICY WOULD HAVE BEEN DEEMED MORE IMPORTANT, AND THE NOMINEES WOULD HAVE PROCEEDED IN THE ELECTORAL CONTEST TO EMPHASIZE AND EXPAND THEIR PARTIES' POLICIES AND ATTITUDES.

NOT SO IN OUR MSM AGE IN WHICH PERSONALITY CAN BE COLORED, MAGNIFIED, MASSAGED, ATTACKED AND REMADE TO SUIT THE MOMENT. THE RESULT, AS WE TRY TO LOOK AROUND NUMEROUS POLITICAL CORNERS, IS THAT OUR 2016 RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE WILL BE A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO, NOT WITHSTANDING THEIR CLAIMED QUALIFICATIONS OR SUCCESSES, POSSESS DEEPLY FLAWED CHARACTERS WHICH WILL LEAVE THEM MORE OPEN TO CHARGES OF ETHICAL AND MORAL FAILURE THAN WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE.

PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY TRUMP WILL BE EXPOSED TO CHARGES OF FRAUD IN A CIVIL ACTION DUE TO COME TO TRIAL IN AUGUST, WHILE CLINTON AWAITS THE OUTCOME OF AN FBI INVESTIGATION INTO HER ACTIONS AS SECRETARY OF STATE THAT COULD AT THE LEAST HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR HER CAMPAIGN AND MIGHT INCLUDE A REFERRAL FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES.

THAT'S THE LINE-UP NOW. BOTH CONVENTIONS WILL ATTEMPT TO IGNORE OR GLOSS OVER THIS UNFORTUNATE SITUATION — THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY — BUT IT WON'T BE EASY, AS BOTH CANDIDATES REGISTER POORLY IN POLLS ON MATTERS OF CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY. QUITE SIMPLY, EACH ONE IS AN INVITING TARGET FOR THE OTHER. HOW HAS THIS COME TO PASS ?

THE ANSWER IS CLEAR. AMERICA'S TRADITION OF A STRONG POLITICAL CENTER CAME UNDER INCREASING ATTACK DURING OUR POSTWAR SUPER PROSPERITY FROM THE EVER LARGER AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND POWER THAT WERE ATTRACTED BY GOVERNMENT AND FLOWED INTO POLITICS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, OUR INDEPENDENT PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA UNDERWENT A PROCESS OF BROAD COMBINATION THAT RESULTED IN THE EXTRAORDINARY UNION OF CAPITAL AND AUDIENCES BROUGHT TOGETHER IN OUR NEW, MEGA SIZE MSM.

AS MONEY, POWER AND MEDIA COVERAGE MOVED TOWARDS THE EDGES, WHERE IT WAS ABLE TO APPLY THE MOST LEVERAGE, CENTRIST POLITICS IN BOTH PARTIES CAME UNDER ATTACK AND LOST GROUND. LOOKING BACK, WE MIGHT THINK THAT THE BEGINNING OF OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF DEBATES (NIXON/ KENNEDY) MIGHT HAVE BENEFITED OUR POLITICAL CENTER, BUT THESE ONE-ON-ONE TV PERFORMANCES QUICKLY LED TO "ONE MISTAKE AND YOU'RE OUT", "GOTCHA" COVERAGE WHICH LEFT LITTLE ROOM FOR MORE NUANCED, CENTRIST DISCUSSIONS.

TRUMP'S NOMINATION VICTORY REVEALED THE POSSIBILITY OF A REAL PENDULUM CHANGE WHICH HAS BEEN SLOWED BY HIS NEEDLESS AND SOMETIMES OFFENSIVE REMARKS THAT HAVE PROVIDED HIS GOP DETRACTORS AND THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN WITH UNEXPECTED AMMUNITION AND OPPORTUNITY. THIS ELECTION MAY TURN OUT TO SLOW, OR EVEN REVERSE, TRUMP'S PENDULUM SWING. THE DANGER FOR OUR COUNTRY IS THAT WITHOUT VIABLE RIGHT CENTER AND LEFT CENTER POSITIONS GRADUAL, LESS DECISIVE CHANGE WILL FOSTER STAGNATION AND TURN INTO A SERIES OF BACK AND FORTH MOVEMENTS BY WHICH POLITICAL POWER SHIFTS FROM ONE EDGE POSITION TO THE OTHER. THIS IS A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH STRAINS ALL POLITICAL SYSTEMS, BUT ESPECIALLY OUR FORM OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN THE MAKING.

