

Fear-Fallen Children

“Dollar to the Giant” Chronicles & Comments

June 2008 to Date

notably resisting

America’s Shift from Wealth Creation

to

Wealth Transfer and Surrender

By

Bob Hall

citizen

When the Way prevails in your own state and you are poor and in a humble position, be ashamed of yourself.

When the Way does not prevail in your state and you are wealthy and in an honorable position, be ashamed of yourself.

Confucius, *Analects*

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May 11, 2012

Contact Information and Copyright

1.

“Dollar to the Giant” Links

June 27, 2008

YouTube:

MySpace:

2.

“Dollar to the Giant” Link

July 4, 2008

Your children's past, present, and future in 7 minutes or less.

“Dollar to the Giant”

Viewers are saying this is extremely powerful and well worth the time. If you like it, please pass it on.

You can also visit www.youtube.com and type “Dollar to the Giant” in the search box.

3.

Unrestricted Warfare

July 16, 2008

Unrestricted Warfare was written in 1999 by Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui, both Senior Colonels in the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It is a Chinese blueprint for the Chinese defeat of a militarily superior nation such as the United States.

This Chinese manifesto recommends new and different weapons. The language used here is from the original with exact quotes identified as such.

Trade war: a destructive effect equal to that of a military operation.

Financial war: hyperstrategic, easily manipulated, concealed, highly destructive.

- “Today, when nuclear weapons have already become frightening mantelpiece [sic] decorations that are losing their real operational value with each passing day, financial war has become a ‘hyperstrategic’ weapon that is attracting the attention of the world. This is because financial war is easily manipulated and allows for concealed actions, and is also highly destructive.”
- “China [in 1999] already has the power to jolt the world economy just by changing its own economic policies.”
- “The world's number one debtor nation, a country which relies on the inflow of foreign capital to support its economic prosperity, the United States, would definitely have . . . heavy economic losses. Such an outcome would certainly be better than a military strike.”
- “We believe that before long, 'financial warfare' will undoubtedly be an entry in the various types of dictionaries of official military jargon.”

Rumor or scandal that results in a fluctuation in the enemy country's exchange rates.

Man-made stock-market crash.

Computer virus invasion.

Ecological war:

- “Ecological war refers to a new type of non-military warfare in which modern technology is employed to influence the natural state of rivers, oceans, the crust of the earth, the polar ice sheets, the air circulating in the atmosphere, and the ozone layer. By methods such as causing earthquakes and altering precipitation patterns, the atmospheric temperature, the composition of the atmosphere, sea level height, and sunshine patterns, the earth's physical environment is damaged or an alternate local ecology is created.”

Drug warfare: obtaining sudden and huge illicit profits by spreading disaster in other countries.

Psychological warfare: spreading rumors to intimidate the enemy and break down his will.

- “Even the last refuge of the human race—the inner world of the heart—cannot avoid the attacks of psychological warfare . . . nets . . . snares . . . so that a person has no place to flee.”

Terrorism: Osama bin Laden frequently referenced as an example.

Smuggling warfare: throwing markets into confusion and attacking economic order.

Media warfare: manipulating what people see and hear in order to lead public opinion along.

Network warfare: venturing out in secret and concealing one's identity in a type of warfare that is virtually impossible to guard against.

Technological warfare: creating monopolies by setting standards independently.

Fabrication warfare: presenting a counterfeit appearance of real strength before the eyes of the enemy.

Resources warfare: grabbing riches by plundering stores of resources.

Economic aid warfare: bestowing favor in the open and contriving to control matters in secret.

Cultural warfare: leading cultural trends along in order to assimilate those with different views.

International law warfare: seizing the earliest opportunity to set up regulations.

Additional quotes:

- “Warfare . . . re-invaded human society in a more complex, more extensive, more concealed, and more subtle manner. . . . In other words, while we are seeing a relative reduction in military violence, at the same time we definitely are seeing an increase in political, economic, and technological violence.”
- “One hacker + one modem causes an enemy damage and losses almost equal to those of a war.”
- “It is likely that a pasty-faced scholar wearing thick eyeglasses is better suited to be a modern soldier than is a strong young lowbrow with bulging biceps.”

4.

Today's EPI Brief: Job Loss to China

July 30, 2008

“The China trade toll: Widespread wage suppression, 2 million jobs lost in the U.S.”

5.

Barack Obama's brother pushes Chinese imports on U.S.

July 31, 2008

“Barack Obama's brother pushes Chinese imports on US”

www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/us_elections/article4406813.ece

6.

China and Geopolitics

September 13, 2008

This is disturbing:

“Cash Helped China Win Costa Rica's Recognition”

www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/world/asia/13costa.html

Again, "Dollar to the Giant" spelled it all out ahead of time. The song becomes more insightful, accurate, and prophetic with each passing event. Fannie/Freddie/Chinese Banks and related disasters notwithstanding, this is not just about trade.

Our fellow Americans need to be informed so they can stop being, as the song says, "led to every trap the giant made."

Understandably, neither of our major political parties will help. American citizens have to stop sending all their money, jobs, power, and security to the People's Republic of China.

7.

Economic Crisis: What's Not Being Discussed

October 2, 2008

Please forward this e-mail to everyone you know.

Our country needs our help.

The financial bailout is a temporary band-aid. The only permanent solution is for America to get back to the basics of productivity: industry and agriculture.

We have to build things and we have to grow things, and we have to purchase things we build and grow.

Our families and friends need us to buy products manufactured in the United States. We have to start supporting our own economy and put an end to this \$700-billion trade deficit.

Yes, our annual trade deficit is the same size as the current bailout package.

I'd like to recommend "Dollar to the Giant" on YouTube.

More than 5,800 views so far, with excellent ratings and thoughtful comments. Not bad, considering the material and YouTube.

There's some complicated stuff in this song, but the main ideas are simple enough:

Buy products Made in USA. Support our own economy.

Avoid products Made in China. Why should we continue to build China's economy and destroy our own?

It's our choice—and our responsibility.

Simple advice. But if everyone followed the advice in "Dollar to the Giant" there would simply be no financial crisis. We'd have money. We'd have factories and jobs. Our kids and grandkids would have a fighting chance.

Please recommend "Dollar to the Giant" to everyone you know. If it gets enough attention, it could turn our economy around.

Now, specifically about China and the bailout:

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." A word of caution may in order so we aren't, as "Dollar to the Giant" said, "led to every trap the giant made."

We owe \$\$\$ trillions to the communist People's Republic of China.

Trillions.

Why wouldn't our Beijing bankers be putting enormous pressure on Washington right now?

Good question.

The only related discussion I know of was in the "South China Morning Post" and Reuters:

“China banks told to halt lending to US banks”

www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSPEK16693720080925

But not a word in the U.S. media.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the People's Republic of China is driving U.S. policy, both foreign and domestic.

Our government has borrowed heavily from China. Our entire financial system has borrowed heavily from China. Most of our large multinational corporations are heavily invested in China. Lobbyists, associations, and advocates claiming to represent American interests are often heavily funded by these same multinationals with loyalties to China.

Is it any wonder nobody's talking about China's role in the current financial drama?

"The bankers jumped to the giant like little boys." (From "Dollar to the Giant." The lyrics are pretty darned good.)

Some inconvenient truths: The People's Republic of China is totalitarian and communist. We have long been political, ideological, and military adversaries.

China's official military manual *Unrestricted Warfare* advocates the use of "financial warfare—easily manipulated, concealed, and highly destructive."

Easily manipulated. Concealed. Highly destructive.

This People's Liberation Army manifesto says the United States, because we are the "world's number one debtor nation," would have "heavy economic losses [and] such an outcome would certainly be better than a military strike."

Their plan points out: "while we are seeing a relative reduction in military violence, at the same time we definitely are seeing an increase in political, economic, and technological violence."

Is it possible communist China is again at war with us, only this time we don't know it?

Unrestricted Warfare further recommends as effective modern weapons:

"Rumor or scandal that results in a fluctuation in the enemy country's exchange rates."

"Throwing markets into confusion and attacking economic order."

"Man-made stock-market crash." (China clearly proved this in Taiwan in 1996.)

"Economic aid warfare: bestowing favor in the open and contriving to control matters in secret."

Regarding this last point, China has been actively buying governments around the world, and support for their designs on our ally Taiwan. Costa Rica recently jumped on the Chinese bandwagon in exchange for \$300 million:

www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/world/asia/13costa.html

Some technical developments are probably worth mentioning. China has said that the U.S. military is most vulnerable through its satellite communication. In subsequent missile tests, China shot down at least one of their own satellites. And now Chinese astronauts are walking in space. Of course, we should be concerned about these developments and China's accelerating military buildup, but not nearly as concerned as we should be about our own thoughtless self-destruction.

It may be too late for our politicians and bankers, but it's not too late for actual Americans to pull together on this and get back to what built our country in the first place: manufacturing and agricultural productivity.

Our country needs our help. It needs our money. The first thing we need to do is stop sending it to the People's Republic of China and start sending it to Americans.

We can rebuild our own economy by purchasing American-made goods whenever possible. The more American goods we purchase, the more our factories, jobs, and economy will grow.

When you buy something made in China, think of it as a little act of treason.

Thanks for reading. Please forward this e-mail to everyone. Everyone!

8.

STILL Don't Believe "Dollar to the Giant"?

October 10, 2008

Please forward this e-mail so it can do its job.

With our markets in turmoil, we need to keep a close eye on China.

What's next?

We can watch helplessly as China maneuvers to topple the U.S. Dollar as the world's reserve currency. If China succeeds, our recent stock market losses will be petty cash.

We can watch helplessly as China uses Taiwan to show the world how weak America has become.

Or we can remember where we came from.

Wall Street and Washington are not the American economy. Industry and agriculture built the wealth in this country. Industry and agriculture can build it again.

Support the American economy. Buy American products.

Stop sending your money to China.

See "Dollar to the Giant" on YouTube.

Please forward this message to your e-mail contacts and elected officials.

9.

Defending Ourselves—A Practical Consideration

October 13, 2008

In World War II, average American factories converted to defense production.

America's MANUFACTURING capacity won the war. "MADE IN USA" won the war.

Today, if we had to defend ourselves in a major conflict, what would we do? Outsource?

Think about it. Sooner or later, we will again have to defend ourselves in a major war.

This alone should convince us to keep our American factories alive by purchasing American-made goods.

See "Dollar to the Giant" on YouTube.

If we are to survive, we must stop being led to every trap the giant made.

10.

Will You Be Supporting China this Holiday Season?

December 6, 2008

Just a reminder this holiday season:

Consumer spending is 70% of our economy.

We American consumers forget how much power we have.

We can use our dollars to support the United States, not China.

PLEASE do not buy goods made in China.

In this economic downturn, "cheaper" Chinese goods tempt us to send even more American money and jobs to China.

It's a trap, a downward spiral, by which China is tightening its grip on our entire system.

The root cause of our economic crisis is the trade deficit. The only way we can recover is to start manufacturing again. American consumers must create a demand for American-made goods.

Additional notes:

My current favorite source for American-made goods is

www.MadeInUSAForever.com

Todd Lipscomb, the site's owner, wrote about "Dollar to the Giant" in his October blog:

<http://blog.madeinusaforever.com/2008/10>

Happy Holidays!

11.

New Record Trade Deficit With China—A Call For Action

December 12, 2008

We're in a recession yet we still racked up a \$28-billion trade deficit with China for October—a new record. This should be sobering news for Americans.

The official government figures can be found here:

www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html#2008

What does this mean?

More money, jobs, and factories lost to China. Deepening recession. Increased vulnerability to financial and military attack.

What can Americans do?

Remember that it's up to us American citizens to repair our real economy. We can and must. The more money Washington and Wall Street get from China, the more China gets away with murder. Our policymakers will not criticize Chinese interests; our "fearless leaders" turn a blind eye to even the most horrific of China's misdeeds.

Still, it can't hurt to harangue your elected officials.

Recommend "Dollar to the Giant," where they can get the picture in 6 minutes.

Demand that China be held accountable for their criminal trade practices that have ravaged the U.S. economy. Start with yuan-dollar rigging. China's illegal and outrageous currency manipulation gives China's manufacturers an estimated 35% pricing advantage.

Remind your elected officials that no economic stimulus package will work if there is no American manufacturing sector to stimulate.

Further, any future infrastructure rebuilding must be accomplished with American materials. No Chinese steel. We should be particularly alert to Chinese steel.

As an American consumer, 70% of the economy, you should:

Whenever possible, buy goods Made in the USA. Yes, it's getting more difficult to find American-made goods, but unless we reverse this trend it will get more and more difficult—until we're done for.

Avoid products made in China.

Resist the temptation to rationalize cheap Chinese goods as more "economical" or "practical" in a recession. Send your money to China and you'll only make things worse. China's counting on it. So is Wal-Mart.

Start thinking of every purchase of a Chinese-made product as an act of treason. (This doesn't sound so extreme after you think about it for a while.)

Spread the word about "Dollar to the Giant." Tell anyone and everyone. The music can help them feel the thoughts.

