

MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

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WHO CARES? AND WHY DON'T WE?

PART 3 CRISES

PREFACE

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT A TIME WHEN THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION, OUR CIVILIZATION AND OUR PLANET CAN NO LONGER BE SEPARATED IN OUR THOUGHTS OR CONSCIENCE. IF WE ARE TO BE HONEST IN DEFENSE OF OUR LIVES AND CULTURE, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE NOW FACE GLOBAL CRISES THAT DIDN'T EXIST A CENTURY AGO AND WHICH BOTH OUR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OUR OWN POLITICAL APPARATUS HAVE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE, LET ALONE ENGAGE; AND, WHILE THE NATURE OF THESE CRISES IS NOT TOTALLY POLITICAL, THEIR SOLUTION WILL ENTAIL POLITICAL ACTION. THEY CONCERN OUR PLANET, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR POLITICS AND WE WILL NEED THE BEST RESOURCES FROM ALL THREE THAT WE CAN MUSTER.

WE, AS AMERICANS AND AS INDIVIDUALS, ARE CONFRONTED BY THREE EXISTENTIAL CRISES THAT SINGLY, OR IN COMBINATION, HAVE THE FORCE TO DESTROY OUR NATION, OUR CULTURE AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION (WCIV) WHICH ORIGINATED IN ATHENS, SPREAD TO ROME AND THEN THROUGH EUROPE. DURING THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES' AGE OF EXPLORATION IT WAS CARRIED ACROSS OCEANS AND TRANSPLANTED WITH MIXED RESULTS. BEGINNING IN THE 17TH CENTURY, TRADE AND COLONIZATION EFFORTS INCREASED AND IN THE "NEW WORLD" SPANISH, ENGLISH AND FRENCH ZONES OF INTEREST AND POPULATION BECAME SETTLED AS THE RESULT OF COMPETITION BOTH HERE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND BETWEEN THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT HOME.

TODAY A MAP OF THE WORLD REVEALS THAT WCIV DOMINATES EUROPE, THE AMERICAS FROM THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO CAPE HORN, GREENLAND AND AUSTRALIA. WITHIN THIS EXTENSIVE CIVILIZATIONAL IMPRINT THERE EXISTS, SOMETIMES PEACEFULLY AND SOMETIMES NOT, MANY SUB-CULTURES, TRIBES, RACES, LANGUAGES, RELIGIONS, ECONOMIES, STATES, LAWS, CUSTOMS, TRADITIONS, HISTORIES, VALUES AND MORE. UNDERSTANDING WCIV'S ROLE IN OUR WORLD IS DIFFICULT AND CREATING A COHERENT RESPONSE IN ITS DEFENSE BORDERS ON THE IMPOSSIBLE. AND YET, IT MUST BE DONE. IF WE DO NOTHING, WE WILL NOT SURVIVE, AS WE NO LONGER HAVE THE PROTECTION OF DEFAULT POSITIONS TO WHICH WE CAN RETREAT TO BUY TIME OR SAFETY.

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THE THREE CRISES THAT HAVE EXPANDED AND ACCELERATED IN OUR POSTWAR PERIOD TO THE POINT WHERE THEIR CONTINUED, EXPONENTIAL GROWTH THREATENS OUR SPECIES' ABILITY TO SUSTAIN HUMAN LIFE AS WE KNOW IT ARE:

- 1) UNCHECKED, EXPONENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH.
- 2) DEPLETION OF NATURAL RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE FINITE RESOURCES AT A RATE FAR BEYOND THEIR PLACEMENT CAPABILITY.
- 3) THE FAILURE OF WCIV LEADERS, SINGLY AND COLLECTIVELY, TO RECOGNIZE AND CONFRONT THE IMMINENT THREAT POSED BY CONTEMPORARY ISLAM.

IN THIS ISSUE, WE CONTINUE TO VIEW SHIFTS IN OUR POLITICAL CULTURE FROM OUR COLONIAL ORIGINS TO CONTEMPORARY AMERICA. AND WE EXAMINE DONALD TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR GOVERNMENT.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE, WE WILL LOOK AT THE IMPACT OF OUR IMMIGRATION ATTITUDES AND LEGISLATION UPON OUR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CULTURES.

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IT IS EASY TO READ A PARAGRAPH LIKE THE ONE ABOVE AND THEN MOVE ON WITHOUT GRASPING ITS FULL MEANING OR SCALE. THE FIRST TWO THREATS ARE BY-PRODUCTS OF THE WEST'S 19TH CENTURY INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (IR) AND LIKE ISLAM THEY WERE ABLE TO GAIN GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRACTION AS THE RESULT OF THE NEW WEALTH, POWER AND TECHNOLOGY UNLEASHED BY WW II.

HISTORY REVEALS EVERYTHING IN ITS OWN TIME, BUT DOESN'T ALWAYS REVEAL THE MEANING OF DETAILS OR TIPPING POINTS AS THEY OCCUR. SOME IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS CAN BE PIN-POINTED BY TIME AND PLACE SUCH AS WWII (PEARL HARBOR, 12/41 TO NAGASAKI, 8/45), BUT EVEN WHEN HISTORY DRAWS SUCH SPECIFIC LINES, THE EVENTS OR CONDITIONS THAT LED UP TO THEM USUALLY HAVE RUN A LARGER AND LESS NOTICED COURSE. CERTAINLY, WARS AND INDUSTRIAL/TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS ARE IN THIS CATEGORY IN WHICH TIPPING POINTS GO UNRECOGNIZED OR, EVEN WORSE, ARE IDENTIFIED BUT IGNORED.

IT IS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THESE CRISES THAT AMERICA'S POLITICAL CULTURE MUST BE OBSERVED. SELF-INTEREST DEMANDS THAT WE KEEP THEM IN FULL VIEW AT ALL TIMES, BUT REALITY IS SOMETHING ELSE AND FUNCTIONS MORE LIKE A THEATRICAL SCRIM THAT DIVIDES THE STAGE SO THAT THE REAR PART CAN BE EITHER DARK OR BACK-LIT AND VISIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY FOR OUR WORLD OF THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY, THESE EXISTENTIAL CRISES EXIST BEHIND THE SCRIM AND ARE RARELY ILLUMINATED AND ALLOWED TO BE VIEWED, WHILE AT STAGE FRONT THE PETTY POSTURING AND PUSH/PULL OF POLITICIANS PREENING FOR THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA (MSM) IS BOTH WHAT WE SEE AND WHAT WE GET.

OUR POLITICAL REALITY SCRIM CONCEALS, FOR THE MOST PART, ANOTHER JARRING ASPECT OF OUR CURRENT POLITICAL CULTURE. WE TRY TO PROJECT THE SAME IMAGE OF STATUS (I.E., OF WEALTH, JUSTICE, SUCCESS, ETC.) THAT WE DID AT THE HEIGHT OF OUR POST-COLD WAR, SUPERPOWER PERIOD, BUT TIME HAS PASSED, AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH IT. THE TRUTH IS THAT MANY OF OUR SOCIETY'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS THAT OUR POLITICAL PARTIES TRIED TO PAINT OR PAPER OVER HAVE GROWN DEEPER AND SEEMINGLY IMPERVIOUS TO REPAIR. AND IN OUR MAD, MAD MEDIA WORLD THEY ARE AS EVIDENT TO THOSE WHOSE COOPERATION WE MUST SEEK ABROAD AS TO AMERICA'S VOTERS.

THEN AND NOW

TO UNDERSTAND OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS, WE MUST BE WILLING TO QUESTION OUR CULTURAL ORIGINS, BEHAVIOR AND "PROGRESS" AND APPLY THEIR LESSONS OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE, KEEPING ALWAYS IN MIND WILLIAM FAULKNER'S KEEN JUDGEMENT, "THE PAST IS NEVER DEAD. IT'S NOT EVEN PAST."¹

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S EXTRAORDINARY NOVEL, THE SCARLET LETTER, IS SET IN 17TH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND AND IS CENTERED ON THE LIVES AND TRIALS OF HESTER PRYNNE AND HER OUT-OF-WEDLOCK DAUGHTER, PEARL. BECAUSE HESTER REFUSES TO REVEAL THE FATHER'S IDENTITY, THE FULL FORCE OF THE COMMUNITY'S OUTRAGE FALLS ON HER. SHE IS MADE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HER SIN OF ADULTERY BY THE DISPLAY OF A PROMINENT RED "A" ON THE FRONT OF HER DRESS. HESTER, AN ACCOMPLISHED SEAMSTRESS, FASHIONS A SIGN OF DEFIANCE OF HER PUNISHMENT BY CREATING A BEAUTIFUL AND INSTANTLY NOTICEABLE EMBROIDERED SCARLET "A".

IN 17TH CENTURY SALEM, SURVIVAL WAS THE SHARED CHALLENGE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES. THE LATTER WERE SMALL BY OUR LATER STANDARDS AND THEIR MEMBERS WERE TIED TOGETHER BY MANY STRANDS OF THEIR LIVES—HEALTH, COMMERCE, CHARITY, EDUCATION, RELIGION AND THEIR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAWS.

GIVEN THE PERILS OF THAT TIME AND ITS CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SAFETY THAT RESULTS FROM SHARED EXPOSURE TO DANGER WAS A DAILY FACTOR IN EARLY COLONIAL LIFE. THIS SENSE OF SAFETY DEMANDED TRUST, COOPERATION, RESPECT IN THEIR COMMUNAL AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL RELATIONS. TO THIS END, MORAL VALUES WERE OFTEN TIED TO LEGAL ONES AND THE BIBLE AND THE LAW SEEN AS INTERCHANGEABLE AUTHORITIES.

AS THE LOSS OF THE RESPECT OF A NEIGHBOR, OR BY EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY, WAS A SERIOUS MATTER AND A FORM OF BETRAYAL, THE ELEMENT OF SHAME WAS VIEWED AS A KEY ELEMENT IN EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE. IT FIGURED STRONGLY IN PUNISHMENT BY THE USE OF STOCKS WHICH IMPOSED MODERATE PHYSICAL PAIN BY HOLDING THE PERPETRATOR IN A FIXED AND UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION AND SUBJECTING HIM TO STARES AND COMMENTS OF HIS FOLLOW CITIZENS.

ADULTERY, COMBINING AS IT DID SEX AND SHAME, WAS SEEN TO OFFEND BOTH MAN AND GOD, THE BIBLE AND THE LAW, AND GAVE GOOD REASON FOR HESTER PRYNNE AND HER NEIGHBORS TO BE

REMINDED OF IT DURING ALL HER WAKING HOURS. THIS MAY SEEM QUIANT IN OUR SEXUALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, BUT IN COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND SHAME HAD REAL CONSEQUENCES, AND ACCUSATIONS THAT IMPLIED OR CONVEYED IT HAD THE FORCE OF A BLUNT INSTRUMENT. THEY CREATED THEIR OWN KIND OF PERSONAL AND POPULAR PANIC FROM WHICH, LIKE WITCHCRAFT, THERE WAS NO REFUGE. AT THAT TIME THE ACCUSATION OF ADULTERY, LET ALONE ITS PROOF, COULD CONDEMN BODIES AND SOULS. IT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS FOR ACCUSATIONS TO DO THE SAME TO OUR MINDS.

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IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA THE CHARGE OF CHOICE, OF UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATION, IS THAT OF RACISM, AND HESTER PRYNNE'S SCARLET "A" HAS BEEN REPLACED BY OUR SOCIETY'S "R" — WHICH HAS COME TO BE USED WIDELY AND RECKLESSLY.