HERE WE MUST FACE ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY CONTRADICTION. OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY, SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT IN 1964, RACE HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO OUR MOST WIDELY DISCUSSED AND INTENSELY PURSUED POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUE — ONE THAT DEMANDS FROM US CONSTANT AWARENESS AND TOLERANCE. AND YET, IN THIS SAME PERIOD WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SUMMON THE POLITICAL AWARENESS AND TOLERANCE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT SOMETHING AS BASIC TO OUR DEMOCRACY AS CENTRIST OPINION. THIS IS AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY IN THE MAKING.

THE WARNING SIGNS OF THIS SELF-INFLICTED RISK ARE EVIDENT — MISPLACED MONEY/POWER, DYSFUNCTIONAL CONGRESS, EXCESSIVE LOBBYIST AND MEDIA INFLUENCE AND TWO OPPONENTS WHOSE PERSONAL NEGATIVES MAY CAUSE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS IN BOTH PARTIES TO CAST THEIR VOTES AGAINST, RATHER THAN FOR, A CANDIDATE.

THE SOLUTION IS ALSO EVIDENT, BUT NOT EASY. AMERICA MUST RETURN TO ITS TRADITION OF ENCOURAGING A STRONG AND POPULAR POLITICAL CENTER WHICH MEANS BOTH MAJOR PARTIES NOURISHING CENTER POSITIONS AND CANDIDATES. THIS WILL FACE REAL OBSTACLES IN OUR ENTRENCHED CONGRESS AND AMONG THE PUBLIC IN THOSE GROUPS THAT HAVE SEEN AND EMBRACED VIOLENT PROTEST AS A WAY TO FIRST ACHIEVE MEDIA AND, THEN, POLITICAL RECOGNITION. BUT IT MUST BE DONE ! WHETHER THE GOP AND THE DEMOCRATS WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO "SMOKE THE PIPE OF PEACE" AND ATTEMPT TO RESTORE SOME ELEMENT OF BALANCE TO OUR SYSTEM IS POSSIBLE, BUT DOUBTFUL. STILL WE MUST HOPE.

MEANWHILE IN 2016 — WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR IS WHAT YOU WILL GET, AND MUCH OF IT MAY NOT PASS THE FRAGRANCE TEST, AS ANY CAMPAIGN LARGELY WAGED ON PERSONAL ISSUES CAN PRODUCE UNUSUAL SURPRISES AND RESULTS. AT THIS WRITING, IT COULD END IN A LANDSLIDE — EITHER WAY — OR A CLOSE, DOWN TO THE WIRE FINISH. TAKE YOUR PICK. THERE ARE FOUR MONTHS TO GO WITH PLENTY OF TIME FOR TWISTS AND TURNS.

ECD 6/20/16

END NOTES

- 1 THE MYTH OF THE GENIE, ALTHOUGH OF ISLAMIC ORIGIN, HAS GAINED POPULARITY IN THE WEST. THE GENIE IS A SPIRIT CAPABLE OF ASSUMING HUMAN FORM AND PERFORMING EXTRAORDINARY TASKS UPON COMMAND BY THE HUMAN WHOM HE SERVES. THE GENIE IS MOST FREQUENTLY DEPICTED IN THE WEST AS A CAPTIVE IN A BOTTLE THAT, ONCE RELEASED BY HIS HUMAN BENEFACITOR, CAN FULFILL THREE WISHES, BUT CANNOT BE RETURNED TO THE BOTTLE
- 2 CARL PHILIPP GOTTFRIED VON CLAUSEWITZ 1780-1831. PRUSSIAN MILITARY COMMANDER AND THEORIST; AUTHOR OF ON WAR.
- 3 FROM A POPULAR SONG OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY:
SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS,
DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS.
YOU WERE MY QUEEN IN CALICO
I WAS YOUR BASHFUL, BAREFOOT BEAU.
AND YOU WROTE ON MY SLATE
"I LOVE YOU JOE"
WHEN WE WERE A COUPLE OF KIDS.
- 4 THE FIRST YALE—HARVARD CREW RACE. THE ANNUAL SERIES FOR THIS EVENT WAS ESTABLISHED SEVERAL YEARS LATER IN 1859. OTHER EARLY COLLEGE SPORTS WERE: BASEBALL — 1859 (AMHERST/WILLIAMS); FOOTBALL — 1869 (RUTGERS/PRINCETON); TRACK & FIELD — 1873 (AMHERST/CORNELL/MCGILL).
- 5 THE CONSTITUTION OF THE U.S. ARTICLE 2, SECTION 3
- 6 ADHERANTS.COM

LATE BREAKING NEWS

BRITAIN EXITS EU
MORE IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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?