Imagine what a great place America will again be when we come to our senses and start supporting our own economy.

12.

UAW Website Features “Dollar to the Giant”

December 12, 2008

UAW Local 735 is featuring "Dollar to the Giant" on their website.

The webmaster has done a beautiful job of showcasing the complete lyrics with accompanying sound file. I like his home page comment: "Buying American isn't just an option anymore."

Please forward this e-mail to reach as many as possible—Republican, Democrat, Union, Non-Union—with this non-partisan message so essential to our survival.

If our economy is to recover, we must start supporting it by insisting on American-made goods.

13.

“Dollar to the Giant” is now on iTunes

December 28, 2008

“Dollar to the Giant" is now available on iTunes:

and Amazon:

—where it has already received some wonderful reviews.

Many thanks to those who suggested I make the song available for 99-cent download.

Many thanks, too, for all of your grass-roots effort and support.

Please keep forwarding these e-mails and spreading the word.

Americans need to realize it's time to support our own economy instead of China's.

Wealth comes from agricultural and industrial productivity.

We cannot afford to lose any more factories.

Let's give our kids a fighting chance. Buy American-made goods.

Thank you.

14.

New Year's Resolution, Nobel Prize Winner

January 1, 2009

This New Year's Day, let us resolve to simply do our part. This is our home.

Nobel Economics Laureate Paul Krugman could have been singing "Dollar to the Giant" in his *New York Times* op-ed of 12/22/08:

"A more plausible route to sustained recovery would be a drastic reduction in the U.S. trade deficit, which soared at the same time the housing bubble was inflating. By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending."

"Despite rising trade in services, most world trade is still in goods, especially manufactured goods—and the U.S. manufacturing sector, after years of neglect in favor of real estate and the financial industry, has a lot of catching up to do."

It's refreshing to hear an economist say something useful, if characteristically timid.

Manufacturing built America and will build it again.

Please continue to spread the word about "Dollar to the Giant."

We must stop sending American money, jobs, manufacturing, and security to the People's Republic of China.

Thanks to UAW Local 735 for getting "Dollar to the Giant" out to its members, and then some.

And thanks to people like Todd Lipscomb, who understand the importance of manufacturing and are actually doing something about it. I'd like to again recommend Mr. Lipscomb's website as an excellent and enjoyable source for American-made products: www.MadeInUSAForever.com

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

15.

But Why A Song?

January 7, 2009

To feel thoughts.

Songs connect our thoughts and feelings. Songs can bring abstract ideas to life.

I wrote "Dollar to the Giant" so the message wouldn't get lost or distorted.

("the Giant" = China, by the way)

People say they thought they'd understood, but the first time they really "got it" was through my song.

They're frequently in tears by the end of "Dollar to the Giant."

They're changing their shopping habits.

Are these the most important lyrics of our time?

With so much at stake, why not take a few minutes to listen and decide for yourself?

(Think about how much we could accomplish if everyone forwarded this e-mail.)

YouTube, no charge:

Amazon MP3, 99 cents:

iTunes, 99 cents:

Thank you! A PDF of the lyrics is available upon request.

16.

Economic Recovery Isn't Easy, But It's Simple

January 12, 2009

Practical, uncomplicated advice from Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman:

“By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending.” (*The New York Times*, 12/22/08)

American manufacturing is the key to our economic recovery and long-term health.

Buy American-made products whenever humanly possible.

Read the labels.

Do not buy anything made in China.

Why not?

See "Dollar to the Giant"

17.

China Redefines Modern Warfare

January 13, 2009

"Nuclear weapons have already become frightening mantelpiece decorations that are losing their real operational value with each passing day."

"Trade war [can have] a destructive effect equal to that of a military operation."

"Financial war is easily manipulated and allows for concealed actions, and is also highly destructive."

"The world's number one debtor nation, a country which relies on the inflow of foreign capital to support its economic prosperity, the United States, would definitely have . . . heavy economic losses. Such an outcome would certainly be better than a military strike."

—from *Unrestricted Warfare*, a manual for the defeat of the United States, written by Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui, both Senior Colonels in the Chinese People's Liberation Army. (Beijing: PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House, 1999)

Don't say "Dollar to the Giant" didn't warn you.

Please forward this e-mail and do whatever you can to wake up our fellow citizens and legislators.

18.

Foxes, Hens, Trojan Horses

January 14, 2009

“True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.”

—Kurt Vonnegut

More fun facts:

The People's Republic of China is our military adversary.

Our government buys critical defense electronics from the People's Republic of China.

That's right.

We are depending on the People's Republic of China to protect us from the People's Republic of China.

A lot of lobbyists were paid a lot of money to make this nightmare a reality.

Now, if you were the People's Republic of China, what would you do?

Right again.

You'd ship used, re-marked, counterfeit, failure-prone junk to American military and security forces.

Last year, this happened more than 7,300 times*

(that we know about).

*See "U.S. Government Finds Thousands Of Counterfeit Electronics From China In Avionics Weapon Supply Chain" in the 11/17/08 issue of Richard A. McCormack's always lively and informative *Manufacturing & Technology News*:

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/08/1117/counterfeitelectronics.html

"Dollar to the Giant" puts the power back in the hands of the American people. Please forward this e-mail so it can do its job. Thank you.

19.

Insight from U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings

January 18, 2009

Former U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings offers valuable insight into our government, our economy, and what he calls the "quiet conspiracy that remains silent in the press" while "Dollar to the Giant" encourages citizens to take America back into their own hands by purchasing American-made goods.

“Same old, same old—no change”

www.citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com/commentary/09.0109.hollings_sameold.htm

20.

“America Is For Sale Expo 2009”—this is for real

February 11, 2009

Here's the link to China's "America Is For Sale Expo 2009" website:

[removed]

This wouldn't be happening without American consumer dollars fueling China's real economy instead of our own.

In 2008, our overall trade deficit actually fell a little from 2007, but our trade deficit with China hit an all-time high of \$266 billion.

When are we going to wake up and realize what's happening?

Some 2,500 years ago, the Chinese Sun Tzu wrote in *The Art of War*:

"To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill."

More recently, the American John Adams said:

"There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. The other is by debt."

My song “Dollar to the Giant” continues to be accurate in its analysis and predictions. If enough people

heard “Dollar to the Giant,” we wouldn't be in this mess.

Please forward this e-mail to everyone you know.

Thank you. And good luck.

21.

What Appeared to Be a Joke Was Not: “America Is For Sale Expo 2009”

February 13, 2009

A Beijing China event called "America Is For Sale Expo 2009"?

Understandably, several people asked me if Wednesday's e-mail was for real. It was.

Here again is the link to (communist) China's "America Is For Sale Expo 2009" website:

[removed]

AMERICA IS FOR SALE??? How brazen, how frightening is this?

Of course, it could never happen if American consumers didn't buy Chinese products.

Where do we think China got the money in the first place? China continues to drain our real economy through American consumers.

In 2008, China represented 39% of our total trade deficit. One country: 39%.

Our entire trade deficit was \$677 billion. Our trade deficit with China alone hit an all-time high of \$266 billion.

When are we going to wake up?

The communist People's Republic of China is an ideological, political, and military adversary.

No, they haven't been firing rockets at the U.S. What they're doing is far more destructive.

February 2009 marks the tenth anniversary of *Unrestricted Warfare*, the Chinese manual for the defeat of the United States through non-conventional warfare including trade, finance, debt, and, of course, deception. It's shocking to read *Unrestricted Warfare* and realize how many of its strategies have been implemented by

China over the past decade.

You can download *Unrestricted Warfare* here:

www.terrorism.com/documents/TRC-Analysis/unrestricted.pdf

www.c4i.org/unrestricted.pdf

Some 2,500 years ago, the Chinese Sun Tzu wrote in *The Art of War*:

"To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill."

And:

"All war is deception."

More recently, the American John Adams said:

"There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. The other is by debt."

My song "Dollar to the Giant" continues to be astonishing, if I may say so, in its analysis and predictions. If enough people heard "Dollar to the Giant," our children would have a fighting chance.

Please forward this e-mail to everyone you know.

Thank you. And good luck.

22.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer

February 18, 2009

Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer

Dear Lord,
Lest I continue
My complacent way,
Help me to remember that somewhere,
Somehow out there,
A man died for me today.
As long as there be war,
I then must
Ask and answer

Am I worth dying for?

(No talk about China today—nothing obvious, at any rate.)

23.

Secretaries of State and Treasury Kissing China's Backside?

February 20, 2009

America's future is up to America's people, or so says "Dollar to the Giant." Forget about the government. American citizens must revive the American economy by insisting on American-made goods. Our current financial woes have their origins in the trade deficit. We cannot afford complacency. We cannot afford to remain children about this. We must act with responsibility and purpose, with consistency. It can and must be done.

You might be interested in these articles from *The Wall Street Journal* (a source I'd reference more frequently if they didn't work so hard for foreign interests and against the real U.S. economy):

“G-7 Softens Criticism of Chinese Currency Policy”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123461810961987989.html>

Few factors have damaged our economy more than Chinese currency policy.

The more money we borrowed from China, the more the Bush administration turned a blind eye to communist China's criminal trade practices. Washington "changed" and we finally spoke up about the illegal currency manipulation that gives China a 30% - 35% pricing advantage, severely penalizing American competitors. But it appears our moment of adulthood has come and gone. We want to borrow even more money from communist China, so we change our tune and kiss communist Chinese buttocks.

“Clinton Looks to Broaden China Ties, Questions Utility of Rights Debate”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123514265149133631.html> (Note: this link is occasionally “misleading.”)

China stands for most of what our parents and the free world fought against, but American politicians want to borrow even more money from the totalitarian devil, so it's time to kiss even more buttocks. After all, the economy is the important issue, so we're going to be very careful not to mention China's worker abuse, slave labor, child labor, or communist totalitarianism—none of which has anything to do with the low cost of manufacturing in China or China's ongoing destruction of the real U.S. economy.

Or do they?

"The land of the free and the home of the brave," my buttocks.

Are we really willing to hand over our policy and decision making to the communist People's Republic of China, our military adversary?

We're supposed to be Americans, right?

Then we can get back on the right track, even if these children in government are working against us.

Whenever humanly possible, buy American-made goods.

Don't say this is impossible. The U.S. is still the world's leading manufacturing nation. The economic pain we're feeling is because we're not nearly as far ahead as we used to be.

See the importance of manufacturing? Can you imagine how painful things could be if we slip to second place?

Above all, do not buy products made in China.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman said:

"By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending." (*The New York Times*, 12/22/08)

"Dollar to the Giant" links:

Amazon, 99 cents, includes my adorable baby picture:

iTunes, 99 cents, includes my adorable baby picture:

YouTube, free of charge, no download, no adorable baby picture:

People keep asking me for a good source for American-made goods. I always recommend

www.MadeInUSAForever.com

You'll find more on the Web. We even have some brick-and-mortar stores here in Chicagoland that specialize in American-made goods.

24.

Is Hillary Clinton Now Working for China?

February 22, 2009

From many of this morning's newspapers:

“Clinton Says US Debt Necessary to Get Consumers Buying Chinese Goods”

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29324392>

Debt? Chinese goods? Isn't this how we got into trouble in the first place?

What's happening here? I thought Hillary Clinton was supposed to be on *our* side.

Now she's asking China for money so Americans can go deeper in debt and buy more products from China, supporting China's economy and inevitably destroying our own.

Mrs. Clinton, you don't have to beg China for money. Sure, China profits by our loss of face, but they are more than happy to "invest" in the United States. They know we will use Chinese money to further strengthen China. We will pay them interest on the loans; we will spend the money on Chinese goods; we will support Chinese manufacturers; we will build the People's Republic of China at the expense of our own United States.

Mrs. Clinton, how irresponsible can you and your irresponsible headlines be?

Former Fed Chairman and current Obama economic advisor Paul Volcker might concur:

“Volcker Blames Recession on Trade Imbalances”

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/feb/05/volcker-blames-recession-on-trade-imbalances

Trade imbalances. In other words: the worldwide recession is the result of American consumer buying habits. We wouldn't be losing so much manufacturing if we supported our own manufacturers.

We need to manufacture more, export more, import relatively less, and spend our consumer dollars on American-made goods, not Chinese.

Gee whiz, Mr. Volcker, if you're a current Obama economic advisor, how about advising our Secretary of State?

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman said:

“By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending.” (*The New York Times*, 12/22/08)

Full employment. No boom in spending.

So what's going on?

Our politicians borrow money from China because they love to spend, but can't get re-elected if they raise taxes to cover their spending.

China is happy to oblige as long as China receives the American economy in return. In fact, China is also spending big money on lobbyists and media to make sure that China gets what China wants.

Mrs. Clinton is promising our most powerful commodity, American consumer spending, in return for Chinese loans. Little matter that Americans are being asked to sacrifice their children's futures so Washington can spend. The Government is the industry that matters; the people and their children be damned.

Fortunately, the People still control the strategic weapons: consumer spending and free choice.