THE CHARGE OF "RACISM", ESPECIALLY WHEN THE MSM TURNS UP THE VOLUME, HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY, BORDERING ON UNIQUE, CAPABILITY TO DIVIDE PEOPLE AND ENFLAME THEIR RESPONSES WHICH WAS PROMPTLY NOTED AND PUT TO USE BY THE MULTICULTURALIST (MC) MOVEMENT HERE AND ELSEWHERE. AS BOTH ITS MESSAGE AND METHOD DEPENDED UPON PLANTING AND EXPLOITING DIVISIONS, MC WAS APPLIED, ACCURATELY OR NOT, TO SITUATIONS AND SUBJECTS FAR BEYOND ITS LEGAL/ACADEMIC ORIGIN WITH GREAT SUCCESS. THE REST IS HISTORY, AS "RACISM'S" USAGE LITERALLY RACED AROUND THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF NEW TARGETS.

FUTURE HISTORIANS, LOOKING INTO THE PAST, MAY WELL WONDER HOW THE ACCUSATION OF RACISM, WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT, COULD GAIN SUCH TRACTION THAT EVEN ITS MENTION WITHOUT PROOF COULD CAPTURE HEARTS AND CHANGE MINDS. AS WITH 17TH CENTURY SALEM'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS EVIL, THE MERE MENTION OF "RACISM" IN OUR TIME HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT TO PRESUME GUILT. ITS EXPANDED USAGE IS NOW SO BROAD AND UNSPECIFIC THAT OUR POLITICAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS HAVE HAD TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR PRACTICE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW REALITY.

HOW HAS THIS HAPPENED ? WHY HAVE TWO GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE CAPTURED AND TAKEN PRISONER BY A SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY DESTRUCTIVE EFFORT TO SOW DISCORD AND MAGNIFY OUR DIFFERENCES ? THE BASIC ANSWER DERIVES FROM A CHANGE IN OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER. QUITE SIMPLY, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A NATION, WE WERE UNWILLING TO TAKE THE ACTION NEEDED TO DENY OR DEFLECT THE CHARGE OF "RACISM" AND THEREBY TO ROB IT OF ITS STRENGTH AND REDUCE IT TO A LESSER STATUS.

ONE REASON THAT "RACISM" BECAME SUCH AN EFFICIENT ATTACK WEAPON IS THAT ITS SUCCESS WAS FUELED BY TWO FACTORS — GROWTH IN BOTH THE NUMBERS AND VICIOUSNESS OF ITS ATTACKS. MOST AMERICANS DO NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS DAILY DEFENDERS OF OUR NATIONAL WAY OF LIFE OR WCIV. AND YET, TODAY WE AND OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD MUST ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAN THE BARRICADES THAT PROTECT OUR VALUES, OURSELVES AND OUR OFFSPRING.

AVERAGE AMERICANS READING OR LISTENING TO OUR MSM WERE USED TO ABSORBING THE NEWS, NOT CHALLENGING IT, AND WERE TOO ACCEPTING OF ITS CONTENT. WARNINGS, AS USUAL, WERE IGNORED AND, AS THE MENTION OF "RACISM" IN OUR NATIONAL CONVERSATION INCREASED, IT GAINED ACCEPTANCE.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THAT MOST AMERICANS WANT TO LEAD THEIR LIVES IN PEACE WITH NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS AND THE LOCAL INSTITUTIONS (CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, CHARITIES, CLUBS, ETC.) WITH WHICH THEY ENGAGE. THE MC GROUPS AND THEIR LEFTIST MEMBERS WERE WELL AWARE OF THIS AND USED THE THREAT OF "RACISM" IN MEETINGS, MEDIA, PUBLIC EVENTS, SPEECHES, ETC. TO OVERPOWER SOURCES OF LOCAL RESISTANCE. NOT WANTING (FOR PERSONAL, POLITICAL OR PROFESSIONAL REASONS) TO BE TAINTED BY "RACISM", FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE OPTED OUT BY SILENCE, THEREBY GREATLY INCREASING THE REACH AND STATUS OF ITS CHARGE. AS MORE PEOPLE WITHIN A COMMUNITY CHOSE SILENCE, THE COMMUNITY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO ONE THAT MET MC GOALS WHILE THE EXPRESSION OF OPINION DIFFERENCES BECAME LESS PRONOUNCED AND MORE INFREQUENT.

" LIKE BLACKMAIL, THIS FEAR WILL NOT GO AWAY, AND PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE."

THIS ENORMOUS EXTENSION OF OUR USE AND MISUSE OF THE CHARGE OF "RACISM" HAS ACHIEVED FOR IT THE STATUS OF A "SIN", MUCH LIKE COLONIAL ADULTERY. HESTER PRYNNE'S SIN WAS ONE OF THE FLESH AND, AS HER TALE EVOLVES, THAT OF PEARL'S FATHER WAS AN EVEN GREATER SIN OF THE SOUL. OUR CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY VIA ITS RECKLESS, INDISCRIMINATE INSERTION OF "RACISM" INTO EVERY LEVEL OF OUR NATIONAL DISCOURSE IS MADE WORSE BECAUSE IT IS A SIN OF THE MIND THAT ATTACKS AND ROBS THE UNSUSPECTING AND UNAWARE OF RATIONAL THOUGHT AND REASONED JUDGEMENT. FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN SILENT IN THE FACE OF FALSE CHARGES OF "RACISM", WHO DO NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE PERSONAL OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, THE SHAME DIRECTED AT THEM IS JOINED BY FEAR OF FURTHER DEMANDS AND REMORSE. LIKE BLACKMAIL, THIS FEAR WILL NOT GO AWAY, AND PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE.

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TODAY WCIV FINDS ITSELF ONCE AGAIN UNDER EXISTENTIAL ATTACK. HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THE DEFEAT OF HITLER AND STALIN, WE MANAGED TO WASTE THE PEACE AND NOW CONFRONT THREATS OR ARE ENGAGED IN WARFARE IN AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST (NE), RUSSIA, CHINA AND, INCREDIBLY, NORTH KOREA. THIS IS A STARTLING TURN-AROUND CONSIDERING THAT AT THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY THE SOVIET UNION HAD FRAGMENTED AND CHINA WAS STILL STRUGGLING TO RAISE ITSELF TO A WORLD LEADERSHIP LEVEL.

WE AND WCIV FACE COMMON CRISES OF MULTIPLE PARTS INCLUDING A DANGEROUS LACK OF HOMOGENEITY AND UNITY; AND WE HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF THE SAME POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED AND EXPLOITED BY SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, FASCISTS, GLOBALISTS AND OTHERS WHO LIVE IN ENVY OF THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL

AND CULTURAL SUCCESS OF THE WEST. HERE, WE HAVE BEEN UNDER ATTACK FOR THREE DECADES, BUT HAVE NOT SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE OUR PERIL.

"...VACUUMS USUALLY ARE THE RESULT OF GOOD INTENTIONS THAT YIELD TERRIBLE RESULTS."

OVER THE PAST CENTURY WE HAVE RESCUED EUROPE TWICE AND THEN PUT NATO IN PLACE TO ENSURE ITS, AND OUR, PROTECTION, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WE ALSO HAVE SET IN PLACE A PSYCHOLOGY OF EUROPEAN DEPENDENCY ON THE US IN MATTERS OF DEFENSE WHILE WE HAVE RUSHED INTO THE EMBRACE OF THE EU TO DEAL WITH ITS MANY ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS. BETWEEN THESE TWO ATTITUDES THERE EXISTS A VACUUM THAT IS AS TROUBLING FOR US AS IT IS TEMPTING FOR THE FORCES THAT OPPOSE WCIV. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS VACUUMS, USUALLY ARE THE RESULT OF GOOD INTENTIONS THAT YIELD TERRIBLE RESULTS.

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DIVERSITY IS BOTH THE ALTAR AT WHICH MC FORCES PRAY PRIOR TO BATTLE AND THE FLAG UNDER WHICH THEY FIGHT. IT IS A LOGICAL RESULT OF THE MC TACTIC TO DIVIDE POPULATIONS INTO INCREASINGLY SMALLER AND MORE NUMEROUS PARTS WHICH ARE BOUND TO HAVE A DILUTING EFFECT UPON THE SPECIFIC CULTURES (I.E., RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, NATIONAL, ETC.) WITH WHICH THEY CO-EXIST. DIVERSITY IS USUALLY A BY-PRODUCT BUT HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A GOAL BY THE LIBERAL PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE DOMINATED WESTERN POSTWAR SOCIAL/POLITICAL THOUGHT.

IN ADDITION TO ITS POLITICAL CONSTITUENCY, DIVERSITY HAS AN EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL APPEAL THAT HAS AIDED IN ITS ELEVATION TO GOAL STATUS HERE AND IN EUROPE. IT IS NOT WITHOUT DRAWBACKS, HOWEVER, AS IT IS VIEWED BY MANY LESS LIBERAL SECTORS AS CONTRIBUTING TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS CRIME, POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT THE COSTS OF WHICH FALL UPON GOVERNMENT AND THEN, ULTIMATELY, THE TAXPAYERS.

DIVERSITY CAN BE USEFUL, BUT IT HAS FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES AND IF IT BECOMES POLICY, IT SHOULD BE PUBLICLY EXPLORED AND DETERMINED. IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY IN THIS COUNTRY DIVERSITY HAS BEEN TIED TO AND MOSTLY ACHIEVED BY IMMIGRATION. CURIOUSLY, WHILE THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ARGUMENT OVER THAT TIME AS TO THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMMIGRATION, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH DEBATE OVER THE VALUE OF DIVERSITY. IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, IT IS TREATED AS A "GIVEN" BY THE LEFT THAT IS RARELY, IF EVER, CHALLENGED BECAUSE OF ITS EMOTIONAL CONTEXT.

BUT DIVERSITY'S STATUS IS NOT DUE ENTIRELY TO EMOTION. THERE IS MONEY, BIG MONEY, INVOLVED THAT ACTS AGAINST AN OPEN POLICY DEBATE JUST AS POWERFULLY AS EMOTION. IMPORTANT ELEMENTS WITHIN OUR POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, RELIGIOUS AND, ACADEMIC SECTORS BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PURSUIT OF DIVERSITY AS A STIMULANT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH.

AS WITH OTHER PARTS OF OUR POLITICAL PROCESS, THERE IS ROOM FOR REASONED DISCUSSION OF DIVERSITY AT OUR POLITICAL CENTER AND RIGHT-CENTER, BUT THE THINKING THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE SUCH A MOVE IS NOT AVAILABLE IN "WINNER TAKE ALL" WASHINGTON TODAY.

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DIVERSITY, ALONG WITH MANY OF OUR POPULAR BELIEFS, HAS A RELATIVE VALUE THAT DEPENDS UPON OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE TIME AND PLACE IN WHICH IT EXISTS. LIKE RACISM, THE WORD USED TO HAVE A RATHER NARROW AND HUMDRUM MEANING BUT HAS NOW BEEN REPACKAGED FOR WIDER USE AS A POLITICAL MESSAGE AND WEAPON. FAVORED BY MC AND POLITICALLY CORRECT (PC) ELEMENTS ON THE LEFT, IT IS EQUATED TO HUMAN VALUES SUCH AS PATRIOTISM, TRADITION, CHARITY, GENEROSITY, ETC. WHICH MANY AMERICANS VIEW AS PART OF OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE. AND, LIKE "RACISM", ANY OPPOSITION TO IT IS TREATED HARSHLY BY BEING RIDICULED AND MADE TO FEEL GUILTY.