We can choose to support and revitalize the American economy every time we make a purchase. We can insist on products Made in the USA. Our politicians may continue to sell their souls, our media may continue to sell their fear, but we can work around them. In fact, we might be better off without them.

After all, with employees like Hillary Clinton, who needs enemies?

25.

Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation

March 6, 2009

Washington, DC has just handed us two more reasons to buy American-made products and stop supporting our determined Chinese adversaries: Chas W. Freeman and Gary Locke.

Chas W. Freeman is the new chairman of the U.S. National Intelligence Council. A defender of communist China, Freeman has been on the Chinese payroll since 2004 as advisor to the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC).

Conflict of interest? Inside job? This might be funny if it weren't true.

Many thanks to Eli Lake at *The Washington Times* for his thought-provoking investigation:

“Foreign ties of nominee questioned”

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/05/foreign-ties-of-nominee-queried

Melanie Phillips's article

“Just Whose Side Is He On?”

www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/3396191/just-whose-side-is-he-on.shtml

highlights Chas W. Freeman’s connections to Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the post-9/11 bin Laden family. She concludes: “Britain and the other nations of the west must really start asking themselves whether America is still on their side.”

Good question, Melanie.

Gary Locke, the Administration’s latest choice for Commerce Secretary, should be carefully considered and then summarily rejected. To his “credit,” if it is so, Locke has cozy relationships with high-level communist Chinese officials. As Governor of Washington and recently (recently, as in “What about that 2-year revolving door ban, Mr. President?”) through his law firm, Locke has invested considerable time and travel in China-U.S. trade. It should now be obvious to everyone that China-U.S. trade has been a one-way street: surpluses and strength for China, deficits and debilitation for the United States.

Even former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker is now saying the U.S. trade deficit caused the worldwide recession. Gary Locke’s governorship of Washington (Microsoft, Boeing) was heavily dependent on communist Chinese trade. His ideas are not healthy for the American economy or, therefore, American security.

Hiding behind the so-called “free” trade smokescreen that shipped our factories, jobs, and money to China, Governor Gary Locke also escaped criticism because he is ethnically Chinese. Tenacious reporter Michelle Malkin, then with *The Seattle Times*, is also of Asian heritage and not easily intimidated by the race card. Malkin stayed on the case and recently posted this reality check on her website:

“The Chinagate/Buddhist temple cash skeletons in Gary Locke’s closet”

<http://michellemalkin.com/2009/02/24/the-chinagatebuddhist-temple-cash-skeletons-in-gary-lockes-closet>

We should congratulate Michelle Malkin for the courage to mention Chinagate. Chinagate? Why do so few know anything about it? Most likely, it was a scandal so potentially revealing that Republicans, Democrats, and the media alike just wanted it to go away. Monica Lewinsky provided the perfect cover. In no time, almost 100% of our attention was focused on the President’s indiscretions, not on the betrayal of our country.

Now, with all the obvious similarities between the Clinton and Obama administrations (a continuum, many have observed) Chinagate needs to be reviewed.

(Note: the Bush administration racked up nearly \$1.5 trillion in goods trade deficit with China from 2001-2008, so I won’t excuse Bush’s treason while discussing Clinton’s. Still, it should be remembered that Clinton brought in the so-called “free” traders Robert Rubin and Lawrence Summers, who are now advising Obama.)

Chinagate was bribery, espionage, and treason; the betrayal of American security and military secrets by Clinton-Gore in exchange for campaign financing; a chilling example of China’s non-conventional warfare.

Some 2,500 years ago, the Chinese Sun Tzu referred to bribery and espionage as “divine manipulation of the threads [and] the sovereign’s most precious faculty.”

Communist China, our most dangerous adversary, funneled money into the 1996 Clinton campaign.

Subsequent investigations revealed millions of dollars, countless players, and a money trail that led to the director of China's military intelligence.

What did China get in return? Ultimately, if we don't stop buying their products, they'll get the entire United States in return. But during the Clinton years:

- *Export control was transferred from Defense to Commerce. This circumvented security regulations and facilitated the transfer of classified information and technology. The Pentagon objected, calling it a threat to national security.

- *The Clinton administration declassified 11,000,000 pages of data on U.S. nuclear weapons and reduced the security at weapons labs.

- *China National Aero-Technology Import-Export Corp (CATIC), an arm of communist Chinese intelligence, was allowed to videotape classified U.S. defense production lines in operation. CATIC was then allowed to purchase sophisticated machine tools and, in fact, an entire production plant from McDonnell-Douglas, so it could produce more advanced fighter jets, bombers, and missiles.

- *Dozens of supercomputers were sent to communist China. These were critical to the development of nuclear and other advanced weapons systems and satellites.

- *Bill Clinton personally intervened to place John Huang, agent of communist China and close associate of current Commerce nominee Gary Locke, in a government position with access to top-secret information that would aid the communist Chinese.

- *The Clinton administration licensed the son of a Chinese general, establishing him as a project manager with Hughes Space and Communications on top-secret satellite programs.

- *Bernard Schwartz, CEO of Loral Space Technologies and Clinton's single largest donor, received waivers from the Clinton administration to transfer satellite and missile technology that dramatically increased China's ability to strike the U.S. with intercontinental ballistic missiles. Related technology had previously been denied our military allies. Loral eventually paid a \$14-million fine for transferring the technology to China.

- *Bill Clinton personally lobbied to turn over the former U.S. naval base at Long Beach to COSCO, the Chinese shipping company, an arm of the People's Liberation Army, even though COSCO had been caught smuggling Chinese-manufactured assault weapons to U.S. street gangs.

- *Clinton allowed China to take over both ends of the Panama Canal.

- *Clinton committed to the unfettered, so-called "free" trade that has built a Chinese economic and military empire at the expense of the American economy and American citizens.

- * On December 28, 2000, Clinton signed Executive Order 13184 to revoke Executive Order 12834. The later order released all of Clinton's appointees from the anti-lobbying provisions of the earlier order. In other words, it was time for them to cash in, and China had plenty of money to spend on lobbyists. American multinationals, at the time, had plenty of jobs to outsource—or so they thought.

Enough? Interested readers can do their own research on Chinagate, preferably the old-fashioned way with libraries and books. Internet sources are easily edited and deleted for propaganda purposes. Interestingly, Wikipedia's "Chinagate" entry has recently been deleted.

One currently available Internet resource is “MRC Coverage of Chinese Espionage”:

www.mrc.org/projects/china/welcome.asp

MRC does a lively job of proving our media are either sound asleep or criminally insane.

So where does this lead us?

China has an enormous amount of money with which they inflict an enormous amount of influence over our government.

Next time someone mentions “campaign finance reform,” please pay attention and realize that campaign finance can be a matter of life and death.

Does it make sense that Bill Clinton’s wife is now Secretary of State?

Does it make sense that any U.S. government official should be in bed with China?

Can’t we do better than this?

At this point, I’d like to suggest that “Dollar to the Giant” is not just a song. It’s a lifeline. Please pass it along to your fellow Americans.

As David McCullough advised: “History is a guide to navigation in perilous times.”

These are perilous times. With our own government so obviously clueless and/or chaotically working against us, we have to take better care of ourselves, taking more responsibility for more of our lives.

We can thwart the Chinese takeover. We can be alert and participatory. We can express our displeasure with elected officials. But nowhere is our power felt more directly than at the cash register when we vote with our pocketbooks.

Don’t believe the Wal-Mart propaganda that difficult economic times call for cheap Chinese products.

China’s money buys a lot of American politicians and media, but China wouldn’t have so much money if American consumers hadn’t given it to them in the first place.

We must stop supporting the communist People’s Republic of China. American citizens must stop sending consumer dollars to China. American politicians must stop going to China for loans.

We can support our own country by purchasing American-made goods. Sounds simple, but the economic issues are not that complicated. Greed and cover-up are the complicating factors.

As Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman said:

"By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending."

We should heed Paul Krugman’s advice. The Chinese are undoubtedly heeding the words of Deng Xiaoping as they “conceal their ability and bide their time.”

*I borrowed this e-mail's subject line from the Robert Burns poem "Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation." Surprisingly little has changed since 1791.

26.

America Distracted, China on the Move

March 19, 2009

So much noise, so many distractions. China couldn't have planned it any better. Has anyone been paying attention to the world's largest and most dangerous adversary these past two weeks? The AIG bonus scandal is absolutely petty by comparison.

Some recent articles and links, revealing patterns and trends:

"Code Red: Federal authorities [accuse Motorola's] Hanjuan Jin of spying for Chinese military" (WLS/ABC7, 3/5/09): <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/iteam&id=6691718>

"Speculation grows on China aircraft carrier plans. China will have an aircraft carrier very soon" (*The Washington Post*, 3/6/09) [Subsequently removed from *The Washington Post*; see: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2008820020_apaschinanavy.html]

"U.S. protests harassing of Navy ship by Chinese. Obama administration cites days of 'increasingly aggressive' acts" (MSNBC, 3/9/09): www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29596179

"China drives home rejection of 'Western' democracy" (*The Washington Post*, 3/9/09) [Subsequently removed from *The Washington Post*; see: www.utsandiego.com/news/2009/mar/09/china-politics-030909]

"China's leader says he is 'worried' over U.S. treasuries" (*The New York Times*, 3/13/09): www.nytimes.com/2009/03/14/business/worldbusiness/14china.html (Premier Wen publicly and dramatically humiliated the United States to show the world that China is now calling the shots. As I've been predicting, Wen is also setting the stage to strip the U.S. Dollar of its reserve currency status. This is serious, folks.)

"Aided by Financial Crisis, China Snaps Up Natural Resources Worldwide" (*The Washington Post*, 3/17/09): www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/03/16/AR2009031603293.html

"U.N. panel says world should ditch dollar" (Reuters, 3/18/09): www.reuters.com/article/2009/03/18/us-funds-summit-currency-idUSTRE52H2CY20090318 (Now the U.N. is campaigning against the U.S. Dollar. China has been buying a lot of influence worldwide. The Chinese, previously more vocal on the subject of

reserve currency, have lately been quiet, perhaps because they know they're getting close to their goal of a yuan-based world economy. This will not be healthy for the United States.)

What can we do?

Well, the good news is that China can't destroy us without our help. They will no doubt continue their strategy of bleeding the United States through American consumer spending, then lending back what used to be our own money.

Therefore:

We have to stop supporting China. This means we cannot purchase Chinese-made products no matter how inexpensive they might seem in the short term.

We have to stop borrowing money from China. If we must borrow money, then it should be from like-minded allies not committed to our destruction and subjugation. It will help if enough of us contact our elected officials.

We have to enact legislation preventing foreign countries, particularly dangerous military adversaries, from buying up American companies and assets. Again, we should contact our elected officials.

We have to support the United States by purchasing American-made goods.

There are still a lot of American-made products, and we are still the world's leading manufacturing nation, but we're slipping fast as we continue to be "led to every trap the giant made."

"Dollar to the Giant" is still the best way to get the message across in six minutes.

For the sake of our country and its children, please forward this e-mail to everyone you know.

Thank you.

27.

Annual Report to Congress: China's Military Power

March 26, 2009

Hot off the press:

"Annual Report to Congress: Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2009"

(More reasons why we shouldn't buy products or borrow money from our adversaries in Red China.)

Yesterday's Department of Defense news:

www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=53642

You can download the full report here:

www.defense.gov/pubs/pdfs/China_Military_Power_Report_2009.pdf

Bill Gertz has a good article in today's *Washington Times*:

“Pentagon: Beijing boosts cyberwarfare”

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/26/pentagon-beijing-boosting-cyberwarfare

Unrestricted Warfare can still be found here:

www.terrorism.com/documents/TRC-Analysis/unrestricted.pdf

www.c4i.org/unrestricted.pdf

28.

GM Bankruptcy Could Kill. . . .

April 2, 2009

I've recommended Todd Lipscomb's MadeInUSAForever.com as an excellent source for American-made products. Todd's thoughtful and observant blog is also worth a look. His latest commentary

“GM Bankruptcy Could Kill Hundreds of Small Suppliers”

can be found here:

<http://blog.madeinusaforever.com>

I would like to add that we need big factories for our very survival.

World War II was won by American factories, especially auto plants, converted to defense production.

America's manufacturing capacity won the war.

"Made in USA" won the war.

Next time we have to defend ourselves in a major war, what will we do?

Outsource?

From our enemies in the communist People's Republic of China?

29.

Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project

April 21, 2009

From today's *Wall Street Journal*:

“Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124027491029837401.html>

A few excerpts:

"Computer spies have broken into the Pentagon's \$300 billion Joint Strike Fighter project—the Defense Department's costliest weapons program ever—according to current and former government officials familiar with the attacks."

"Similar incidents have also breached the Air Force's air-traffic-control system. . . ."

". . . computers used to control the U.S. electrical-distribution system, as well as other infrastructure, have also been infiltrated by spies abroad."

"There's never been anything like it . . . it's everything that keeps this country going."

"Former U.S. officials say the attacks appear to have originated in China."

"A Pentagon report issued last month said that the Chinese military has made 'steady progress' in developing online-warfare techniques. China hopes its computer skills can help it compensate for an underdeveloped military, the report said."

Indeed. *Unrestricted Warfare*, the Chinese Army's blueprint for the defeat of the US, said:

"One hacker + one modem causes an enemy damage and losses almost equal to those of a war."

"It is likely that a pasty-faced scholar wearing thick eyeglasses is better suited to be a modern soldier than is a strong young lowbrow with bulging biceps."

As "Dollar to the Giant" warned:

"No suspicion of war, through the open door, manifest of Mao Tse-Tung."

Is China at war with the U.S.?

Please think about this before you spend any more money on Chinese-manufactured products.

30.

“Dollar to the Giant” is now on Facebook

April 27, 2009

"Dollar to the Giant" is now on Facebook:

Please show your support for American manufacturing and the real economy.

Thank you!

31.

Economic Recovery At No Cost To Us

May 1, 2009

From the MadeInUSAForever blog:

“Even a relatively small change of our massive consumption of foreign goods would help our economy at no cost to us. If every American shifted just one single \$30 purchase a year to an American-made product, it would directly create 115,000 real jobs right here in the USA.”

The key to American prosperity is the American citizen. We can choose to support our own economy, or we can continue to hand it over to a foreign power that views the United States as its main enemy.

Our politicians are too interested in "easy" Chinese loans to risk upsetting China. Our multinational corporations, banks, and media will say and do almost anything to protect their investment in China.

It's up to us. Can we all shift some purchases to American-made goods? Can we go to the cash register and cast our votes for our own country?

32.

By Former U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings

June 6, 2009

“We are in real trouble”

www.citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com/commentary/09.0603_trouble.htm

However,

Dollar to the Giant must respectfully disagree with one statement by the former Senator:

“Yet Congress is our only hope.”

Congress, to borrow the colorful phrase from Dickens, "is a ass, a idiot."

American consumers are the largest part of our economy and our best hope. We can choose to support our economy by purchasing American-made goods. We can refuse to support the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China.

33.

U.S. Trade Gap Widens

June 10, 2009

“U.S. trade gap widens on softening exports”

Reuters link:

www.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idUSTRE5592UZ20090610

In a nutshell:

1. The monthly U.S. trade deficit widened to \$29.2 billion in April.
2. Imports declined, but by a smaller amount than exports.
3. Analysts said U.S. reliance on China as its chief supplier was growing.
4. Imports of supplies used in U.S. manufacturing fell in April.
5. Imports of consumer goods rose.
6. The monthly trade deficit with China rose to \$16.8 billion in April. This is the largest with any single country and represents over 57% of our total trade deficit.

If I may be allowed the luxury of quoting my own song:

"Detoured discussion about manufacturing trade. / Instead we're led to every trap the giant made."

We must not use the current recession to justify buying "cheaper" Chinese products. When we do, we're playing right into our competitor's (enemy's) hands. The Chinese products we think are "cheaper" are really the most expensive the world has ever seen. Every dollar we send to China supports a nuclear-armed communist dictatorship (that considers the U.S. its main adversary) and deprives our families and friends of opportunity.

The most important thing we can do for our economy is support it.

34.

Thank You, Manufacturing & Technology News

June 18, 2009

Richard A. McCormack's *Manufacturing & Technology News* again leads the way with singular courage, clarity, integrity, and insight.

Fascinating, terrific articles in the current issue:

“Chinese Tire Producers Hire Top Former U.S. Government Trade Officials in '421' Dumping Case”

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/09/0616/tradeofficials.html

“The New Ambassador To China Has A Family Business With Factories And Joint Ventures Located There”

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/09/0616/hawkins.html

Thank you, Mr. McCormack. Our country needs more publications like yours.

35.

Clear Thoughts on Manufacturing

July 10, 2009

Note to reader: "Dollar to the Giant" links are displayed below Professor Gomory's essay as a reminder that we have to do more than acknowledge the vital importance of manufacturing. We must support American manufacturers by purchasing their products.

“Manufacturing and the Limits of Comparative Advantage”

By Ralph Gomory

www.huffingtonpost.com/ralph-gomory/manufacturing-and-the-lim_b_227870.html

36.

A Direct Correlation: China's Growth Comes At The Expense Of The United States

July 17, 2009

Reprinted here is another brilliant, straightforward, useful article from Richard A. McCormack's *Manufacturing & Technology News*. If everybody read this and heard "Dollar to the Giant," we'd have no recession. And our kids would have a future.

“A Direct Correlation: China's Growth Comes At The Expense Of The United States”

By Richard A. McCormack

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/09/0717/uscc.html

Please alert your elected representatives:

House: <http://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

Senate: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

37.

China Pressures U.S. Treasury Department for Better Debt Terms

August 7, 2009

"... a pivotal turning point in our decline as a nation."

From the MadeInUSAForever.com blog of August 6, 2009:

“China Pressures US Treasury Department for Better Debt Terms”

By Todd Lipscomb

<http://blog.madeinusaforever.com/uncategorized/china-pressures-us-treasury-department-for-better-debt-terms>

38.

China Is Already Stealing Our Green Industries

August 26, 2009

From Monday's *New York Times*:

“China Racing Ahead of U.S. in the Drive to Go Solar”

By Keith Bradsher

www.nytimes.com/2009/08/25/business/energy-environment/25solar.html?_r=2&scp=4&sq=bradsher&st=cse

Dollar to the Giant note: China is already stealing our "green" industries. Why did anyone believe these would be immune? Nothing will be safe until American consumers stop supporting foreign economies and start supporting our own. Meanwhile, we're distracted by our own government and media, arguing over money we don't have. Shouldn't we be talking about making some money in the first place? Does anyone remember how this was done?

39.

Soaring Trade Deficit Means No Economic Recovery

September 10, 2009

July's figures were released today, and the news is shocking.

Here's the report from the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce:

<http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/international/trade/tradnewsrelease.htm>

In July, the goods deficit increased \$4.3 billion from June to \$42.7 billion. That's more than 11% in one month.

The trade deficit is the whole shootin' match, folks. Our economic crisis is rooted in the trade deficit, and this is where it must be solved.

There can be no economic recovery without a source of income. Our country must manufacture or perish. This government of economic nincompoops will not help. They will continue to give away our real, productive economy in exchange for foreign loans.

Fortunately, American consumers account for 70% of the American economy. We can save our economy by supporting it, by supporting American manufacturers, by purchasing American-made goods.

If every American simply reallocated \$1 per day from foreign products to American products, we'd create millions of new jobs.

It's really not very complicated.

40.

The Economy is a Lie, too

September 24, 2009

Dollar to the Giant notes:

An estimated one million schoolchildren are now homeless.

This is what happens when American consumers don't support American manufacturers.

"And all we received for a moment of greed was paid for with our children's blood."

“The Economy is a Lie, too”

By Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury

41.

Manifest of Mao

October 1, 2009

“China's 60th anniversary stirs pride, unease. Largest-ever parade of military hardware spurs patriotism, criticism.”

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33108782/ns/world_news-asiapacific

- “President Hu Jintao, dressed in a gray Mao tunic instead of the business suit he usually wears, reviewed the thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and other weaponry, shouting 'Hello, comrades' while riding in an open-top, domestically made Red Flag limousine.”

“Empire State Building honors China in lights. Ceremony celebrating nation's 60 years of communism riles critics.”

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33100000/ns/us_news-life

- “Red and yellow lights shone from the top of the Empire State Building at dusk Wednesday, a tribute to communist China's 60th anniversary that protesters labeled ‘blatant approval’ of totalitarianism and criticized as inappropriate for an icon in the land of the free.”

“Dollar to the Giant” MP3 now available on Amazon and iTunes

42.

Mixed Economic Messages

October 2, 2009

From *The Wall Street Journal*:

“Dow, Up 15%, Has Best Quarter Since '98”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125430911982652263.html>

“Job Cuts Unexpectedly Accelerate”

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125448660657759257.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

“Early Job Cuts Worse Than First Thought, as More Companies Go Belly Up”

<http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2009/10/02/early-job-cuts-worse-than-first-thought-as-more-companies-go-belly-up>

Hmmm. Some confusion here. Is the economy improving or not?

This is a good lesson in why China calls Wall Street "fictitious."

Fictitious.

A country's *real* economy actually creates wealth through manufacturing and agriculture. Finance and banking do not create wealth.

Has anyone noticed how many White House and Treasury employees came from Wall Street?

Wall Street and Washington have bet heavily on China, and therefore *against* the real economy of the United States and its citizens.

It's in our hands, yours and mine. We consumers represent 70% of the American economy.

American companies will stop going belly up when we start supporting them by purchasing their products.

Do we care about our children?

Or not?

Arab States, China, Russia, and France Launch Secret Moves Against U.S.

October 6, 2009

This is extraordinarily serious. Please alert your elected officials, and please circulate this e-mail.

The most important event of the twentieth century might have been Bretton Woods, yet almost nobody knows anything about it. How important is the U.S. dollar's reserve currency status? Important enough that losing it could cause our economy to lose half its value practically overnight. Important enough that even *attempting* to tamper with it brought the CIA down on Hugo Chavez ("allegedly") and the American military on Saddam Hussein, with a little "shock and awe" thrown in for the rest of OPEC to remember.

One of the first things we did in Baghdad was tear up the euro-denominated oil contracts and replace them with dollar-denominated contracts.

Every time Iran threatens to ditch the dollar for oil transactions, our government complains about their nuclear ambitions. (Yet, curiously, Washington doesn't seem to care about its Chinese bankers supplying Iran with nuclear materials and technology.)

We're in trouble, folks. The only way out is to rebuild America's real economy through manufacturing. We must support American manufacturers by purchasing American-made goods. We must restore confidence in American productivity, America's future.

And we must stop destroying ourselves to support our global competitors and adversaries.

“The demise of the dollar: In a graphic illustration of the new world order, Arab states have launched secret moves with China, Russia and France to stop using the US currency for oil trading”

www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/the-demise-of-the-dollar-1798175.html

44.

August Trade—a Better Understanding

October 13, 2009

Tragically, stupidly, the worse our economy gets, the more people think they can't live without "cheap" imports. Could we be any more self-destructive?

I put "cheap" in quotes because all these "cheap" Chinese imports are proving to be the most expensive consumer goods our country has ever seen. Hidden in every "Made in China" price tag is a piece of America, a piece of our children's future.

Could we be any more self-destructive?

So what's the answer?

Buy American-made products. Support the American economy. Create jobs for Americans.

Simple as that.

“Trade Picture Worsens in August”

By Michael Mandel

www.businessweek.com/the_thread/economicsunbound/archives/2009/10/trade_picture_w.html

45.

Obama Loosens Missile Technology Controls to China

October 15, 2009

From the ever-vigilant and -insightful Bill Gertz:

"President Obama recently shifted authority for approving sales to China of missile and space technology from the White House to the Commerce Department—a move critics say will loosen export controls and potentially benefit Chinese missile development."

Stupid? Or criminal?

Some background:

You may remember that after China contributed \$ millions to the Clinton/Gore campaign, significant export control was transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of Commerce. This circumvented security regulations and facilitated the transfer of classified information and technology. The Pentagon objected, calling it a threat to national security. The Pentagon was ignored; the massive transfer took place; the U.S. was left more vulnerable.

Gary Locke, now Secretary of Commerce, has long had ties to high-level communist Chinese officials and agents including campaign finance criminal John Huang. In fact, Bill Clinton personally intervened to place Huang in a government position with access to top-secret information that would aid the communist Chinese. As Governor of Washington and through his law firm, Locke has invested heavily in China-U.S. "free" trade. It should now be obvious to everyone that China-U.S. "free" trade has been a one-way street: surpluses and strength for China, deficits and debilitation for the United States.

Larry Summers, then Treasury Secretary, now Director of the National Economic Council, said to the House Banking Committee in 2000: "The suggestion of jobs in the U.S. being exported to China is largely, in the judgment of most who studied the issue, I think, a chimera."

In 2003, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan told the House Committee on Financial Services that it doesn't matter where a country's products are manufactured.

Stupid? Or criminal?

It's worth remembering that ten years ago, the Chinese army's blueprint for the defeat of the United States, *Unrestricted Warfare*, said the new "hyperstrategic" weapon is finance and trade.

Now why would Obama loosen missile technology controls to any country, much less one that that views the U.S. as its main enemy?

"Obama loosens missile technology controls to China"

By Bill Gertz

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/15/inside-the-ring-2059116

46.

The Pope, a Nobel Prize Winner, and a Newspaper

October 23, 2009

Before he became a spineless shill for the Wall Street and Washington banksters, Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman was capable of telling the simple truth. You may remember this comment from *The New York Times* of 12/22/08:

“By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending.”

There's no telling what happened to Krugman's character since then, but he might be on the verge of some kind of moral redemption. In yesterday's *Times*, he actually dared to criticize "China's outrageous currency policy":

www.nytimes.com/2009/10/23/opinion/23krugman.html

It's a start, anyway. One wonders how much truth his employer will let him get away with.