BUT, LET'S RETURN TO THE PILGRIMS TO ASK ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION. THEY WERE A HOMOGENOUS MINI-SOCIETY WITH THE SAME LANGUAGE, LAW AND RELIGION EMBARKED UPON A LENGTHY AND DANGEROUS VOYAGE IN A SMALL SHIP. WHAT IF, INSTEAD, THE MAYFLOWER HAD CARRIED EQUAL NUMBERS OF JEWS, MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS FROM THEIR HOMELANDS ? WOULD THEY HAVE SURVIVED THE VOYAGE OR SURVIVED LIFE IN THEIR EARLY DAYS IN THE NEW WORLD ? EACH OF THESE FAITHS HAS ITS OWN CLAIM TO AUTHENTICITY, DIVINE ORIGINS AND SCRIPTURE WHICH MIGHT HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CREATE THE UNIFIED, BONDED, HOMOGENOUS SOCIETY OF THE PILGRIMS. IN CONTINUAL, CLOSE CONTACT AND UNDER CONDITIONS OF PROLONGED SCARCITY AND DANGER IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS GROUP WOULD HAVE SUFFERED FROM DISTINCTION, RIVALRY, COMPETITION OVER RESOURCES AND OTHER BEHAVIORS THAT WOULD WEAKEN IT. WHAT WOULD AMERICAN CULTURE HAVE BEEN UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES? WOULD THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN AN AMERICAN CULTURE ? OR AN AMERICA WITH A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (DI) AND CONSTITUTION SUCH AS OURS ?

OUR COLONIAL PERIOD THAT PRECEDED OUR DI AND FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT WAS A TESTING GROUND ON WHICH THE ABUSE OF ROYAL POWER AND AUTHORITY ACTED AS A SPUR TO INDEPENDENCE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTIONS IN THE NEW REPUBLIC THAT WOULD PREVENT SUCH CAPRICIOUS USE OF POWER IN THE FUTURE.

PLYMOUTH ROCK WAS ONLY A FEW CENTURIES REMOVED FROM MAGNA CARTA DURING WHICH TIME THE ENGLISH CROWN AND ITS ROYAL COURT RETAINED BROAD POWERS AND DETERMINEDLY RESISTED POPULAR ENCROACHMENT. AS WITH OTHER NEIGHBORING MONARCHIES, THE DESTINIES OF EUROPEAN PEOPLES WERE LARGELY DETERMINED BY THE POLITICS AND RELIGION OF ROYAL MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS. IN DOING AWAY WITH THIS FOUNDATIONAL ASPECT OF MONARCHY, OUR FOUNDERS RECOGNIZED THAT, IF IT WAS NOT REPLACED BY A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THE RESULTING VACUUM WOULD LEAD TO FAILURE. FORTUNATELY FOR US AND THE WORLD THEIR FORESIGHT, INTELLIGENCE AND SHARED PURPOSE COMBINED IN CREATING A STRUCTURE OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH

STORED AND CONVEYED POWER ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND WERE STABILIZED BY A VERY CLEVER ARRANGEMENT OF CHECKS AND BALANCES.

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IF WE RETURN TO THE THEATRE, A CONTEMPORARY DRAMA ABOUT OUR NATION'S HISTORY MIGHT WELL SHOW IN THE FOREGROUND A CLAMOROUS MEETING OF MEMBERS OF OUR THREE BRANCHES IN WHICH THE MAIN CONCERNS APPEAR TO BE IDEOLOGY, REELECTION, FINANCIAL GAIN AND THE WAY OUR INSTITUTIONS CAN BE SUBVERTED FOR THESE NEW VALUES. TURN DOWN THE FRONT LIGHTS, TURN ON THE BACKLIGHTS BEHIND THE SCRIM AND A GROUP OF OUR FOUNDERS ENGAGE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW THE POWER OF THE NEW NATION'S CITIZENS CAN BE FAIRLY DIRECTED TO AND EXERCISED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

MUCH OF OUR AMERICAN HISTORY HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THESE TWO VISIONS, AND OUR PRESENT CONCEPT OF HISTORY HAS CHANGED AS MUCH AS OUR POLITICS, AS IT IS NOW BEING VIEWED AND TAUGHT IN MANY WAYS AS A MATTER OF SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION. SURELY, IF HISTORY, ETHICS, GOVERNMENT, POLICY AND OTHER WAYS TO JUDGE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM ARE EXERCISES OF SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION, THEY WILL NOT PROVIDE THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC'S RIGHTS AND POWERS THAT OUR FOUNDERS TOOK CARE TO WRITE INTO OUR LAWS. ALL TOO OFTEN TODAY, EVEN OUR PROPERLY PASSED AND FUNDED LAWS GO UNENFORCED OR ARE WHITTLED AWAY BY LITIGATION OR CONFLICTING INTERPRETATION AT LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LEVELS.

OUR POLITICAL CULTURE IS NOT STATIC. ITS WAY AND SHAPE ARE BOUND TO BE CHANGED BY EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURES, AND YET CAN SURVIVE IF WE ADHERE TO ITS CORE VALUES AND COMMITMENTS. WE HAVE BECOME DISTRACTED AND GROWN SLOPPY ABOUT THE CARE OF OUR POLITICAL CULTURE OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY, AND IN OUR ONSTAGE POLITICAL DRAMA OUR FOUNDERS MUST REGARD WITH CONCERN AND ANGUISH WHAT TAKES PLACE IN OUR TIME FRAME.

CONGRESS BEARS MUCH, BUT NOT ALL, OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR FAILURES AND THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH BLAME TO GO AROUND. BUT THAT RAISES ANOTHER QUESTION: GIVEN THE WILL TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE, DO WE RUN THE RISK OF RAISING THE BAR SO HIGH THAT IT CAN'T BE REACHED OR SETTING IT SO LOW THAT CONGRESS WILL EITHER TRIP OVER IT OR IGNORE IT ?

"...THE JOY, THE BURDEN AND THE PRIVILEGE OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT."

IT IS THE INSTITUTIONS, THE BOUNDARIES, TRADITIONS, VALUES TO WHICH WE ALL SUBSCRIBE THAT KEEP GOVERNMENT FROM GOING OVER THE EDGE. WITHOUT THIS UNITY, WE CANNOT DELIVER THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE NECESSARY FOR SOCIETAL PROGRESS — WHICH IS AT ONCE THE JOY, THE BURDEN AND THE PRIVILEGE OF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

CULTURE IN MOTION — POPULATION

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE IR EARLY IN THE 19TH CENTURY OUR GLOBAL POPULATION WAS 1 BILLION; IT IS NOW 7.5 BILLION AND, ACCORDING TO THE UN ESTIMATES, WILL REACH 11 BILLION BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY. IN RESPONSE TO THESE NUMBERS, A SURPRISINGLY SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICANS (AND AN EVEN SMALLER NUMBER OF OUR LEADERS) WILL REGISTER MUCH INTEREST, LET ALONE CONCERN OR ALARM.

AND YET THESE NUMBERS HAVE GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES, FOR, WHETHER WE ARE CONCERNED OR NOT, THEY AFFECT OUR SHARED ACTIVITIES, THE WAY WE LIVE — ALL OF US. AGAIN, AT THE START OF THE IR, THE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) CONTENT OF OUR ATMOSPHERE WAS 280 PARTS PER MILLION (PPM). IN 2015, IT AVERAGED 400 WHICH IS VIEWED BY MOST SCIENTISTS AS DANGEROUSLY HIGH — AS A SERIOUS THREAT BECAUSE ITS ROLE IN THE CHEMICAL ORDER OF OUR BODIES AND ENVIRONMENT WRITES RULES WHICH WE SHARE AND WHICH, IF IGNORED, IMPERIL ALL OF US.

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AT THE END OF WW II, THE POPULATION OF THE US WAS 150 MILLION AND ITS CARRYING CAPACITY² WAS THE SAME. THAT TIME OF BALANCE COULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE TO INQUIRE INTO THE COUNTRY'S REAL NEEDS FOR GROWTH AND CONSUMPTION COMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINING OUR WAY AND QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT THE NATION'S MIND WAS ON PEACE AND PROSPERITY. THE NEXT QUARTER CENTURY YIELDED TWO SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO VIEW OUR ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DEMANDS REALISTICALLY IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE LIMITS OF GROWTH³ AND THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION'S REPORT⁴. BOTH CONDEMNED EXPONENTIAL GROWTH AS HARMFUL AND, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER WAS SUPPORTED BY PRES. NIXON, THE GROWTH AT ANY COST FORCES PREVAILED.

HENRY FORD'S ORIGINAL CAR DESIGN WAS FOR A FUEL SYSTEM THAT COULD EMPLOY EITHER ALCOHOL OR GASOLINE, BUT HE WAS PERSUADED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER TO ELIMINATE THE ALCOHOL OPTION. A FATEFUL CHOICE, AS FORD GAVE RISE TO OUR AGE OF AUTOMOBILES, FOSSIL FUELS AND INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS. THUS BEGAN A CYCLE OF MORE PEOPLE, MORE CARS, MORE ROADS, BRIDGES AND PARKING WHICH BROUGHT WITH THEM CONVENIENCES, PLEASURES AND ALSO PENALTIES. COMMON TO ALL THESE WAS THE PRESENCE OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND AN INCREMENTAL WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THE INCREASING CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY GROWTH ON DEMAND. INCREMENTAL THINKING EXPRESSED ITSELF IN AN ENDLESS PROCESS OF ADDING PARKING FACILITIES, ACCESS ROADS, TRAFFIC LAWS, TUNNELS, BRIDGES, ETC. TO ACCOMMODATE ONGOING PERMANENT GROWTH. ROADWAYS OF THE INTERSTATE SYSTEM THAT BEGAN AS 4 OR 6 LANES NOW NUMBER 8, 10 OR 12. WHAT WILL BE THE MAGIC NUMBER REQUIRED IN ANOTHER GENERATION ? OR BY 2100 ? DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THAT HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAN KEEP PACE WITH PROCREATION ?

ADDITIONALLY, THE CONSTRUCTION COST FOR INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS, OF WHICH 90% IS PAID BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, HAS RISEN SHARPLY WITH THE COST/MILE IN SOME AREAS REACHING MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THESE INCREASES IN CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE COMBINED WITH POLITICAL NEGLECT HAVE DISSIPATED THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING STRUCTURE TO WHERE IT NO LONGER IS ABLE TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE, AND EVEN ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WILL REQUIRE TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM CONGRESS.

POPULATION IS BOTH A GLOBAL AND LOCAL PROBLEM WITH CONSEQUENCES FAR REMOVED FROM THEIR PLACES OF ORIGIN. MICROSOFT FOUNDER BILL GATES AND HIS WIFE MELINDA HAVE PLACED MUCH OF THEIR WEALTH IN A FOUNDATION WHOSE ACTIVITIES PRIORITIZE THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND OTHER SOCIAL EFFORTS THAT TREAT EDUCATIONAL, NUTRITIONAL, MEDICAL AND ENERGY PROBLEMS. THE GATES FOUNDATION'S RESOURCES AMOUNT TO MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND IT SPENDS \$3 BILLION A YEAR ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, MUCH IN AFRICA. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT MR. GATES WOULD THINK THAT ITS INVESTMENTS COULD PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF AFRICA'S POOR AND NEEDY. BUT WILL THEY ? CAN THEY?

AFRICA'S POPULATION TODAY IS ABOUT A BILLION AND IS ESTIMATED BY THE UN TO GROW TO 4 BILLION BY 2100. WHATEVER FIGURES WE MAY PICK FOR INVESTMENT, BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF AFRICA'S POPULATION THE INDIVIDUAL OR REGIONAL BENEFITS ARE SMALL AND WILL GROW SMALLER AS POPULATION INCREASES. ADDITIONALLY, AFRICA'S POPULATION IS NOT HOMOGENEOUS, BUT IS MARKED BY DEEP TRIBAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS WHICH, ALONG WITH ITS NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS, WILL INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY ALSO.

GATES' VIEW SEEMS TO BE THAT AFRICA'S ILLS CAN BE CURED BY MORE — MORE EDUCATION, MEDICINE, INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY, FOOD PRODUCTION, ETC., BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY FOR AFRICA'S WORSENING CONDITION. IT IS LESS — FEWER PEOPLE VIA A TOTAL FERTILITY RATE⁵ OF 2 CHILDREN PER WOMAN OR LESS OVER A PROLONGED PERIOD. WITHOUT SUCH A REDIRECTION THE BENEFITS OF GATES' OR OTHERS' HUMANITARIAN AID WILL BE TEMPORARY AND PRODUCE ONLY PARTIAL RESULTS.