Speaking of which, it was horrifying to watch *The New York Times* change the title of the Bernanke article

www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/business/economy/20fed.html

on Monday evening.

At 8:00 it was:

“Fed Chief Cites Role of Trade Imbalances in Crisis”

By midnight it had become:

“Asia Said to Be Leading the Globe Out of Crisis”

The New York Times should change its name to *The Beijing Times* and just get it over with.

Lastly, on the subject of economics and morality, you might be interested in what the Pope has to say about outsourcing, particularly in 39 - 42:

www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html

A favorite:

“Paul VI invited people to give serious attention to the damage that can be caused to one's home country by the transfer abroad of capital purely for personal advantage.”

"Dollar to the Giant" (not Catholic but newly considering conversion) is available on Amazon and iTunes.

47.

A Marriage Made in China

November 18, 2009

A clear overview from today's *Washington Post*. Unfortunately, Meyerson, like most of our "experts," refuses to acknowledge the obvious: Americans can choose to support the U.S. simply by purchasing American-made goods.

I thought these words from Ralph Gomory were also worth passing along:

“After all, this is my country, and it is painful for me to see it, day after day, struggling with chains of its own devising and suffering from self-inflicted wounds.”

Chains of our own devising and self-inflicted wounds. Indeed.

“A marriage made in China”

By Harold Meyerson

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/17/AR2009111703138.html

48.

Fingleton on Choate

November 21, 2009

One clear head reviewing another. Enjoy.

“The man who saw it all coming”

By Eamonn Fingleton

For Americans bewildered by what's happening to their country, Pat Choate is the author to read. The doyen of Washington economic analysts, he has produced a succession of authoritative, well-written books that long ago identified fundamental errors in American policy -- the same errors that have resulted in the present

economic train wreck. In particular he foresaw the present fiscal and banking crises, the collapse of American manufacturing, the decay of American infrastructure, and the soaring trade deficits, and the explosion in U.S. indebtedness to China and Japan.

So why were his warnings not heeded? The problem, as he points out in *Saving Capitalism*, is that extremist free market ideology has increasingly in recent decades subverted all commonsense in American economic discourse.

He writes: "A powerful political majority over the past 30 years has held the zealous conviction that markets are self-regulating, the gains from industrial outsourcing exceeded the costs, and mounting trade deficits were irrelevant because other nations would eventually adopt America's open market trade policies and trade would balance out....For almost 30 years the governing ethos has been, 'Government is the problem, not the solution' - hardly a suitable foundation for national economic policy."

This ideology - which Choate characterizes as "free market absolutism" - originated on the wilder shores of the far right. Already by the 1970s it was being systematically promoted by the foreign lobby and it went viral in the 1980s when Wall Street spotted the possibilities. What, after all, could be wrong with an intellectual fashion in which the greedy and unscrupulous were positively lionized for fleecing the gullible and ill-informed? Washington soon succumbed. After all, for a senator in a tight reelection race, the choice between his own commonsense and the big bucks on offer from the lobbyists was no choice at all. By the mid 1990s the media were in thrall and thereafter it became almost impossible for wiser heads to get a hearing.

The problems were particularly acute on the editorial pages of the major newspapers - the very places where a commitment to balance and diversity of opinion was supposed to be sacrosanct. Editors increasingly screened out contributions from anyone who seemed less than positively Jacobin in his zeal for unfettered free markets.

Saving Capitalism identifies six key areas in which American economic policy has gone disastrously off the rails: taxes, trade, innovation, infrastructure, workers' pensions and other fringe benefits, and job creation. Devoting a chapter to each, he not only skewers what is wrong with present policies but offers realistic solutions designed to win solid bipartisan support.

On trade, for instance, he points out that the basic problem is that American trade policies have been premised on the false assumption that other nations think like Americans. Of course, they don't; and the whole history of America's efforts to "show leadership" in trade policy in the last six decades provides voluminous support for this inference. Noting that the United States Trade Representative's 2009 report on foreign nations' trade barriers runs to an astounding 547 pages, he comments:

"The ways, means, and combinations foreign governments use to thwart imports of U.S. goods, services, and investments are varied and numerous. The list of barriers for China took 56 pages of the USTR document. Korea and India each required 14 pages, Japan 22 pages....Strikingly, these barriers still exist despite more than 60 years of intensive post-war trade negotiations with other countries beginning in 1947.

"Despite America's spirited urging of other nations to adopt the Anglo-Saxon economic model - open markets and deregulation - this system has enjoyed little appeal abroad. It suits the U.S. but it would not fit most other countries. Most countries tolerate the United States' championing open market absolutism just as they would the rants of a diminished relative: They ignore it. Yet, as long as the U.S. remains ideologically blinded and does nothing about the imbalance of trade, the transfer of wealth and power will continue unimpeded. After all, it is not the responsibility of other nations to inform us of our arrogance and stupidity."

On his numbers, nations that subscribe to the American trade model -- the Anglo-Saxon model, in his terminology -- account for just 25 percent of global trade. And their share is dwindling. He adds: "When the United States had huge trade surpluses and was the world's largest creditor, it had enough money to grant other countries special trade concessions as a means of influencing their foreign and economic policies. But now that we have accumulated a \$6 trillion trade deficit over the past three decades and are the world's largest debtor, a continuation of this 'beggar thyself' policy is so impractical it is madness."

Madness indeed. Although insanity has been most obvious in trade policy, it has also pervaded financial regulation. And almost right across the economic policy waterfront the story is of a nation that is becoming unhinged.

A disturbing picture but in his final chapter Choate holds out hope there may still be time to avert total disaster.

Disclosure: I am a friend of Pat Choate's and read the book in manuscript.

From a 9/23/09 Amazon.com review by Eamonn Fingleton, author of *In Praise of Hard Industries: Why Manufacturing, Not the Information Economy, Is the Key to Future Prosperity* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999)

49.

China Is Raping Africa, Too

December 18, 2009

Another useful article from Richard McCormack's *Manufacturing & Technology News*. Our press corps could take a lesson.

"The Chopstick Invasion Of Africa Continues Apace"

By Llewellyn King, host of "White House Chronicle." Mr. King grew up in Rhodesia. His column is carried by the Hearst-New York Times Syndicate.

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/09/1215/LlewellynKing.html

50.

Special Report on American Manufacturing and Trade

December 31, 2009

The current issue of *The American Prospect* features the special report: "Why Nothing is Made in the USA Anymore." While the title is untrue, the articles are thought provoking.

Here's hoping that in 2010, our experts will start focusing on the consumer's role in all of this. American consumer spending is 70% of our economy. We make the choice to support either the U.S. or some foreign country every time we make a purchase. China has money to burn because American consumers gave it to them. Our own economy is on life support for the same reason.

Articles in *The Prospect's* special report:

FDR Had It Right

Leo Hindery, R. Thomas Buffenbarger, Donald W. Riegle, Edward G. Rendell, and Leo W. Gerard

If the economy is going to come back, we need to buy—and make—American.

Industrial Policy: The Road Not Taken

Jeff Faux

In the 1970s, Wall Street and its economists defeated manufacturing.

Losing Our Future

Joan Fitzgerald

If we don't develop a national industrial policy for clean-energy production, the strategies of other nations will displace American companies and jobs.

Playing Ourselves for Fools

Robert Kuttner

The trading system America sold the world is killing U.S. industry. Here's a better way.

The Great Industrial Wall of China

Carolyn Bartholomew

Beijing's mercantilism challenges America's market ideology and industrial future.

The Plight of American Manufacturing

Richard McCormack

Since 2001, the U.S. has lost 42,400 factories—and its technical edge.

The Politics of Industrial Renaissance

Harold Meyerson

Business and government may waver, but the American people want more manufacturing.

Here's the article by Richard McCormack:

<http://prospect.org/article/plight-american-manufacturing>

A modern-day Paul Revere? Interesting.

The giant is coming.

Hear about it on Amazon and iTunes

51.

China Poisoning American Children—Again!

January 11, 2010

“AP: Feds Probe Cadmium in Kids' Jewelry From China”

By Justin Pritchard, Associated Press

www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,582734,00.html

52.

“Dollar to the Giant” is back on YouTube

January 18, 2010

Please spread the word in every possible way. "Dollar to the Giant" is back on YouTube.

I think it's time. When "Dollar to the Giant" was first released in 2008, not enough people considered China a serious competitor, much less a serious threat.

Was "Dollar to the Giant" ahead of its time? Perhaps. But it has since proven itself correct, more with each passing day.

The real economy is getting worse. Mainstream America is starting to wake up. Let's get our message out while we can.

If you know anyone interested in performing "Dollar to the Giant," please have them contact me. Just think: if a known artist recorded my song, we could put our country back to work.

53.

Mr. President: Jobs Creation Is Not Rocket Science (State Of The Union)

January 27, 2010

Let's say 300,000,000 Americans each simply reallocated 1 dollar per day, spending 1 dollar less on foreign-made goods, 1 dollar more on American-made goods.

After a year, this would add up to \$109,500,000,000.

What could the real, productive American economy do with an extra \$109.5 billion?

How about 2,737,500 new jobs paying \$40,000 per year?

$109,500,000,000 / 40,000 = 2,737,500$

Almost 3 million new jobs. At only 1 dollar per day.

Now, just for fun, multiply x 10.

This and other simple truths we should be discussing are further explored in

"Dollar to the Giant"

on

Amazon (99-cent MP3 download)

iTunes (99-cent MP3 download)

YouTube (free music/lyrics video)

Jango (free Internet radio)

54.

“Don't look to Washington for help.”

January 29, 2010

Wednesday evening, President Obama told us he planned to double exports over the next 5 years to create 2 million jobs.

Let's set aside our usual responses to nonsense and realize what was really being said:

“If Americans want jobs, if America is to survive, somebody has to buy our products.”

This is essential: somebody has to buy our products. But why focus on exports and hide from the obvious? Is it really so difficult to be a leader and ask the American people to support their own country by purchasing their own products?

Some interesting insights can be found in the following short essays:

“Rule by the Rich” by Paul Craig Roberts:

www.counterpunch.org/roberts01272010.html

Excerpt: "The Democrats were destroyed as an independent party by jobs offshoring and so-called free trade agreements such as NAFTA. . . . Democrats are as dependent as Republicans on corporate interest groups for campaign funding."

“Free Trade” by Fritz Hollings:

www.citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com/commentary/09.0401.hollings_freetrade.htm

Excerpt: "Mum's the word; money controls. Now President Barack Obama has become the leader for 'free trade.' In the campaign, he had his economists tell the Canadians: 'Don't worry. He wasn't serious about jobs.' Again, when 'Buy America' appeared in the stimulus, he opposed it. And when he found out he couldn't get the votes, he had 'Buy America' watered down even though he had given out 'Buy America/Obama' buttons in the Pennsylvania campaign."

It's up to us, the American people, to rescue our own economy. To quote Paul Craig Roberts: "Don't look to Washington for help."

55.

Does anybody care?

February 10, 2010

"Does anybody care?"

A report from Northeastern University—

“Labor Underutilization Problems of U.S. Workers Across Household Income Groups at the End of the Great Recession: A Truly Great Depression Among the Nation's Low Income Workers Amidst Full Employment Among the Most Affluent”

http://iris.lib.neu.edu/clms_pub/26

—concludes with such a simple question.

Our government tells us the unemployment rate is around 10%. The Northeastern study reveals how much this varies—3% to 31%—according to income.

"At the end of calendar year 2009 . . . a true labor market depression faced those in the bottom two deciles of the income distribution, a deep labor market recession prevailed among those in the middle of the distribution, and close to a full employment environment prevailed at the top. There was no labor market recession for America's affluent."

America's affluent may not recognize the tens of millions now unemployed, or the million schoolchildren now homeless, but these results of offshoring cannot be denied any longer. Unless we increase the demand for American-made goods, unemployment—permanent unemployment—will "destabilize" us all.

We can't rely on exports. We have the world's largest consumer market right here in the United States. We can reclaim it. We can buy our own products and grow our own economy for a change.

China has played us for suckers long enough. So have Washington and Wall Street.

Further reading: Thom Hartmann's short article

“Globalization is Killing the Globe: Return to Local Economies”

www.opednews.com/articles/Globalization-Is-Killing-T-by-Thom-Hartmann-100209-822.html

It's a clear and useful overview.

56.

Unemployment & Two Economists

February 18, 2010

“By selling more to other countries and spending more of our own income on U.S.-produced goods, we could get to full employment without a boom in either consumption or investment spending.”

—Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, *The New York Times*, 12/22/08, before he sold his soul and became a shill for the Administration.

Recommended short article:

“A Country of Serfs Ruled by Oligarchs”

By Paul Craig Roberts

http://takimag.com/article/a_country_of_serfs_ruled_by_oligarchs/#axzz1tBFTg3du

Paul Craig Roberts is most definitely not a shill for Washington and Wall Street.

Excerpts:

"So many jobs have been moved abroad that there has been no growth in U.S. real incomes in the 21st century, except for the incomes of the super rich who collect multi-million dollar bonuses for moving U.S. jobs offshore."

"Policymakers who are banking on stimulus programs are thinking in terms of an economy that no longer exists."

"In the New Economy, layoffs can continue despite low interest rates and government stimulus programs."

"To the extent that monetary and fiscal policy can stimulate U.S. consumer demand, much of the demand flows to the goods and services that are produced offshore for U.S. markets. China, for example, benefits from the stimulation of U.S. consumer demand. The rise in China's GDP is financed by a rise in the U.S. public debt burden."

Keep checking those origin labels!

57.

China Debt, China Threat

March 5, 2010

Please put some pressure on your elected representatives to tackle China's illegal currency manipulation. The Chinese are not more efficient producers; they are currency manipulators and trade criminals, waging deadly economic war against the United States.

Let's not make it easy for them. Buy American-made goods and "Dollar to the Giant"!

In the news:

“Americans Say Debt to China More Serious Threat Than Terrorism”

Zogby Interactive Survey, 3 March 2010

www.ibohezogby.com/news/2010/03/03/zogby-interactive-americans-say-debt-to-china-more-serious-threat-than-terrorism

“More than twice as many U.S. adults (58%) say that debt owed to China is a more serious threat to the long-term security and well-being of the U.S than is terrorism from radical Islamic terrorists (27%). Interestingly there was little variation by party identification with a majority of Democrats, Republicans and independents all agreeing that the debt owed by the United States to China poses the greater threat. Opinion was consistent across all other major demographic and political sub-groups.”

“Harsh words from Chinese military raise threat concerns”

Bill Gertz, *The Washington Times*, 5 March 2010

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/05/harsh-words-from-chinese-military-raise-threat-con

“Recent statements by Chinese military officials are raising concerns among U.S. analysts that the communist government in Beijing is shifting its oft-stated ‘peaceful rise’ policy toward an aggressive, anti-U.S. posture.”

58.

Our song climbs to # 1 on SoundClick

March 9, 2010

Who'd have thought?

"Dollar to the Giant" is currently #1 of more than 129,000 songs in the "Acoustic" category on SoundClick.

Link to music, lyrics, and baby picture:

<http://soundclick.com/share?songid=8813039>

"Dollar to the Giant" is also #1 of more than 10,000 songs in the "Folk" category.

SoundClick has 3.4 million members and 70 million monthly pageviews, so this should help our cause.

I'm still looking for the right artist to record my song and spread the word to the biggest possible audience.

To quote an iTunes review: "A well-known performer could change the course of history with this song."

(Hey, what about a filmmaker?)

59.

College Girl, Economy, Jobs

June 1, 2010

New video:

"College Girl, Economy, Jobs"

Please forward this e-mail. Thank you.

60.

Video transcript, by popular demand

June 2, 2010

So many people are asking for the script, I'll attach a PDF copy to this e-mail. DVDs will also be available.

"Brilliant"

"Inspiring"

(I'm being told)

New video:

"College Girl, Economy, Jobs"

Please forward this e-mail. Thank you!

College Girl, Economy, Jobs [transcript]

Hi.

I'm a graduating senior, and I'm not worried about the economy or jobs.

It's all much simpler than we're being told. So let's put our political differences aside, have some fun, and get some answers to what I call "*Questions.*"

Like: Where does money come from?

When our country was wealthy, it was because we had the most factories and made the most stuff. Seriously. Agriculture and natural resources also contributed; but, by far, the vast wealth of America was created by American manufacturing.

Curiously, a lot of economic activities grab *existing* wealth, but don't actually create any *new* wealth. Banking and finance, for example, do not create wealth. Services—however necessary—do not create wealth.

Let's say you and I wash each other's cars and charge each other \$10. We're working and earning income; the government would include our \$20 in its official reports; but we're not actually adding anything to the economy. But what if we take raw steel and rubber and glass and physical labor, and we build those cars from scratch, and then sell them? When we make things, we create wealth. This means more opportunities, more jobs, more of everything—*everything—as long as we keep manufacturing.*

Next question: America used to be the land of opportunity. What happened?

Big Business spends big money on American politics. Why? Because *it buys influence*.

This worked OK when Big Business was still American: American owners, American factories, American workers. But then “globalization” caught on. Sounds cool: *The Global Economy*. But have you noticed that, here in America, the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class is starting to disappear altogether? What “globalization” really means is that American-based multinational corporations are free to search the globe for the cheapest means of production. Then they close their American factories and fire their American workers.

This is tempting for publicly traded multinationals. They can increase their profits, their Wall Street performance, their executive bonuses; and at the same time give their customers lower prices.

And just think: they can accomplish all of this simply by firing American workers and shutting down American production.

Whoa! Isn't that the same as destroying America's source of wealth?

Our leaders used to be on our side. Back when England was a serious economic competitor, Abraham Lincoln said: "If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an *American* for twenty-five dollars, then America has *the rails and the money both*."

Can you imagine any President saying that today? No way. The multinationals that control our politics would never allow it.

And so the big question: What can we do?

A lot, because you and I have the real power. American consumers are 70% of the entire U.S. economy, and we can turn it around any time we choose.

Suppose every American simply *reallocated* 1 dollar per day, spending 1 dollar less on foreign-made goods, and 1 dollar more on American-made goods. After a year, we'd have 110 billion dollars, which could mean more than 2 million new jobs paying \$50,000 per year.

Other factors are involved—costs, profits, U.S. vs. foreign ownership—but the principle stays true, so let's keep this simple and make our point. Even one dollar per day can make a big difference.

Reallocate *ten* dollars per person per day—from foreign to American-made goods—and in a year we'd have 1.1 trillion dollars, or potentially more than 20 million new jobs paying \$50,000 per year.

Why stop there?

Financial crisis *solved*. Unemployment *solved*. Our future: *safe, secure, and back in our own hands*.

Like I said, it's much simpler than we're being told.

Maybe we've been listening to the wrong people.

Which reminds me: Corporations manufacturing in foreign countries? Don't buy their stock. Why invest in them when they don't invest in you?

Thanks for listening. Google “American-made goods.” And have a great future.

61.

Raves for College Girl. Still Needs Your Help.

June 9, 2010

Thank you for your e-mailed compliments:

“Lovely . . . A Cutey . . . Brilliant . . . Inspiring . . . So Well Done . . . Compelling . . . Must See . . . Awesome . . . Simple . . . Complete . . . Beautifully Spoken . . . Persuasive . . . Well Worth Listening To!”

Our new video "College Girl, Economy, Jobs" and its transcript are being posted on lots of other websites, including the highly respected TradeReform.org and EconomyInCrisis.org

Someone even put it on The White House Facebook page!

But we still need your help. Please keep forwarding these links and recommending "College Girl, Economy, Jobs" to everyone you know. With just a little effort, we can make a big difference.

Thank you.

62.

Is the College Girl Democrat or Republican?

June 21, 2010

Is the College Girl Democrat or Republican? Enthusiastic viewers of every political persuasion are claiming her.

Such is the power of the simple American truth.

Please share this video with as many people as you can, in any way you can. We're all in this together. We need your participation.

Thank you!

63.

Optimistic, Bi-Partisan, American Message for July 4

June 28, 2010

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”

Take 4 minutes. Watch this video. You'll feel better about everything.

Everything!

Then pass it along. Please. Your participation is more important than you might realize.

Thank you!

64.

“Pure, unadulterated common sense. Genius.”

July 8, 2010

More praise for "College Girl, Economy, Jobs":

"Pure, unadulterated common sense. Genius."—Michigan professor of law

"Your video was terrific. Your analysis and recommendations are spot on."—Minnesota publisher

Some comments posted by our Internet fans:

"Wow. What a great and simple explanation."

"Thumbs way up. She said it better than I can and in a way my recent college grad son, current college son and high school daughter can relate to. Thank you very much!"

"Listen to this video. It's so right!"

"I am not a preachy person but this is something that I believe needs to be preached to every American until they fully understand how important it really is."

"this is a good video . . . no, a great video, that sums it up pretty nicely."

"I can't imagine this being more clear and simple! Atta Girl! Please watch."

"WOW. oh, My GOD! she's goooooood!!"

Thank you! Please continue to e-mail these links and tell everyone you know about

"College Girl, Economy, Jobs" on YouTube.

65.

BP Oil Spill: Failed Safety Device Modified in China

July 19, 2010

From yesterday's *Guardian*:

"BP oil spill: failed safety device on Deepwater Horizon rig was modified in China"

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jul/18/deepwater-horizon-blow-out-preventer-china

"The blow-out preventer . . . failed to activate and is at the centre of investigations into what caused the disaster."

The reader might remember what happened to the Bay Bridge after the California Department of Transportation "saved" money by using Chinese steel.

Toxic toys and toothpaste? Poisoned pet food and pharmaceuticals? Destructive drywall?

Counterfeit, defective avionics sold to our military and security forces by The People's Republic of China?

And now we're replacing our telecommunications infrastructure with Chinese hardware?

Is anyone paying attention?

Do it for the children.

Thank you!

66.

22 Statistics That Prove The Middle Class Is Being Systematically Wiped Out of Existence in America

July 25, 2010

"22 Statistics That Prove The Middle Class Is Being Systematically Wiped Out Of Existence In America"

www.businessinsider.com/22-statistics-that-prove-the-middle-class-is-being-systematically-wiped-out-of-existence-in-america-2010-7#83-percent-of-all-us-stocks-are-in-the-hands-of-1-percent-of-the-people-1

For your convenience and immediate gratification, here are all 22 statistics:

...

To restore the middle class, watch "College Girl, Economy, Jobs" and "Dollar to the Giant" on YouTube.

67.

TradeReform.org posts "Dollar to the Giant"

July 27, 2010

The highly respected TradeReform.org today posted “Dollar to the Giant”—complete lyrics and a download link.

www.tradereform.org/2010/07/dollar-to-the-giant

This is great news. The song is dark; the lyrics are unsettling; but maybe people are finally getting ready to hear and feel what they need to hear and feel.

Many thanks to the Coalition for a Prosperous America and their TradeReform.org blog. Posting "Dollar to the Giant" took some courage.

68.

10,000 American-Made Office Products

July 30, 2010

The award-winning office supply superstore BuyOnlineNow.com has just created a Made In America department featuring more than 10,000 products manufactured right here in the USA.

www.buyonlinenow.com/made-in-usa.asp

Ten thousand American-made office products! That's roughly one office product for every time I've been told by Wal-Mart shoppers that America doesn't make anything anymore.

Bob Herman, CEO of BuyOnlineNow, has been a friend for over 40 years. Feel free to pat him on the back and tell him I sent you. ;-)

It's been a while since I mentioned another of my favorite sources for American-made goods:

www.MadeInUSAForever.com

Todd Lipscomb—brilliant, tireless, courageous—is one of the true pioneers of our effort. His store carries a wide variety of American-made products—currently numbering more than 1,800. I recently purchased some polo shirts from Todd—impressive quality, union-made in the USA, and under \$25. (Yes, I paid for the shirts!)

Be sure to Google "American-made goods"

You'll be amazed at what you can find, and what you can do for America, with very little extra effort.

69.

Chinese Missile Designed to Sink U.S. Aircraft Carriers

August 6, 2010

From the Associated Press:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100805/ap_on_re_as/as_china_us_carrier_killer

[Article subsequently removed from Yahoo. See: www.denverpost.com/nationworld/ci_15690611]

And where did China get the money to develop weapons for use against the United States?

From American consumers. Buying products made in China.

Makes me wonder:

What if Americans had the opportunity to buy cheap goods from Nazi Germany during World War II?

"Dollar to the Giant" was almost prophetic when released before the financial meltdown of 2008, and has become truer each day. Like the Chinese military says: nuclear warfare is already outdated; the new hyperstrategic weapons are trade and finance, and the U.S. is particularly vulnerable.

If and when "Dollar to the Giant" is recorded by a big artist with a big audience, we'll get the message out in a big way. Unfortunately, the recording industry is over 97% foreign owned. Does any multinational care about America anymore?

70.

“Economy slows to 1.6 percent as trade gap widens”— Associated Press

August 27, 2010

The Commerce Department today reported that U.S. economic growth has slowed to 1.6%.

Why? Imports. The largest surge in 26 years. When we buy foreign products, we support foreign economies and ultimately degrade our own standard of living.

China is at 12% growth. India is at 9%. Germany just posted its biggest increase in 2 decades.

All led by manufacturing.

Meanwhile, here at home, the recession deepens. Unemployment, measured by more-honest 1980 criteria, is 22%.

Confucius said:

"The way out is through the door."

71.

Foreign Manipulation vs. American Recovery—Good Recent Articles

September 15, 2010

“Japan Acts to Weaken Its Currency”

(The New York Times, 14 September 2010)

www.nytimes.com/2010/09/15/business/global/15yen.html

Excerpt: "Japan moved on Wednesday to prop up the dollar and weaken the yen in a bid to protect its export-led economy, intervening in international currency markets for the first time since 2004. The Japanese monetary authorities bought dollars and sold yen. . . ."

Sound familiar? (The People's Republic of) China has been doing the same for years. They loan us money and prop up the dollar to help their country, not ours.