CULTURE IN MOTION — RELIGION

THE DOMINANT RELIGIOUS EVENT OF THE POSTWAR WORLD HAS BEEN THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OUT OF THE NE INTO EUROPE, CANADA, THE PHILIPPINES AND THE U.S. AS WELL AS THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS ALREADY ESTABLISHED PRESENCE IN AFRICA, SE ASIA AND WESTERN CHINA.

THIS ISLAMIC SURGE IS NOT A ONE-OFF, BUT RATHER A CONTINUATION OF A PROCESS OF VIOLENT EXPANSION THAT BEGAN IN THE 8TH CENTURY WITH INVASIONS OF SPAIN AND INDIA AND HAS CONTINUED THROUGH PERIODS OF GREATER AND LESSER ACTIVITY TO ITS RECENT RENEWAL. DURING THIS TIME, MUSLIM FORCES WERE TURNED BACK BY THE FRENCH, THE AUSTRIANS AND THE RUSSIANS AFTER PROLONGED WAR AND OCCUPATION. TODAY, AS WE WITNESS ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT GLOBAL EXPANSION THE QUESTION THAT THE WEST IS RELUCTANT, EVEN AFRAID, TO ASK

IS “WHAT WOULD WCIV BE LIKE TODAY HAD ISLAM PREVAILED IN EVEN ONE OF ITS ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER ?”

RELIGION OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER HAS BEEN PRACTICED BY OUR SPECIES FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE THREE DESERT RELIGIONS DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM — JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM. REDUCED TO THEIR ESSENCE, THEIR VERY DIFFERENT MESSAGES CAN BE FOUND IN JUDAISM'S PENTATEUCH, CHRISTIANITY'S FOUR GOSPELS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ISLAM'S QUR'AN. MOSES OFFERED GOD'S LAW, CHRISTIANITY GOD'S LOVE AND ISLAM GOD'S ORDERS FOR LIFE AND FAITH ACCORDING TO HIS PROPHET MOHAMMED.

WE MUST FACE A BASIC FACT OF HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN PROVEN IN THE PAST AND IS BEING RECONFIRMED IN OUR TIME. ISLAM POSES AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO WCIV ! THIS IS A DIFFICULT REALIZATION FOR WCIV BECAUSE SO MUCH OF ITS CULTURE, THOUGHT AND HISTORY EMBRACE PRINCIPLES OF DIFFERENCE, FREEDOM, INDIVIDUALITY AND COOPERATION. AND BECAUSE WE HAVE STRUGGLED FOR AND ENJOYED THESE VALUES WE EXTEND THEM TO OTHERS THINKING THEY WILL HAVE THE SAME BENIGN, STIMULATING EFFECT IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ONE LOOK AT LIFE IN EUROPE, AND HOW HOST POPULATIONS THERE HAVE HAD THEIR LIVES ALTERED BY THE CURRENT MUSLIM INFLUX, SHOULD DISPEL ANY SUCH WESTERN CONFUSION.

VOICES OF THE LIBERAL LEFT (LL) DENY ANY MUSLIM THREAT — EUROPE, HERE OR ELSEWHERE — AND IN DOING SO CITE THE OFTEN-REPEATED CLAIM THAT ISLAM IS A RELIGION OF PEACE, NO MENTION BEING MADE THAT FOR CENTURIES IT REFERRED TO ITSELF AND ITS ROLE IN THE WORLD AS “THE SWORD OF ISLAM”. THE ARGUMENT OFFERED BY THE WESTERN LEFT AND BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH ELSEWHERE TO SUPPORT ISLAM'S IMAGE OF PEACE IS THAT ITS VIOLENT JIHADIST GROUPS (ISIS, BOKU HARAM, ETC.) ARE FRINGE EXTREMISTS WHILE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ISLAM'S TWO BILLION MEMBERS ARE NOT A THREAT AND WANT ONLY TO PRACTICE THEIR FAITH IN PEACE.

THIS COULD WELL BE TRUE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, BUT DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE ATTITUDES AND CONDUCT OF THE MUSLIM FAITH. THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY OF BLOODY CONQUEST IN INDIA, AFRICA, EUROPE AND ASIA THERE WAS NO VOICE OF CONSCIENCE OR ELEMENT OF POLITICS WITHIN ISLAM THAT CALLED FOR MODERATE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS, WHILE THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE MUSLIM FAITHFUL SETTLED IN QUIETLY AND COMFORTABLY BEHIND THE WARRIORS THAT PUSHED ISLAM'S BORDERS TO NEW AND FURTHER LIMITS. ON THE ISLAMIC COMPASS ARROWS OF ACTUAL OR INTENDED CONQUEST HAVE POINTED NORTH, EAST, SOUTH AND WEST; AND STILL DO!

“...AND IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.”

ISLAM IS NOT JUST A RELIGION. IT IS A CULTURE ALSO AND CULTURES DON'T STOP, CHANGE AND “TURN ON A DIME”. WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND IS STILL HAPPENING IN EUROPE CANNOT BE UNDONE. THE MUSLIM PRESENCE IS WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE EU'S POPULATIONS AND WILL BE INCREASINGLY SEEN AND FELT IN ITS POLITICS. BE ADVISED: THE BRUSSELS BUREAUCRATS CHATTING OVER COFFEE WHILE WAITING FOR REPORTS IN THE

PRODUCTION, TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER WILL BE NO MATCH FOR THE QUR'AN CARRYING JIHADIST WHEN HE ARRIVES; AND IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

CULTURAL CHANGE

“...EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN NUMBERS CAN ONLY BRING EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN THE RISKS THEY POSE.”

WE HAVE CITED AREAS OF CULTURAL CHANGES THAT ALL HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGATIVE IMPACTS UPON OUR SOCIETY AND OUR GOVERNMENT. WHILE THEY DIFFER IN BOTH THEIR NATURE AND THEIR EFFECTS, THEY ARE SIMILAR IN TWO IMPORTANT WAYS. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO HUMAN AGENCY AND ARE EXPRESSED BY NUMERICAL GROWTH. THESE TWO FACTORS SHOULD MAKE IT RELATIVELY EASY TO MANAGE THEM. THEY ARE IN FULL VIEW, AND CAN BE MEASURED AND MANAGED BY US WITH READILY AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES. WE DO NOT HAVE TO DEVISE NEW FORMULAE OR CREATE NEW TECHNOLOGIES. WE MUST ONLY BE ABLE TO COMMAND OF OURSELVES THE WILL TO PAY ATTENTION TO AND ACT IN BEHALF OF OUR OWN SELF-INTEREST, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE HAVE WAITED TOO LONG AND THAT EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN NUMBERS CAN ONLY BRING EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN THE RISKS THEY POSE.

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OUR FIRST CULTURAL CHANGE WAS THAT OF GOVERNMENT — OUR JUSTICE, POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ZONES WHICH DEFINE THE BOUNDARIES AND METHODS THAT A WELL-FUNCTIONING SOCIETY REQUIRES.

WE STARTED WITH A POPULATION OF 2 MILLION IN 13 ATLANTIC STATES WITH A CONGRESS THAT MET FOR 2 TO 3 MONTHS IN THE SPRING. TODAY, OUR POPULATION IS 325 MILLION IN 50 STATES FROM ALASKA'S ALEUTIAN ISLANDS TO KEY WEST WITH CONGRESS IN SESSION FOR ABOUT 140 DAYS SPREAD OVER THE YEAR. THESE ARE ENORMOUS CHANGES THAT HAVE RESHAPED THE FORM AND FUNCTIONING OF OUR GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE TRIED TO CATCH UP, TO PATCH UP INCREMENTALLY IN WAYS TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. AFTER STUDY AND DISCUSSION, WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE “COURSE CORRECTIONS”, BUT THE PAUSES THAT OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS REQUIRES ARE OUTDISTANCED BY THE QUIET, CONSTANT GROWTH OF OUR POPULATION. THAT GROWTH IS NOT AN ENTIRELY NATURAL PROCESS, AS IT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED AND CELEBRATED SINCE OUR BEGINNING. THE THINKING BEHIND THIS CONTINUING PROMOTION HAS CHANGED OVER TIME. IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES IT WAS SEEN AS NECESSARY FOR SETTLING NEW LANDS AND CONVERTING THEM TO AGRICULTURAL OR OTHER FORMS OF PRODUCTIVITY, WHEREAS IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES INCREASED POPULATION HAS BEEN REGARDED AND PROMOTED AS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY BY PROVIDING BOTH THE LABOR AND THE CONSUMER DEMAND THAT IT REQUIRES.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE OUR COLLECTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS POPULATION GROWTH FROM THE MANY POLITICAL,

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND IDENTITY COMPONENTS OF AMERICAN LIFE, BUT IN POPULATION MATTERS NUMBERS COUNT MORE THAN ATTITUDES AND POPULATION IS, ABOVE ALL ELSE, A NUMBERS “GAME”. ARGUMENTS OVER METHODS, COSTS, POLICIES, RESULTS ALL PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE NUMBERS. THEY ARE CONSTANT AND THERE ARE NO TIME-OUTS EVEN IN THOSE LENGTHY PERIODS OF DISCUSSION THAT ARE PART OF OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

WE MENTIONED ABOVE SEVERAL COMPONENTS OF AMERICAN LIFE — “POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND IDENTITY”. AND THEN THERE'S RELIGION WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS INJECTED DOGMA AND DIVINITY INTO ANY CONSIDERATION OF POPULATION'S PROCESS OF UNCHECKED GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION. THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY A SIMPLE 4-WORD COMMAND THAT APPEARS IN THE HOLY TEXTS OF THE THREE DESERT RELIGIONS — ISLAM, JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY. IT IS “GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY” OR SOME VARIANT OF TRANSLATION, BUT ITS INTENT AND THE ACT OF POPULATION ARE DELIVERED AS ORDERS, NOT OPTIONS OR EFFORTS, AND THEY ARE REPEATED IN VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN ALL THREE TEXTS — THE BIBLE, THE QUR'AN AND THE PENTATEUCH.

TODAY, THE NE HOMELAND OF ALL THREE FAITHS IS BITTERLY DIVIDED OVER MATTERS OF TRIBAL, SPIRITUAL AND TERRITORIAL TRUTH. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE, OR EVEN POSSIBILITY, THAT THESE THREE MAJOR RELIGIONS WHOSE FOLLOWERS NUMBER MORE THAN 50% OF THE WORLD'S PRESENT POPULATION COULD COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DANGERS OF THEIR “GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY” PARADIGM.

POLITICS AND CULTURE

OUR DI EXPRESSED A RATIONAL BASE FOR THE FOUNDING OF OUR NEW NATION, BUT, WHILE RATIONAL, IT WAS ALSO RADICAL. THIS UNIQUE POLITICAL COMBINATION PROGRESSED TO THE VISION OF STATEHOOD, FEDERALISM AND NATIONALITY EXPRESSED IN OUR CONSTITUTION. WHILE VISIONARY AND LYRICAL, THE DI OFFERED A VIEW OF POLITICAL PRINCIPLE TO WHICH THE NEW GOVERNMENT COULD ASPIRE AND SERVED AS A BONDING ELEMENT DURING THE SPIRITED DEBATE AND WRITING OF THE CONSTITUTION. FROM THESE TWO DOCUMENTS EMERGED A FORM OF GOVERNMENT BASED ON SHARED VALUES, NOW OFTEN MORE PROMISED THAN PRACTICED.

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OUR 18TH CENTURY TWO-PARTY NOMINATION, ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION SYSTEM HAS BEEN TWEAKED FROM TIME TO TIME TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF OUR AMAZING GROWTH IN NUMBERS, TERRITORY, WEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY; AND OUR TRANSFORMATION INTO A GLOBAL, INDUSTRIALIZED SUPERPOWER. AND YET, THE PROCLAIMED ROLES AND CONDUCT OF OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE CHANGED VERY LITTLE.

OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS SOMEWHAT ANACHRONISTIC, BUT IT IS NOT IRRETRIEVABLE. GOVERNMENT REPAIR IS NEVER EASY, ESPECIALLY IN OPEN DEMOCRACIES WHERE ALL VOICES MUST BE HEARD. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENTS IN NEED OF BROAD REFORM

USED TO BE ABLE TO ENGAGE IN WARS TO SHIFT THEIR POLITICAL/ SOCIAL FOCUS, OUR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HAS REDUCED THE USE OF WAR AND FORCES US TO SEEK OTHER METHODS.

THE TECHNIQUES FAVORED BY THE FORCES OF THE LL — MC, PC AND CULTURAL MARXISM — FOSTER DIVISION WITH THE INTENTION TO SHAME POPULATIONS AWAY FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL NATIONALITIES AND CULTURES, WHEREAS THE GREAT CULTURES OF OUR PLANET HAVE CELEBRATED AND EXPLOITED THESE TIES.

MOST EXTRAORDINARY IN THE SUCCESS OF ITS CULTURAL DEFENSE WAS JAPAN WHICH BARRED FOREIGN VISITORS WELL INTO OUR MODERN ERA UNTIL THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. WHAT WESTERNERS FOUND THEN WAS DATED AND BACKWARDS BY OUR DEMOCRATIC, INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY STANDARDS, BUT IT HAD PROVIDED JAPAN WITH 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL PURITY.

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CULTURAL CONTESTS TAKING PLACE IN AMERICA AND IN WCIV TODAY IS THAT BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP STATUS. OUR THEORY OF DEMOCRATIC, POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, ENHANCED BY INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS OF TEXTS AND IMAGES TO EVERYWHERE, CELEBRATES THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS SELF-IMAGE IN WAYS NOT POSSIBLE BEFORE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NATIONAL POWERS, POSITION AND PRINCIPLES INCREASINGLY COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF MULTI-MEMBER AUTHORITIES SUCH AS THE UN, NATO AND OTHER NUMEROUS TRADE AND DEFENSE TREATIES WHICH POLISH THE IMAGE AND SUBSTANCE OF BROAD REPRESENTATION CALLED FOR BY THE POSTWAR “BRAVE NEW WORLD”.

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ONE REASON THAT THE CURRENT EXPANSION OF ISLAM SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A SERIOUS THREAT IS THAT — AS A MOVEMENT, A RELIGION, A BODY OF LAW AND AN AUTHORITY RECOGNIZED BY ABOUT 30% OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION — IT FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSES OUR CULTURE’S PRESENT DEDICATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY VALUES/GOALS THAT WE AND OTHERS HAVE DEEMED THE BEST AVAILABLE MEANS FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN OUR POSTWAR, NUCLEAR ERA. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE GETS LIP SERVICE FROM ISLAM, BUT HISTORY TELLS A DIFFERENT TALE. OUR AND OTHER SOCIETIES’ LEGAL, FINANCIAL, IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS COULD NOT SURVIVE UNDER ISLAMIC CONTROL, AND YET MUSLIM EXPANSION IS PUSHED BY THE LEFT HERE, IN EUROPE, CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

AMERICA IS A CONCEPT OF FREEDOM AND ASPIRATION WHICH HAS ALLOWED US IN THE SHORT TIME OF 200+ YEARS TO CREATE A CULTURE AND IDENTITY UNIQUE IN THE WORLD. BEING CULTURALLY AND POLITICALLY UNIQUE WE CELEBRATE OUR WCIV HERITAGE, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR IDENTITY. WE WISH TO RETAIN THEM AS THEY ARE, UNLESS WE CHOOSE TO IMPROVE THEM. IDENTITY, OF COURSE, DRAWS DISTINCTIONS AS DO LAWS, RELIGIONS, TRADITIONS, BIOLOGY, ETHNICITY, ETC. WE ARE WHO WE ARE, JUST AS FRENCH, OR ENGLISH, OR MUSLIMS OR JEWS ARE WHO THEY ARE; AND WE TAKE PRIDE, SOMETIMES JUSTIFIABLY AND SOMETIMES NOT, IN OUR ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE LL CANNOT ABIDE DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE BECAUSE OF ITS BELIEF IN UNIFORMITY AND THE PROCESS OF

REDISTRIBUTION IT REQUIRES — NOT JUST OF WEALTH, BUT OF THOUGHT, ATTITUDES, STATUS AND GOVERNMENT. GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT TO BE ALLOWED, AND ISLAM CAN APPLY THE PRESSURE NECESSARY FOR UNIFORMITY THROUGH ITS LEGAL/POLITICAL ARM — SHARIA.

THERE IS NOTHING “EXTREME” IN THIS VIEW. WE CAN SEE IT AT WORK IN EUROPE WHERE THE MUSLIM PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL PRESENCE IS CHANGING RULES AND ROLES IN EVEN SUCH TRADITIONALLY WCIV COUNTRIES AS FRANCE, ENGLAND, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND GERMANY. THE LESSONS FROM WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN EUROPE HOWEVER, ARE LOST UPON THE LL EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE THE SAME AS THOSE FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND STALIN’S AND MAO’S COMMUNIST PURGES.

MUCH OF THE LL’S CRITICISM OF WCIV TARGETS ITS PAST USE OF SLAVERY AND, IN THIS COUNTRY, ITS LONG AFTERMATH WHICH WE STILL EXPERIENCE TODAY. TODAY’S NEW SLAVERY DOES AWAY WITH THE OWNERSHIP OF THE LIVES AND LABOR OF WORKERS AND HAS REPLACED THEM WITH A CONTROL OF THE WORLD BY THE MASS MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS OF OUR TIME AND TECHNOLOGY.

IDEOLOGY IS THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT AND IS FORMED TO BYPASS THE CENTER AND TO REACH THE FRINGES WHERE COSTS ARE LOW AND POLARIZATION HIGH. ALTHOUGH THE LEFT’S MSM PRESSURE/INFLUENCE IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN THAT OF THE RIGHT, BOTH ARE ACTIVE, DETERMINED AND EQUALLY INFLEXIBLE, AND HAVE HAD A KEY ROLE IN THE LOSS OF CENTRIST POLITICAL OPINION.

TRUMP — THE FIRST 9 MONTHS

OUR MOST FITTING COMMENT IN CAPSULE FORM ON PRES. TRUMP’S FIRST NINE MONTHS IN OFFICE IS: PERFORMANCE, TUMULTUOUS; RESULTS, MIXED. BEFORE OFFERING JUDGEMENT, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD PROVIDE WHAT WE THINK IS RELEVANT BACKGROUND.

POLITICS DO NOT EXIST IN A VACUUM; NOR ARE THEY MOMENTARY. THEY MOVE FROM THE PAST THROUGH THE PRESENT AND TOWARDS THE FUTURE — AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS IN DIFFERENT TIMES AND PLACES. UNFORTUNATELY, FEW OF OUR POLITICIANS PUT THIS PERSPECTIVE TO USE, BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE TRUMP PHENOMENON OF 2016 AND TO EVALUATING HIS PRESIDENCY.

HOWEVER WE MAY JUDGE HIS ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS IN OFFICE, THE CRITICAL MOMENT FOR THE NATION WAS THE 2016 ELECTION AND ANY HISTORICALLY VALID ASSESSMENT OF HIS POLITICAL PRESENCE MUST CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN VISITED UPON THE COUNTRY HAD THE CLINTON/ KANE TICKET WON.

SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD HAVE ASSURED THE CONTINUATION OF NUMEROUS FAILED IMMIGRATION, ECONOMIC, TRADE AND FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY, AS WELL AS THE PERVASIVE CORRUPTION THAT HAS ACCOMPANIED THEM. IT IS BOTH POSSIBLE AND LIKELY THAT OUR REPUBLIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED ONE OR TWO CLINTON

TERMS OF OFFICE; AND IT IS AGAINST THIS OUTCOME THAT PRES. TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION MUST BE WEIGHED. IN OTHER WORDS, IF NOT TRUMP, THEN WHAT? THERE WAS NO MIDDLE GROUND, NO OTHER OPTION. THE ELECTORAL CHOICE WAS TRUMP OR CLINTON.

WE SUPPORTED TRUMP THROUGH THE NOMINATING PROCESS BECAUSE ALL OF THE OTHER GOP CANDIDATES SEEMED TO BE ENGAGED IN A FORM OF "ME TOO" POLITICS, AND THROUGH THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BECAUSE HE CALLED FOR CHANGE IN SOME AREAS OF GOVERNMENT CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF OUR CULTURAL AND POLITICAL IDENTITY.

THE FIRST ISSUE WAS THAT OF OUR DISASTROUS IMMIGRATION POLICY, UNENFORCED SINCE THE END OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION; AND THE COROLLARY FAILURES THAT RESULTED FROM IT UNDER BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS. THE IDEA THAT OUR ELECTED LEADERS COULD DECIDE WHICH OF OUR LAWS THEY WOULD ENFORCE BASED ON POLITICAL ADVANTAGE HAD BECOME ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE AND POLICY, EVEN THOUGH IT DEFIED BOTH OUR CONSTITUTION AND ONE OF OUR MOST OFTEN STATED CLAIMS OF DISTINCTION — THAT "WE ARE A NATION OF LAWS".

THIS FAILURE POISONED OUR GOVERNMENT IN OTHER WAYS BESIDES LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT GREATLY REDUCED THE REACH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), THEREBY ALLOWING IT TO BE USED AS AN EXTENSION OF WHITE HOUSE POLITICAL POWER, A FAR CRY FROM ITS EARLIER AND NOBLER CHARACTERIZATION AS "THE PEOPLE'S LAWYER" WHICH SUFFERED A PAINFUL DEATH IN THE MADNESS OF NIXON/WATERGATE.

THERE IS NOTHING AMBIGUOUS ABOUT OUR CONSTITUTION'S ORIGINAL LANGUAGE REGARDING IMMIGRATION. IT IS A MATTER FOR WHICH THE PRESIDENT ENJOYS BROAD POWERS OF POLICY AND REGULATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF DISREGARDING OUR LAW AND CONSTITUTION COULD SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS BEYOND IMMIGRATION AND POSE AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR REPUBLIC. WE COULD BECOME, IN EFFECT, A THIRD WORLD "BANANA REPUBLIC" — A BIG BANANA, BUT STILL A BANANA. WE ALSO SUPPORTED TRUMP'S POSITION AGAINST TRADE TREATIES SUCH AS NAFTA AND TPP AND THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.

ON OTHER FRONTS, WE PART WITH PRES. TRUMP ON MOST MATTERS INVOLVING THE ENVIRONMENT EXCEPT WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT. OUR REASONS FOR THIS, HOWEVER, ARE VERY DIFFERENT. THE PRESIDENT'S OBJECTIONS WERE LARGELY ECONOMIC AND JOBS RELATED WHEREAS WE THINK THAT THE PARIS GOALS WERE TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE TO PROVIDE THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELIEF NEEDED.

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THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF EVALUATING THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY IS THAT THERE IS NO RELIABLE ZONE OF SEPARATION BETWEEN THE MAN AND THE OFFICE. THIS IS A MATTER OF CONDUCT, OF PERSONAL CHOICE, TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO BE TOTALLY COMMITTED. THE OFFICE AND THE MAN SEEM, AT LEAST TO HIM, TO BE THE SAME.

IN EVALUATING TRUMP'S PERFORMANCE OVER THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF HIS PRESIDENCY WE HAVE EXCLUDED SUBJECTIVE PREFERENCES (I.E., REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, RACE, GENDER, ETC.) AND USED AS OUR BASIS FOR JUDGEMENT THE EFFECT OF HIS ACTIONS ON OUR GOVERNMENT/COUNTRY.