“U.S. based groups pro-currency manipulation”

(TradeReform, 15 September 2010)

www.tradereform.org/2010/09/u-s-based-groups-pro-currency-manipulation

Excerpt: "The enemies of an American economic recovery have been revealed."

TradeReform lists the culprits.

Foreign money hires Washington lobbyists and pays American association dues. The power of multinational corporations might be staggering, but American consumers have the final word.

("No" would be a good one to learn.)

Thank you. Please alert your elected officials:

72.

1 Chinese Ship More Toxic Than 10 Million American Cars

September 24, 2010

One ship is more toxic than ten million cars?

Worse.

From *The Guardian*:

“1 giant container ship can emit almost the same amount of cancer and asthma-causing chemicals as 50,000,000 cars.”

“15 of the world's biggest ships may now emit as much pollution as all the world's 760,000,000 cars.”

“Pollution from the world's 90,000 cargo ships leads to 60,000 deaths a year in the U.S. alone and costs up to \$330 billion per year in health costs from lung and heart diseases.”

“Shipping emissions have escalated in the past 15 years as China has emerged as the world's manufacturing capital. A new breed of intercontinental container ship has been developed which is extremely cost-efficient. However, it uses diesel engines as powerful as land-based power stations but with the lowest quality fuel.”

“Health risks of shipping pollution have been ‘underestimated’”

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/apr/09/shipping-pollution

You might be interested in the EPA's interest in ocean-going vessels:

www.epa.gov/otaq/oceanvessels.htm

Unfortunately, there's only so much the EPA can (or will) do. U.S.-flagged ships now carry less than 2% of

U.S. foreign trade.

Please don't buy anything foreign made, especially if it got here on a ship.

73.

China Not Cuddly Anymore

September 28, 2010

“The Message of Tokyo's Kowtow”

www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2010/09/28/the_message_of_tokyos_kowtow_107331.html

“The Chinese tiger is all grown up, and it's not cuddly anymore. Ending the trade deficit with China now becomes a matter of national security.”

By Pat Buchanan, whose popular reputation, I think, keeps too many readers from his writings. My efforts remain non-partisan.

74.

Economy Got You Down? No Worries!

September 29, 2010

Abraham Lincoln said:

“If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the rails and the money both.”

Now fast-forward to 2010:

American consumers have become so powerful. . .

The economy we support is the economy that prospers.

Suppose every American simply reallocated 1 dollar per day, spending 1 dollar less on foreign-made goods, and 1 dollar more on American-made goods. After a year, we'd have 110 billion dollars, which could mean more than 2 million new jobs paying \$50,000 per year.

Other factors are involved—costs, profits, U.S. vs. foreign ownership—but the principle stays true, so let's keep this simple and make our point. Even one dollar per day can make a big difference.

Reallocate ten dollars per person per day—from foreign to American-made goods—and in a year we'd have 1.1 trillion dollars, or potentially more than 20 million new jobs paying \$50,000 per year.

Why stop there?

Financial crisis solved. Unemployment solved. Our future: safe, secure, and back in our own hands.

Google search: "American-made goods"

And stop worrying.

Source:

"College Girl, Economy, Jobs"

Please forward this e-mail and stop worrying.

75.

Lady Gaga, Jessica Alba, and the College Girl

October 7, 2010

Number of YouTube views as of 10/07/10:

Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" video: 288,572,487

Jessica Alba in a staring contest: 10,642,382

"College Girl, Economy, Jobs": 8,096

76.

Kind of a Big Deal: EconomyInCrisis.org features “College Girl, Economy, Jobs”

October 7, 2010

The highly regarded EconomyInCrisis.org is currently featuring "College Girl, Economy, Jobs"—both video and transcript. You can find it here:

<http://economyincrisis.org/>

and here:

<http://economyincrisis.org/content/college-girl-economy-jobs>

Please shout from the rooftops, then forward this e-mail. Our economy and our children need our help.

77.

You Can't Make This Stuff Up: U.S. May Lift Chinese Arms Embargo

October 12, 2010

September 29: The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act to start cracking down on China's destructive and criminal trade practices. The (communist dictatorship of the) People's Republic of China was not happy.

October 8: Human rights advocate and Tiananmen Square veteran Liu Xiaobo won the Nobel Peace Prize. The (communist dictatorship of the) People's Republic of China was not happy.

October 9: In a letter dated October 8

(www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/08/letter-president-regarding-export-waiver-china)

President Obama waived post-Tiananmen sanctions on China to allow the export of C-130 military transport planes.

Well, that should make them happy.

Of course, the (communist dictatorship of the) People's Republic of China is thrilled with their latest gift from Washington. Still, "there is more the U.S. can do," according to a Chinese official quoted in China Daily. "Apart from the C-130, the U.S. should export more advanced weaponry to China, to fully realize the normalization and transparency of military exchanges."

www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2010-10/11/content_11391812.htm

Should be no trouble convincing The White House.

Didn't Lenin say something about selling our enemies* the rope they'll use to hang us?

Now, really, does anyone still think "Dollar to the Giant" is perhaps a tiny bit extreme?

*Sorry, I guess I should apologize for being so politically incorrect as to use the word "enemies," but we fought China in Korea and Vietnam, and even though the battlefield has moved to Wal-Mart, China still considers us their # 1 adversary.

78.

Unheeded Warnings: PRC = CCP = PLA = China, Inc.

October 15, 2010

Bloomberg's recent article "**China Inc.**"

www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-13/china-inc-.html

is kind of interesting. It tells us:

- The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to solidify its control over the economy.
- State-owned companies are taking over private companies.
- We overestimated the CCP's openness to free enterprise.
- We had preconceived notions of what would happen in China after it joined the World Trade Organization, but China had some notions of its own.

Why should anyone be surprised? We've had plenty of experience with the People's Republic of China (PRC)—including our casualties in Korea and Vietnam—and we've had plenty of warning. Soon after the Clinton/Gore campaign got caught taking money from communist China's director of military intelligence, our government revealed the CCP's “16-Character Policy”:

- Combine the military and civil
- Combine peace and war
- Give priority to military products
- Let the civil support the military

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-CRPT-105hrpt851/html/ch1bod.html#anchor4134306

In 1999, People's Liberation Army (PLA) senior colonels Qiao and Wang published *Unrestricted Warfare*, a blueprint for the defeat of the "world's number one debtor nation . . . the United States," which (in the CIA translation) recommended:

- Trade and Financial warfare: hyperstrategic, easily manipulated, concealed, highly destructive
- Economic Aid warfare: bestowing favor in the open and contriving to control matters in secret
- International Law warfare: seizing the opportunity to set up regulations
- Rumor or scandal that results in a fluctuation in the enemy country's exchange rates

Also in 1999, the U.S. House of Representatives published “U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns With The People's Republic of China.” Part of the report is still classified top secret, but the published version concludes:

“The Chinese Communist Party's main aim for the civilian economy is to support the building of modern military weapons and to support the aims of the People's Liberation Army.”

The People's Liberation Army considers the United States its main adversary, so its "aims" include your family and mine.

Don't support the PLA/CCP/PRC/China, Inc. Don't buy Chinese products.

79.

Fingleton Exposes More Lies About Our “Global Competitors”

October 18, 2010

“More nonsense from the *New York Times* on Japan's ‘lost decades’: The *Times* says Japan is ‘disheartened.’ It hasn't looked at Japan's trade figures—or America's”

By Eamonn Fingleton

www.fingleton.net/more-nonsense-from-the-new-york-times-on-japans-lost-decades

A quote worth remembering:

"As close observers have long understood, the Japanese establishment pursues a policy of exaggerating Japan's weaknesses and understating its strengths, the better to stay out of Washington's sights on trade."

80.

A Rare Look Inside The Chinese Mind

October 21, 2010

From a conversation* between Mo Xiusong, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Dr. Clark Bowers, member of a 1994 U.S. delegation to China:

- Clark Bowers: Is the long-term goal of the Communist Party of China still world Communism?
- Mo Xiusong: Yes, of course, that is the reason we exist. However, the road to Communism may take well over a hundred years and the transition doesn't have to be violent.
- Clark Bowers: Is it possible to reach your goal of world Communism while any of the bourgeois or their economic environment still exist?
- Mo Xiusong: No, that would be against the laws of science.
- Clark Bowers: As part of your reform, do you even desire to ever allow for anti-Socialist political parties?
- Mo Xiusong: No, that would be unconstitutional.
- Clark Bowers: Do you have any desire to change this part of the constitution?
- Mo Xiusong: No, the people wouldn't support it.
- Clark Bowers: Who speaks for the people of China?
- Mo Xiusong: The Communist Party of China acts on behalf of the workers of China. We are their mind.
- Mo Xiusong continues: The historical miscalculations of Gorbachev led to an unbridled chaos that tore the social fabric of the USSR apart. We opposed a similar destabilization in Tiananmen Square in 1989, and history has vindicated our leadership by the economic and political stability that has followed.

Dollar to the Giant note: Surprisingly few Americans remember that the Communist Party of China created the People's Liberation Army long before there was a People's Republic of China. The CCP and PLA then—"out of the barrel of a gun," in Mao's words—established the People's Republic of China. Essentially, they are all one and the same. When we buy Chinese-made goods, our money supports the People's Liberation Army. When multinational corporations do business in China, they partner with the Chinese Communist Party.

*Quoted in *Beating the Unbeatable Foe*, by Frederick Schwarz, M.D., pages 408 – 410

81.

From yesterday's Times

October 27, 2010

From yesterday's *New York Times*:

"Taking Harder Stance Toward China, Obama Lines Up Allies"

www.nytimes.com/2010/10/26/world/asia/26china.html

According to the article, China is:

- "A newly assertive power that officials now say has little intention of working with the United States."
- "An increasingly narrow-minded, self-interested, truculent, hyper-nationalist and powerful country."

Made in China. Not such a bargain after all.

82.

2010 Michigan Election and National Security

October 30, 2010

“Chinese Espionage and the Michigan Election”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WzkPPjyhCU

YouTube video exposes candidate Rick Snyder's ties to China, the People's Liberation Army, Huawei, and ZTE

Note that Snyder's fellow Republicans have expressed concern about these security risks.

Even the right-leaning, China-promoting *Wall Street Journal* is worried.

30 October 2010:

“Security Concerns Over China Stretch to ZTE”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304879604575582533473050868.html>

17 October 2010:

“The Huawei Security Threat”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704300604575555121880239064.html>

It doesn't really take a genius to see the threat here. After all, who would buy telecommunications or security hardware from a committed adversary like communist China?

We do. Every day.

83.

Morning After Election Day: Wise Words from Presidents Past

November 3, 2010

“I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”

—Abraham Lincoln

"I hope that we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations, which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

—Thomas Jefferson

"The citizens of the United States must control the mighty commercial forces which they themselves call into being."

—Theodore Roosevelt

"Big business is not dangerous because it is big, but because its bigness is an unwholesome inflation created by privileges and exemptions which it ought not to enjoy."

—Woodrow Wilson

"The first truth is that the liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism—ownership of Government by an individual, by a group, or by any other controlling private power."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

"First steps forgotten. History blind, / We're connected to our roots by a credit line."

—Dollar to the Giant

"What 'globalization' really means is that American-based multinational corporations are free to search the globe for the cheapest means of production. Then they close their American factories and fire their American workers."

—College Girl, Economy, Jobs

Presidential quotes from "When Corporations are the Government" by Ralph Nader:

www.counterpunch.org/2010/11/01/when-corporations-are-the-government

Obama: Offshoring Fears Outdated, Unwarranted (yeah, right)

November 8, 2010

Democrats? Republicans? What difference does it make when both parties are working for the multinationals that finance our politics? Here he goes, not even a week after the elections:

“President Obama: offshoring fears are outdated, unwarranted”

<http://news.idg.no/cw/art.cfm?id=21C7B571-1A64-6A71-CE4BFDCD7B941A18>

Excerpts from the IDG (International Data Group) article:

- "The perception that Indian call centers and back office operations cost U.S. jobs is an old stereotype that ignores today's reality that two-way trade between the U.S. and India is helping create jobs and raise the standard of living in both countries, U.S. President Barack Obama told a gathering of business executives in Mumbai on Saturday."
- "The President said his objective was to create jobs in the U.S., and to rebuild the country's economy, but it would not be at the expense of the creation of jobs in other countries."
- "The message for India's outsourcing industry in [Obama's] speech was very positive."

Note that India's current real GDP growth is 8.8%—led, of course, by manufacturing. In just the first eight months of 2010, we racked up a \$7-billion trade deficit with India.

Once upon a time, the Democratic Party was the party of the working class. Now that the American worker is an endangered and impoverished species, both parties are feeding at the same campaign finance troughs.

The results? In this midst of all this suffering, Wall Street and Goldman Sachs (the Obama campaign's number-one corporate contributor) are looking at another record year for pay and bonuses. India, China, and Germany are experiencing powerful, export-led economic growth.