THE MOST PAINFUL TO WATCH, AND MOST UNNECESSARY OF WHAT WE CONSIDER TRUMP ERRORS WAS HIS VERY PUBLIC ATTACK UPON ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) JEFF SESSIONS FOR RECUSING HIMSELF FROM DOJ ACTIONS RELATED TO THE CHARGES OF RUSSIAN INFLUENCE WITHIN THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN. SESSIONS WAS THE FIRST SENATOR TO ANNOUNCE HIS SUPPORT OF TRUMP'S CANDIDACY AND SPOKE OUT FREQUENTLY AND FORCEFULLY ON HIS BEHALF BOTH BEFORE AND FOLLOWING HIS INAUGURATION, BUT THE RECUSAL MATTER REMAINED A SOURCE OF IRRITATION, AND IN AN INTERVIEW IN JULY TRUMP PUBLICLY BERATED HIS AG'S JUDGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE, THE LATTER BEING ESPECIALLY DIVISIVE BECAUSE SESSIONS' HANDLING OF IMMIGRATION AND OTHER TRUMP PRIORITIES PROVIDED THE TRUMP AGENDA WITH THE INITIAL MOMENTUM IT NEEDED TO KICKSTART ITS PROGRESS AT A TIME WHEN MOST OF ITS OTHER DIRECTIONS WERE BEING HELD UP IN CONGRESS.

MOREOVER, HE FRAMED HIS CRITICISM IN PERSONAL, AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL, LANGUAGE — "IT'S EXTREMELY UNFAIR, AND THAT'S A MILD WORD, TO THE PRESIDENT" — LEAVING THE IMAGE OF THE PRESIDENT AS VICTIM. TRUMP'S EFFORTS TO HUMILIATE SESSIONS HAVE BEEN VIEWED BY MANY AS A WAY TO MAKE HIS JOB SO UNTENABLE THAT HE WOULD RESIGN. FORTUNATELY, SESSIONS DIDN'T "TAKE THE BAIT" AND CAN CONTINUE IN OFFICE. EVEN IN DC THE ACCEPTED WAY TO HANDLE THIS KIND OF SITUATION IS WITH A BRIEF MEETING OR PHONE CALL, "THANKS FOR YOUR HELP; WE'LL STAY IN TOUCH", ETC.

THE PROCESS OF GETTING SENATE CONFIRMATION FOR TRUMP'S CABINET APPOINTEES WAS LONG, WITH DETERMINED RESISTANCE FROM DEMOCRATS, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO THINK THAT A SUCCESSOR TO SESSIONS WOULD FARE BETTER. WE THINK THE PRESIDENT'S TREATMENT OF HIS AG IGNORED THE FUTURE POLITICAL DRAWBACKS OF A RESIGNATION OR DISMISSAL, WAS OVERLY PERSONAL IN CLAIMING VICTIMIZATION AND CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF DIVISION AND LACK OF NEEDED LEADERSHIP. THE END RESULT IS NEGATIVE FOR THE NATION.

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FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY THE STATE OF AFFAIRS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IS AN AREA IN WHICH COMMUNICATIONS LANGUAGE IS MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN IT IS DELIVERED DEFINITELY AND CALMLY BY DIPLOMATS OR OUR MILITARY LEADERS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY CHARGED WITH EXECUTING IT. WE HAVE CHANNELS FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH N. KOREA AND ITS NEIGHBORS — RUSSIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND S. KOREA — THROUGH WHICH WE CAN AND SHOULD FIRMLY DECLARE OUR POSITION, INTENTION AND CAPABILITY IN CLEAR AND FIRM, BUT NOT INFLAMMATORY, LANGUAGE.

SIMILARLY, “KICKING THE NORTH KOREAN CAN DOWN THE ROAD” BY PRES. CLINTON, BUSH AND OBAMA HAS HAD THE PREDICTABLE RESULT OF ACCELERATING THE DPRK’S PROGRESS TO THE POINT OF CRISIS — WHERE BOTH OUR TIME AND OUR OPTIONS ARE LIMITED. WE AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT’S FIRM APPROACH TO THIS NUCLEAR THREAT, BUT FEEL HIS INCREASINGLY INFLAMMATORY MESSAGES HAVE NOT BEEN HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT BAIT OR RIDICULE KIM JONG UN. PERSONAL ATTACKS ADD A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO ANY SITUATION AND, WHEN APPLIED TO SOMEONE AS FAR REMOVED FROM NORMAL INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR AS KIM JONG UN, THEY CAN DRAMATICALLY AND SUDDENLY INCREASE THE LEVEL OR POSSIBILITY OF INSTABILITY.

THE U.S. DOES NOT NEED TO ENGAGE IN TIT-FOR-TAT NAME CALLING WITH KIM. WE HAVE BOTH TREMENDOUS POWER AND THE MEANS TO EMPLOY IT. A CALM AND MEASURED REMINDER OF THIS IS THE BEST MESSAGE WE CAN SEND TO KIM; AND GENERAL MATTIS’ REMARKS BACKING UP THE PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN SIMPLY AND CLEARLY STATING OUR POSITION WITHOUT RHETORICAL EMBELLISHMENT. A VEILED THREAT WITH POWER BEHIND IT IS JUST AS EFFECTIVE AS AN OPEN ONE AND ENJOYS THE BENEFIT OF SECRECY.

POLITICS IS LACED WITH THE IRONY THAT MARKS OUR N. KOREAN PROBLEMS. IT IS ONE TO WHICH TRUMP PAID LITTLE ATTENTION IN HIS CAMPAIGNING, WHILE OTHERS RECEIVED CONSTANT MENTION. AND YET, HOW WE DEAL WITH N. KOREA MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE AND POLICY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION !

LIKE OTHERS, WE HAVE OUR “RED LINES”, AND WE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO DRAW THEM. NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION MAY BE A “ONE MAN SHOW” IN N. KOREA, BUT IT SHOULD NOT APPEAR AS ONE HERE. LET OTHERS SPECULATE AS TO WHAT ACTIONS OR DIRECTIONS WE WILL PURSUE.

THE PRESIDENT HAS A LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH MSM. HE DOESN’T LIKE ITS MESSAGE ABOUT HIM, BUT CRAVES ITS COVERAGE. FOREIGN RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WAR ARE TOO SERIOUS TO BE CONVEYED BY OTHER THAN PREPARED POLICY STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT, OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UN OR APPROPRIATE CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS. ANYTHING LESS PRODUCES THE KIND OF CONFUSION AND EXPLOSION OF MSM COMMENT THAT IS NOT HELPFUL IN OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ROILS BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES — IN SHORT, A NEGATIVE FOR OUR GOVERNMENT.

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WHOEVER OCCUPIES THE OVAL OFFICE WILL FACE NEARLY CONSTANT CRITICISM FROM BOTH MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY AND THE OPPOSITION. TO BECOME CAUGHT UP IN RESPONDING TO EVERY MEDIA MESSAGE IS POLITICALLY SELF-DEFEATING AND, BECAUSE IT DETRACTS ATTENTION FROM MORE SERIOUS MATTERS, NOT IN THE NATION’S INTEREST.

IN TODAY’S MAD, MAD MEDIA WORLD THE FIRST RULE OF SELF-PROTECTION FOR ANY PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDER CHARGED WITH CRIMES OR IMPROPRIETIES IS TO GET ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER WHICH THE MSM CAN RENDER

THEIR OWN INTERPRETATIONS, VERSIONS OF FACT, ASSIGNMENTS OF FAULT OR GUILT AND JUDGEMENTS OF TRUTH; BUT THE NEWS CYCLE IS HISTORY’S “TO DO LIST” WITH DAILY ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS THAT EVENTUALLY FORCE THE MSM TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STORY.

TRUMP’S LONG WAR WITH THE MSM PREVENTS ANY SUCH DETACHMENT AND CONVERTS FAR TOO MANY COMMENTS OR EVENTS INTO PERSONAL ATTACKS WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED. THIS PERPETUATES ANTAGONISMS AND DRAWS ON HIS ADMINISTRATION’S TIME AND ENERGY THAT COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE FOR BOTH HIS PRESIDENCY AND THE NATION.

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AND, THERE IS THE TRANSFER OF GEN. JOHN KELLY FROM HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE PRESIDENT’S STAFF, A MUCH-NEEDED ATTEMPT TO REPLACE CHAOS WITH ORDER IN THE WHITE HOUSE (WH).

THE DHS IS OUR GOVERNMENT’S LARGEST AGENCY WITH ABOUT 240,000 EMPLOYEES AND IS THE PRODUCT OF AN AMALGAMATION OF MANY FORMERLY SEPARATE FUNCTIONS AND ENTITIES FOLLOWING THE 9/11 ATTACK. IT IS NOT A QUICK OR EASY PROCESS TO REORGANIZE SUCH A LARGE AGENCY — TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE, TO DO THE NECESSARY ANALYSIS OF CHANGES THAT MUST BE MADE AND TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THEM. THROUGHOUT THESE STAGES THE HUMAN FACTOR IS A CONSTANT. PAST SKILLS AND ATTITUDES MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND EVALUATED FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS. RESULTING TRANSFERS AND DEPARTURES ARE ONLY SOME OF THE MANY CHANGES WHICH GEN. KELLY HAD TO DECIDE UPON, PRIORITIZE AND INSTITUTE. IT IS VERY FORTUNATE THAT KELLY WAS CHOSEN, CONFIRMED AND COULD “HIT THE GROUND RUNNING” IN THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT POSITION.

KELLY’S NEW ASSIGNMENT TO INSTILL MUCH NEEDED COHESION AND DISCIPLINE IN THE FUNCTION OF A WHITE HOUSE STAFF OF PERHAPS 50 PEOPLE SEEMS LIKE A WASTE OF KELLY’S EXTRAORDINARY TALENTS, ALTHOUGH WH STAFFS WITH THEIR MEMBERS’ CONTINUING COMPETITION FOR ATTENTION AND POWER HAVE CHALLENGED OTHER PRESIDENTS. IN OUR OPINION THE WH STAFF IS LESS IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTRY THAN THE DHS. THE DHS NOW LACKS A DIRECTOR AND THE ADMINISTRATION MUST START AGAIN THE PROCESS OF SEARCH, APPOINTMENT, CONFIRMATION AND ACCLIMATIZATION BETWEEN THE INSTITUTION AND ITS NEW LEADER. THIS WILL TAKE TIME THE NATION CAN ILL AFFORD WHEN SO MANY CURRENT ISSUES ARE THOSE THAT ARE UNDER CONTROL OF DHS. GEN. KELLY’S MOVE MAY BE A PLUS FOR THE WH; IT IS A NEGATIVE FOR GOVERNMENT.

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FINALLY, WE CAN’T ESCAPE THE ERUPTION OVER THE KNEELING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYERS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE. THIS SITUATION BEGAN A YEAR AGO WITH THE ACTION OF ONE PLAYER WHO KNEALT DURING THE SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM TO PROTEST INJUSTICE TO AFRICAN AMERICANS. HE AND A FEW OTHERS GAINED SOME FURTHER ATTENTION AS THE SEASON

CONTINUED AND THEN EXITED THE NEWS CYCLE AFTER THE SUPER BOWL IN JANUARY WHEN PLAY ENDED AND THE NATION'S SPORT PAGES AND TV SCREENS TURNED TO BASKETBALL, HOCKEY AND OTHER SPORTS.

THEN A FEW WEEKS AGO IN LATE SEPTEMBER, AS FOOTBALL'S 2017 OPENING GAME ARRIVED, MEDIA SPECULATION AND COVERAGE OF THIS INJECTION OF RACIAL PROTEST INTO SPORT EXPLODED. MORE PLAYERS SAW FIT TO DEMONSTRATE BY KNEELING, STANDING WITH JOINED ARMS, RAISING FISTS OR SIMPLY STAYING IN THE LOCKER ROOM DURING THE SINGING OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

THIS IS AN ISSUE OF MANY PARTS AND INTERESTS WITH FLASHING RED POLITICAL LIGHTS ATTACHED THAT THE PRESIDENT CHOSE TO DISREGARD BY INCLUDING IN AN OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE SPEECH THE COMMENT THAT ANY PLAYER WHO KNEELS IN PROTEST OFFENDS OUR FLAG AND ARMED SERVICES, IS A "SON OF A BITCH" AND SHOULD BE FIRED BY HIS TEAM'S MANAGEMENT.

THERE ARE A HOST OF ISSUES LURKING IN THIS SITUATION — ECONOMIC, MANAGERIAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, RACIAL, ATHLETIC, JOURNALISTIC, PATRIOTIC AND MORE; NONE OF WHICH COULD BE RESOLVED, OR EVEN IMPROVED, BY TRUMP'S REMARKS. BUT WHAT WAS MOST ALARMING WAS HIS DELIVERY OF HIS INSTRUCTION TO "FIRE" PLAYER(S) WHO TOOK PART. HIS FIRST ITERATION WAS DETERMINED, BUT IN KEEPING WITH THE TONE OF HIS MESSAGE. THE SECOND TIME TOOK THE FORM OF A RANT, MUCH LOUDER AND LESS CONTROLLED THAN HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT.

THERE IS LITTLE SENSE IN ANY OF THIS. THE NFL HAS SPECIFIC RULES FOR PLAYER CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE DURING THE SINGING OF OUR ANTHEM THAT WERE NOT ENFORCED, LEADING TO A MESS THAT GREW TOO BIG TO BE IGNORED AND ATTRACTED NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE. THERE WAS NO COMPELLING NEED FOR THE PRESIDENT TO INVOLVE HIMSELF AT ALL, LET ALONE IN THE EMOTIONAL AND ERRATIC WAY HE CHOSE. AMERICANS ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH BEHAVIOR BY THEIR PRESIDENT. IT REVEALED A VISCERAL RELISH OF THE EXERCISE OF VERBAL AUTHORITY THAT SEEMS A CARRY-OVER FROM HIS REALITY TV SHOW AND REQUIRES US TO GO BACK 70 YEARS TO ARGENTINA'S JUAN PERON TO RECALL A COMPARABLE HEAD-OF-STATE STYLE OF ADDRESS.

THIS WAS NOT A GOOD MOMENT FOR THE NATION OR THE PRESIDENT. HE IS AN ENERGETIC AND SEEMINGLY TIRELESS WORKER ON BEHALF OF PRINCIPLES THAT ENABLED HIM TO BE ELECTED, BUT NOT ALL THOSE PRINCIPLES CAN SURVIVE DAILY BATTLES FOR POLITICAL PRIORITY AND BECOME REFLECTED IN POLICY AND LEGISLATION. THE RECENT NFL CONTROVERSY IS A NEGATIVE FOR THE NATION AND FOR TRUMP WHO MUST NOW INCREASE HIS EFFORTS TO KEEP HIS PRESIDENTIAL PERSONA AND HIS TV PERSONALITY, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO NEED IN THE OVAL OFFICE, DISTINCTLY SEPARATE.

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ALL PRESIDENTIAL EVALUATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PERSON AND HIS POLICIES. IF IT IS

ONE OF HARMONY, IT WILL BE REFLECTED IN ITS PUBLIC IMAGE AND WILL CREATE AN AURA OF ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WILL ADVANCE THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA. IF THIS INTERACTION IS DIFFICULT OR ABRASIVE, OTHER PROGRAMS AND DIRECTIONS WILL SUFFER.

OUR VIEW OF THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY IS THAT HIS KEY POLICIES (I.E., IMMIGRATION, TRADE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, BUT NOT THE ENVIRONMENT), HAVE BEEN OF BENEFIT TO THE COUNTRY, BUT HIS PERSONAL IMAGE AND RESPONSES HAVE HAD NEGATIVE EFFECTS UPON BOTH HIS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND THE NATION'S IMAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE MULTIPLE HIRINGS AND FIRINGS OF MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAVE PRECLUDED ANY POSSIBILITY OF HIS WH OPERATING SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, HE SEEMS TO RELISH THIS EXERCISE OF POWER WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF HIS VIGOROUSLY PROMOTED "YOU'RE FIRED" PERSONA OF HIS REALITY TV SHOW. PERHAPS THE ACT OF DISMISSAL FILLS SOME DEEP NEED WITHIN THE PRESIDENT'S CHARACTER TO EXERCISE POWER/AUTHORITY; OR IT MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN HIS WAY OF COMMANDING THE MSM AND TURNING THE NEWS CYCLE'S ATTENTION UPON HIMSELF. IN EITHER CASE, THE PUBLIC IMAGE AND OPINION OF OUR GOVERNMENT HAS SUFFERED.

ITS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PRES. TRUMP REGARDS POLITICS AND REALITY TV AS USEFUL STAGES FROM WHICH TO ADDRESS THE INSISTENT DEMANDS OF HIS INNER SELF, BUT TO DRAIN THE SWAMP HE WILL HAVE TO LOOK BEYOND THEM TO THE ELUSIVE GOAL OF GOOD GOVERNMENT.

ONE OTHER CONTRADICTION COMES TO MIND FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ERRATIC MANAGERIAL STYLE. THERE CAN BE NO ARGUMENT OVER HIS SUCCESS IN THE VERY TOUGH POLITICAL/ECONOMIC WORLD OF NYC REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION IN WHICH HE DEMONSTRATED SKILLS THAT ENABLED HIM TO BOTH SURVIVE AND PROSPER GREATLY. FROM HIS EARLIEST DAYS, HE HAD THE LUXURY OF WORKING FOR HIMSELF AS A PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT ENTITY, AND THE MOST NOTABLE ABSENCE FROM HIS RESUME IS HAVING WORKED FOR SOMEONE ELSE. NOW, HE'S WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND IN THE REMAINING YEARS OF HIS TERM MAY WISH TO CHANGE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS THAT SERVED HIM BETTER IN HIS PAST BUSINESS CAREER THAN IN HIS PRESENT POLITICAL OFFICE.

JUDGEMENTS

AMERICA HAS ENTERED A TIME WHEN IT WILL BE CALLED WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY TO MAKE JUDGEMENTS OF OUR PAST GOVERNMENTAL FAILURES AND WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO PRESERVE OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN THE FUTURE.

OUR FAILURES ARE NOT ALL DUE TO HUMAN ERROR. SOME ARE THE RESULT OF TECHNOLOGY AND NATURAL FORCES WHICH PROVED TO BE BEYOND REACH OF OUR COMPREHENSION AND CONSCIENCE. THAT FAILURE IS OURS, AND OURS ALONE; WE COULD AND SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER, BUT WE DIDN'T. AND NOW WE ARE AT A POINT OF CRISIS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO QUICK/EASY SOLUTION. RATHER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE TO WHAT DEGREE, AS A NATION, WE ARE

COMMITTED TO OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLES AND ARE WILLING TO ENDURE THE PAIN, CHANGE AND CRITICISM HERE AND ELSEWHERE OF CREATING GOVERNMENT THAT WILL APPLY THE VALUES OF OUR DI AND CONSTITUTION TO THE PRESSURES OF 21ST CENTURY POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, NOT VICE-VERSA. AS COMPLICATED AS THESE DIVISIONS CAN BE, THEIR RESOLUTION COMES DOWN TO A MATTER OF WILL.

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THERE IS ANOTHER KIND OF AMERICAN VALUE JUDGEMENT THAT SEEMS TO BE TAKING AN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FORM AND IS LOCATED IN THE OVAL OFFICE FROM WHERE THE POWER OF OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS EXTENDED OUTWARD TO THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY, THE CONGRESS, THE MSM AND TO OUR STATE AND LOCAL POLITICAL STRUCTURES.

FOLLOWING THE ELECTION LAST YEAR WHICH PROVIDED THE GOP WITH MAJORITIES IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AND A PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY, MOST GOP VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS LOOKED TO THE FUTURE WITH ANTICIPATION, WHEREAS TODAY MANY LOOK BACK WITH REGRET. WHY ?

“IN DC, THE STAKES ARE HIGH, THE POWER RUNS DEEP AND NO HOLDS ARE BARRED.”

NO ONE CAN DENY THAT TRUMP, ON ASSUMING OFFICE, FACED EXCEPTIONALLY, PERHAPS UNIQUELY, HIGH LEVELS OF RESISTANCE FROM THE DEFEATED LL ELEMENTS THAT HE HAD CAMPAIGNED AGAINST AND WHICH ARE ALSO A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE DC BUREAUCRACY AND IN OUR STATE AND FEDERAL JUDICIARIES. IN DC, THE STAKES ARE HIGH, THE POWER RUNS DEEP AND NO HOLDS ARE BARRED.

SWAMPS DON'T DRAIN EASILY; IF THEY DID, THEY WOULDN'T BE SWAMPS. MOREOVER, WHILE ACCEPTING DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION AS A GIVEN, THE TRUMP TEAM'S DRAINAGE PROCESS SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN FAR SHORT OF THE INTENDED MARK, SUGGESTING THAT HE MAY HAVE RELIED TOO MUCH UPON HIS POLITICAL “NEWBIE” FAMILY MEMBERS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. WE DO NOT KNOW THAT; WE CAN ONLY SUSPECT IT, BUT THE CLEANSING EFFORT HAS SUFFERED.

AT THE CENTER OF POWER FIRM DIRECTION MUST COME FROM THE PRESIDENT AND IT WAS LARGELY MISSING UNTIL GEN. KELLY WAS BROUGHT OVER FROM DHS. TRUMP MAY HAVE WANTED, OR PERHAPS NEEDED, TO HAVE HIS FAMILY INVOLVED AS PROTECTION AGAINST REAL OR IMAGINED ENEMIES, BUT THE RESULT WAS A WH STAFF IN WHICH POWER WAS SHARED BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS, CAREER MILITARY OFFICERS AND A FEW MOSTLY YOUNGER FAMILY MEMBERS WHOSE QUALIFICATION WAS BASED ON THEIR WORK AT THE FAMILY BUSINESS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE TRUE SIZE OF THE DC SWAMP WAS ONLY REVEALED AFTER TRUMP TOOK OFFICE. DRAINING IT WILL TAKE TIME AND RESOURCES OVER WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS HAVE PRIORITY, BUT THE KEY ELEMENT IS LOCATING AND INSTALLING THE MANY NEW HIRES THAT WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE.

DRAINING THE SWAMP HAS DEFEATED THE EFFORTS OF

PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS. IT HAS NEVER BEEN SUBJECT TO A QUICK FIX AND THOSE SWAMP CREATURES THAT NOW HOLD OFFICE WILL NOT BE DISLODGED EASILY. IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP DOES NOT NOW HAVE THE POOL OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES NEEDED TO REPLACE THE HOLD OVERS FROM PRIOR ADMINISTRATIONS DESPITE HIS GOOD INTENTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS LACK HAS A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS ANNOUNCED SWAMP DRAINAGE POLICY AND ON IMPORTANT INVESTIGATIONS AND LITIGATION NOW UNDERWAY.

THIS SITUATION COULD RESULT FROM TRUMP'S OVERRELIANCE ON HIS FAMILY MEMBERS WHO LACKED THE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AND EMPLOY THE CONTINUING SUPPLY OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES THAT THE DRAINAGE PROCESS REQUIRES.

THIS IS NOT A CRITICISM OF PRES. TRUMP. THE DEMANDS OF TIME AND ENERGY UPON THE PRESIDENT BOGGLE THE MIND, BUT THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FLAGGED AND DEALT WITH BEFORE AND SOON AFTER INAUGURATION BY THE TRUMP STAFF — FAMILY OR OTHER.

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IN ORDER FOR THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOP TO BE ABLE TO CLAIM SUCCESS, THEY MUST COMBINE TO PASS A TAX REFORM BILL. THIS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN LOUDLY PROCLAIMED AS A TOP PRIORITY SINCE TRUMP ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY AND BOTH HE AND THE GOP MUST DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES. NEITHER CAN AFFORD ANOTHER DEBACLE LIKE THE HEALTHCARE FAILURE.

MOST OF THE STATEMENTS COMING FROM CONGRESS AND THE WH DEAL IN NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES RELEVANT TO CUTS, BRACKETS, REVENUES, SAVINGS, EXPENDITURES, DEFICITS, SURPLUSES, ETC. THESE ARE ALL RELEVANT AND REGULARLY ADDRESSED BY OUR BUREAUCRACY'S AMPLE SUPPLY OF ANALYSTS, STATISTICIANS AND ACCOUNTANTS WHO SHARE A LANGUAGE THAT CAN OFTEN BE SEEN IMPENETRABLE TO THE AVERAGE VOTER.

THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO REALIZE THAT BEHIND THIS SCREEN OF TECHNO-POLITICAL LANGUAGE IS AN “ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM” IN THE FORM OF CHANGES THAT VOTERS VIEW AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IN ANY TAX REFORM BILL. THEY INCLUDE:

- 1) SIMPLIFICATION OF OUR TAX CODE WHICH HAS GROWN FROM 26,000 PAGES WHEN LAST REFORMED IN 1986, DURING THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY TO OUR CURRENT 74,000 PAGES. IT IS A DENSE, AND SOMETIMES SELF- CONTRADICTORY DOCUMENT BUILT ON SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR AN EXPANDING NUMBER OF INTERESTS.
- 2) INNUMERABLE VOTERS WILL JUDGE TRUMP'S TAX REFORM PACKAGE ON WHETHER IT CAN PRODUCE A FAIRER, AS WELL AS SIMPLER, CODE WHICH ELIMINATES ALL BUT A FEW OF ITS MYRIAD EXCLUSIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, PREFERENCES, DISCOUNTS, EXEMPTIONS, ALLOWANCES, DEDUCTIONS, ETC. THE DEFINITION OF “FEW” SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE TRULY BROAD BENEFITS SUCH AS SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST AND CHARITABLE DONATIONS, BUT OUR PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT THEY, TOO, HAVE SERVED

THEIR PURPOSE AND COULD BE ENDED. THIS IS A COMPLICATED ARGUMENT WITH MANY PERSPECTIVES INCLUDING THE ROLE OF BANKS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN CONTROLLING THE NATION'S MORTGAGE MARKETS. THE BENEFIT FROM DOING AWAY WITH SUCH LONG STANDING DEDUCTIONS IS THAT THEIR ELIMINATION WOULD PERMIT THE REDUCTION OF THE GENERAL RATE APPLICABLE TO ALL PAYERS.

- 3) THE AMERICAN VOTER IS ALSO LOOKING FOR THE OFTEN PROMISED, BUT UNDELIVERED, SHORT TAX RETURN.
- 4) THERE IS ANOTHER ELEMENT OF STRONG PUBLIC CONCERN WHICH ANY PRESENT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT SHOULD RECOGNIZE. IT IS THE IRS, ITSELF, AND ITS FAILURE TO CONDUCT ITS OPERATIONS IN WAYS THAT MEET BOTH THE PUBLIC'S EXPECTATIONS AND OUR COUNTRY'S ETHICAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS. TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF THE IRS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONTEMPLATED TAX REFORM, BUT CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE THE COMBINED POWER TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN ITS CULTURE/MANAGEMENT AND FORCE IT TO ABIDE BY ITS OWN REGULATIONS. TAX REFORM REQUIRES MORE THAN SIMPLY ADJUSTING RATES. REAL REFORM MUST INCLUDE REAL CHANGES, AND VOTERS WILL QUICKLY SENSE IF THEIR EXPECTATIONS CONTINUE TO BE TREATED WITH THE SOFT TALK AND SLEIGHT OF HAND THAT IS NOW ENTRENCHED IN OUR GOVERNMENT. WE SHOULD RECALL THAT MANY OF THE LOOP-HOLES REMOVED BY THE 1986 TAX LAW REVISION WERE QUIETLY REINSERTED IN OUR CODE BY CONGRESS WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

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FINALLY THERE IS THE INCREASINGLY BITTER ARGUMENT OVER OUR ENVIRONMENT — OVER FOSSIL FUELS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND EVER MORE FREQUENT AND POWRFUL NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS FLOODS, FIRES, HURRICANS, TORNADOES, DROUGHT AND MORE. ANYONE IS ENTITLED TO TAKE EITHER SIDE OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, NO LONGER EXIST.

“...THE POLITICIZATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND, MORE BROADLY, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN GENERAL.”

ORIGINALLY A DISCUSSION AND THEN A HEATED ARGUMENT, THIS DEBATE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY MASSIVE APPLICATIONS OF POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL MUSCLE INTO AN OUTRIGHT ATTACK THAT NOW TARGETS SCIENCE, ITSELF. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SEE THIS CONFRONTATION FOR WHAT IT IS — NOTHING LESS THAN THE POLITICIZATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND, MORE BROADLY, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN GENERAL.

IN OUR POSTWAR PERIOD OUR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE TURNED OUT MILLIONS OF GRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO HAVE EARNED DEGREES IN SCIENCE AND PURSUED CAREERS DEVOTED TO RESEARCH, FIELD WORK, THEORY, MANAGEMENT AND THEIR APPLICATION TO HOW WE

LIVE, THINK AND ATTEMPT TO DEFINE OUR PAST AND OUR FUTURE. THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE TOUCH EVERY AMERICAN, EVERY DAY IN INNUMERABLE WAYS.

IN RECENT YEARS, BUT INCREASINGLY IN THE LAST DECADE, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE SCIENTIFIC CONSIDERATIONS/THEORY/OPINION FROM OUR GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS BY POLITICAL METHODS BECAUSE THEY ARE INCONVENIENCED BY SCIENCE'S JUDGEMENTS. THIS “SHOOT THE MESSENGER” APPROACH IS A THREAT TO ALL AMERICANS.

“IN BOTH, THE THOUGHT AND THE LANGUAGE POLICE ARE WORKING OVERTIME.”

SCIENCE IS SCIENCE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT OUR WORLD UNLESS IT IS SUPPRESSED, ALTERED OR OTHERWISE ABUSED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS FOR POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR FINANCIAL BENEFIT. IN AMERICA, “SCIENTIFIC REVIEW” SHOULD NOT MEAN THAT SCIENCE CAN BE REFORMED EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS ACCORDING TO OUR ELECTORAL RESULTS. OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY, EFFORTS TO CONTROL SCIENTIFIC OPINION, LANGUAGE AND PRESENTATION HAVE BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD AND DETERMINED IN DC AND IN SOME OF OUR STATES. IN BOTH, THE THOUGHT AND THE LANGUAGE POLICE ARE WORKING OVERTIME.

WHILE WE FIND VERY LITTLE AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, PERSONAL DIFFERENCES ARE NOT THE POINT. HE IS THE PRESIDENT AND HE SETS THE TONE. HE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT AND IS EXPECTED TO EXPRESS ITSELF WITHOUT INTERFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC MATTERS. AND TO GO EVEN FURTHER, HE HAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO APPOINT A DISTINGUISHED PANEL TO EVALUATE THE PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT/SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT IN MANY AREAS.

“...GOVERNMENT AS THE MEETING PLACE OF HISTORY, PEOPLE AND POLICY...”

IT IS STILL EARLY IN THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WITH THREE YEARS OF MIXED SUCCESSES AND ERRORS PROBABLY AHEAD. WE HOPE THAT INTELLECTUALLY HE CAN COME TO VIEW GOVERNMENT AS THE MEETING PLACE OF HISTORY, PEOPLE AND POLICY WHICH IT IS AND THAT THIS REALIZATION WILL BE REFLECTED IN HIS POLITICAL CHOICES AND ACTIONS.

WE ARE NEITHER AS DISCOURAGED AS HIS DETERMINED OPPONENTS NOR AS ENTHUSIASTIC AS HIS HARD CORE SUPPORTERS. WE ARE AT THE CENTER — THANKFUL FOR HIS ELECTORAL VICTORY AND FOR SOME OF THE ACTIONS HE HAS TAKEN TO REVERSE THE NATION'S INCREASING SLIDE TO THE LEFT OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONCERNED THAT THE WAY HE BLENDS THE OFFICE AND THE MAN MAY DEPRIVE HIM OF CRITICAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.

AMERICA HAS ARRIVED AT A STATE OF DIVISION IT HAS NOT EXPERIENCED SINCE OUR CIVIL WAR. THERE ARE POWERFUL FORCES SAFELY AND SILENTLY FIGHTING DETERMINED BATTLES IN EVERY BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT. REGARDLESS OF THEIR

IDENTITY OR LEGITIMACY, UNLESS OUR COUNTRY CAN REGAIN ITS ABILITY TO ACT COOPERATIVELY AND SHARE OUR VALUES, THEY WILL BE CONSUMED IN THEIR OWN FIRE. THIS CHOICE IS OURS AND TIME IS SHORT.

WE DO NOT EXAGGERATE. THERE IS A PALPABLE SENSE OF PANIC IN THE SWAMP. IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE DRAINED, BUT TIME AND ITS OWN EXCESSES CALL FOR REFORM WHICH NON-POLITICIAN TRUMP HAS PROMISED TO DELIVER.

IN THE END, IN MATTERS OF STYLE, ARTICULATION, COMMUNICATION AND BOTH HIS POLITICAL AND PERSONAL PRESENCE, ONLY TRUMP CAN MAKE THE EFFORT AND CHANGES THAT WILL DETERMINE HOW HISTORY WILL VIEW HIM AND HIS ADMINISTRATION. WE WISH HIM WELL. AS WITH MOST TIPPING POINTS, THERE IS MORE AT STAKE THAN WE CAN NOW REALIZE.

IN CLOSING, A FEW LINES FROM H. W. LONGFELLOW'S, THE BUILDING OF THE SHIP:

SAIL ON, O SHIP OF STATE!
SAIL ON. O UNION, STRONG AND GREAT!
HUMANITY WITH ALL ITS FEARS,
WITH ALL THE HOPES OF FUTURE YEARS,
IS HANGING BREATHLESS ON THY FATE!

FDR WROTE THESE LINES IN LONGHAND AND THEY WERE DELIVERED BY WENDELL WILKIE TO WINSTON CHURCHILL IN LONDON ON JANUARY 20, 1941. THEY SERVED TO ENCOURAGE CHURCHILL AND THE BRITISH PEOPLE WHEN THEY STOOD ALONE AGAINST HITLER.

PERILOUS TIMES THEN; PERILOUS TIMES NOW !



ECD 10/2/17

LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, WHEN WE SENT OUT OUR LAST ISSUE OF THE YEAR, WE WERE SO PRESSED TO KEEP UP WITH THE FINAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND TO INCLUDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN OUR OCTOBER ISSUE THAT WE OMITTED OUR YEAR-END REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS IS A REMINDER THAT WE ARE BACK ON TRACK. DONATION REVENUE IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR ALL PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE LARGEST TO SMALL ONES SUCH AS OURS. WITH THANKS AND BEST WISHES AS OUR FOURTEENTH YEAR WINDS DOWN.

END NOTES

- 1) REQUIEM FOR A NUN, WILLIAM FAULKNER, RANDOM HOUSE, 1951
- 2) CARRYING CAPACITY — THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN BE SUPPORTED IN A GIVEN AREA AND WITHIN ITS NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITS WITHOUT DEGRADING THE NATURAL SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.
- 3) THE LIMITS TO GROWTH, MEADOWS ET AL, UNIVERSE BOOKS/1972/CLUB OF ROME
- 4) THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE, 1972. AMERICA'S POPULATION THEN WAS 210 MILLION.
- 5) TOTAL FERTILITY RATE = AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO A WOMAN OVER HER LIFETIME. HUMAN IMPORTS ON ECOSYSTEMS, PATRICIA MUIR, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, 2014

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