Yet the real American economy remains on life support, and the prognosis can be discouraging. Official U-6 unemployment is now 17%. Measured to include long-term discouraged workers, overall unemployment is 22%. Among the bottom 20% of earners, unemployment is higher than 30%.

Without a revival of industry in this country, how long will any of us have a job?

Our government's agenda no longer includes The People, no longer includes you and me. Both parties agitate with wedge issues to get votes, but they have no further interest in most Americans. "Free trade" means our lives are decided by corporations—multinational corporations. There is nothing conservative, nothing liberal, nothing free about this.

85.

Veterans Day, Remembering Eleanor and More

November 11, 2010

Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer

Dear Lord,
Lest I continue
My complacent way,
Help me to remember that somewhere,
Somehow out there,
A man died for me today.
As long as there be war,
I then must
Ask and answer
Am I worth dying for?

And when we honor our dead with self-destruction, are we worth dying for?

We fought the Revolutionary War for independence—economic independence to be achieved through manufacturing and consuming our own goods. England understood the power of mercantilism. They manufactured, while their colonies bought English goods. Under English oppression, we were not allowed to manufacture—not even to print our own Bibles.

More than 80,000 American soldiers were killed fighting the Chinese in Korea and Vietnam. Today, our shelves are lined with communist Chinese-made goods. The People's Republic, too, understands the power of mercantilism—and modern manufacturing warfare.

Now that we're again becoming the colony of a powerful foreign manufacturer, every time we read the words "Made in China," we must then ask and answer:

Have our soldiers died in vain?

86.

The Pentagon vs. The Marx Brothers—Trust Your Sense

November 14, 2010

There's a scene in *Duck Soup* where Chico asks, "Who you gonna believe, me or your own eyes?"

Here's the original CBS video of last week's "mystery missile":

www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/11/09/national/main7037857.shtml

The Pentagon, at first pleading incompetence, eventually insisted the missile was not a missile, merely an airplane.

Well, who you gonna believe, the government or your own eyes?

Forced to choose between the Pentagon and the Marx brothers, I'd take the Marx brothers every time. The Pentagon can be hilarious, it's true, but the Marx brothers make me feel safer.

For one example: our national defense relies on equipment, much of it counterfeit and defective, manufactured by our adversaries in the People's Republic of China:

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/08/1117/counterfeitelectronics.html

Now seriously, could the Marx brothers have done anything so stupid?

Funny how former Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Ellsworth had no trouble calling a missile a missile. Neither did retired Air Force General Thomas McInerney ("That is a missile. It's launched from a submarine.") nor Doug Richardson, editor of the UK's *Jane's Missiles and Rockets* ("It's a solid propellant missile. You can tell from the efflux.")

Notice, too, that the missile was launched, then China downgraded our credit, on the eve of the G20 economic summit. The Chinese rating agency Dagong declared U.S. solvency to be "on the brink of collapse."

I won't claim to know where this missile or its money trail came from, or where they landed. I just didn't want anyone to get away with sweeping such an important event under the ever-shrinking rug. Somebody could trip.

87.

Hot off the press: 2010 China security report

November 17, 2010

This morning, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission issued its 2010 Report to Congress. You can download the bad news here:

www.uscc.gov/annual_report/2010/annual_report_full_10.pdf

Recommendations to Congress can be found on page 271, or at this link:

www.uscc.gov/annual_report/2010/ComprehensiveListoftheCommissionsRecommendations%28page%20271%29.pdf

Yes, there's a lot about Chinese missiles in the report.

(Yes, I'm still concerned about last week's launch near Los Angeles. Why isn't everybody?)

This is just amazing, how we continue to be—if you'll allow me the luxury of quoting my own song—“led to every trap the giant made.”

Unemployment continues to worsen, our real economy is circling the drain, yet we persist in our self-destruction, spending our money on Chinese products that carry artificially low price tags largely because they are subsidized by the communist Chinese government, which then uses our \$ trillions to build its military, which considers the U.S. its main enemy.

I'm suddenly speechless, so I'll close with two more quotes from "Dollar to the Giant":

"And all we received for bargains we believed was paid for with our children's blood."

"Too numb to know it didn't have to be this way."

Please think about buying an American-made MP3 of "Dollar to the Giant" from Amazon or iTunes. It might make a useful Christmas gift.

Thank you.

88.

China's New Drones Raise Eyebrows at Air Show

November 18, 2010

From today's *Wall Street Journal*:

“China’s New Drones Raise Eyebrows”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703374304575622350604500556.html>

"Western defense officials and experts were surprised to see more than 25 different Chinese models of the unmanned aircraft, known as UAVs, on display at this week's Zhuhai air show."

Article highlights:

- A video and a two-dimensional montage showed a jet-powered model attacking what appeared to be a U.S. aircraft carrier.
- The jet-powered drone could fly faster than U.S. propeller-powered models.
- China unveiled its first concept UAV only four years ago.
- This is a stark sign of China's ambition to upgrade its massive military as its global political and economic clout grows.
- China is actively promoting its products on the international market.

"Dollar to the Giant" has been warning us for years now.

Remember: money we spend on products "Made in China" goes to support the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

89.

Stimulus Spending: Who Are We Doing This For?

November 22, 2010

This was just too predictable:

“Bernanke’s ‘Cheap Money’ Stimulus Spurs Corporate Investment Outside the U.S.”

www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/bernanke-s-cheap-money-stimulus-spurs-corporate-investment-outside-u-s-.html

“I have begun to wonder if the monetary accommodation we have already engineered might even be working in the wrong places.”—Richard Fisher, president, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Gee, ya think?

Funny thing about U.S. stimulus spending: every new round stimulates the dickens out of some foreigner, but not you and me. Stimulus spending works—IF you have an industrial/manufacturing base to stimulate. We used to, and in America's American days the economy was easier to steer with monetary policy. In this "enlightened" era of globalization, our government puts stimulus money in the hands of American consumers, who then spend it on foreign-made products. This is good for the producing nations, but not so good for us. Now that we're flooding our banks with QE2 liquidity, the multinational borrowers will (again)

use the money, well, multinationally. Offshoring profits are high, and the manufacturing economies of China, India, and Germany—giddy recipients of American-taxpayer-abusive stimulus—are positively red hot when compared with ours.

According to the linked article, "all the Fed can do is create liquidity . . . [not control] how that liquidity is used." Nonsense. The people we've entrusted with our government are not nearly as stupid as they are dishonest. At the very least, they're shills for the multinationals who finance our politics. We can no longer afford them, and they must be stopped. "Globalization" must be stopped as well. We need to rebuild and defend (dare I utter the word "protect"?) our industrial base if we expect to ever regain control of our own economy, our country, our very lives.

Back to QE2. Have you noticed China making such an awful fuss as our Administration appears to be taking action? Don't fall for the theatrics. If China's currency is pegged to ours, any devaluation of ours devalues theirs. Worse than this possible collusion between the U.S. and China would be the inevitably greater benefit to China's economy. They, not we, are the big-time exporters with the red-hot economy. Once again, American monetary policy would benefit the People's Republic of China far more than it would benefit Americans unfortunate enough to inhabit the bottom 99% of our society.

I wonder if somewhere in Washington or Beijing, our guys and their guys haven't kicked around a plan to divide Planet Earth into two spheres of influence. Communist China, of course, would secretly consider more than one sphere to be "against the laws of science," but they'd go along with the gag for now. The U.S.—absent any courage, creativity, leadership, or wisdom—might well defer to Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who warned that an American alliance with China would be "a doomed alliance with Evil":

"It would grant the United States a respite, but when at a later date China with its billion people would turn around armed with American weapons, American itself would fall prey to a genocide similar to the one perpetrated on Cambodia in our days."

www.columbia.edu/cu/augustine/arch/solzhenitsyn/harvard1978.html

Forewarned is forearmed. We must recognize the strength of our enemy.

Then be grateful for the strength of our people.

Happy Thanksgiving.

90.

Fun and Useful Facebook Page for American-Made Goods

November 23, 2010

I check this Facebook page every day. Entertaining, encouraging, informative!

“I will buy an American made product this week and post here!”

www.facebook.com/pages/I-will-buy-an-American-made-product-this-week-and-post-here/383625538464

More than 8,600 "Likes" and growing. Tell your friends!

More useful links:

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”: Honest and effective, it's still the best "economic stimulus program" we've seen.

“Dollar to the Giant”: China (or its little noisemaker, North Korea) got you worried? It's about time! A SoundClick #1 song, "Dollar to the Giant" has been warning us for years.

91.

From today's Chinese press: “China, Russia quit dollar”

November 24, 2010

From today's Chinese press:

“China, Russia quit Dollar”

www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2010-11/24/content_11599087.htm

We've abused the dollar's reserve currency status. We've abused the privilege, the sacrifice and foresight of previous generations. Trade deficits, nothing but trade deficits for more than three decades. Deeper and deeper. We never could have gotten away with this if the dollar hadn't been the world's reserve currency.

And now we will pay.

Is anyone still unclear about the importance of manufacturing?

“Free trade” means our lives are decided by corporations—multinational corporations. There is nothing conservative, nothing liberal, nothing free about this.

92.

China: Environmental Destruction Will Increase

December 1, 2010

From today's *Global Times*—official publication of the People's Republic of China/Chinese Communist Party/People's Liberation Army. (As you know, they're one and the same.)

“China can't afford to give up development for low-carbon”

www.globaltimes.cn/opinion/commentary/2010-12/597903.html

In other words: China—playing by China's rules, as usual—intends to poison our planet more, not less. According to the official editorial, "China's greenhouse gas emissions probably will not peak until 2035."

Gee, I wonder what the PRC/CCP/PLA map of "China 2035" looks like.

Anyone who buys Chinese-made goods is part of the problem.

An estimated 25% of the air pollution in the western U.S. blows across the Pacific Ocean from China.

Chinese factories generate 5x - 10x the pollution of their American counterparts.

The cleanest/greenest thing we can do for our planet is shut down Chinese manufacturing and build everything here.

In other words: the cleanest/greenest thing individual citizens can do is refuse to buy anything made in China.

"Buy American" is the only stimulus program we need, the only one that could really work.

Not buying American is what got us into trouble in the first place. Our economy was not supported by productivity. It still isn't.

With insincere apologies to Confucius: "The way out is through the door. Why is it that no one will use this method?"

My Links:

If everyone in Washington heard, really heard "Dollar to the Giant" when it was released in June 2008, we'd have saved trillions of dollars and millions of jobs.

The song is even more important today. It continues to prove itself (almost) prophetic. And now there's even more at stake.

While you're on YouTube, you might take a look at "College Girl, Economy, Jobs."

Viewers love the Lincoln quote:

"If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an *American* for twenty-five dollars, then America has *the rails and the money both*."

The truth is usually pretty simple.

Now if I could just figure out how a relatively poor and homely guy like Abraham Lincoln could have become President of the United States. . . .

93.

U.S. Unemployment Climbs to 22.6% as Americans Support Foreign Economies

December 3, 2010

My subject line,

"U.S. Unemployment Climbs to 22.6% as Americans Support Foreign Economies"

sounds like a joke, doesn't it?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released its monthly jobs report today. Officially (that is, according to current official U.S. Government standards for horse manure) unemployment has risen from 9.6% to 9.8%—all the while we're being told our economy is recovering.

Horrific. But get this:

When calculated to include the long-term unemployed and discouraged, our unemployment rate is now 22.6%. (This is not a misprint.)

www.shadowstats.com/article/no-337-november-employment-and-unemployment

Another disturbing bit of information: of 39,000 jobs gained, 39,500 were temporary. (This is not a misprint, either.)

Meanwhile, the trade deficit with our "friends" in the Chinese Communist Party/People's Liberation Army/People's Republic of China continues to bleed our country of \$ billions every day.

Dear readers, we cannot wait for our government to “do something about it.” The new “free” trade agreement with South Korea—the biggest since NAFTA—is but the latest example of what our multinational-financed politicians will do when they “do something about it.” They look at us as sheep, and sheep we might be.

Is it reasonable to wait for the government to make it more difficult for us to make self-destructive decisions?

Whenever we buy something, we are, wittingly or unwittingly, choosing to support our own economy—or some foreign economy.

The U.S. unemployment rate is now approaching that of The Great Depression. Meanwhile, the People's Republic of China has \$2.65 trillions in currency reserves, a GDP growth of almost 10%—

—and the United States of America in its sights.

We have no choice but to grow up and choose more wisely.

Twenty-two-point-six percent.

If we want American jobs, we must manufacture, sell, and buy American goods. There is no other way.

It's in our hands. It's in our power. Yours and mine. The buck starts here.

“Let us disappoint the men who would raise themselves upon the ruin of our country.”—John Adams

94.

Even The Wall Street Journal is Wising Up (a Little)

December 7, 2010

Mostly, I can't stand *The Wall Street Journal*—not because they interviewed me at length about “Dollar to the Giant” and then killed the story, but because they have campaigned so shamelessly to destroy the wealth- and jobs-creating real economy of our United States. In short-sighted, nearly blind pursuit of multinational profits and executive bonuses, the *WSJ* never met an offshore manufacturer, cheap labor market, or “free”-trade agreement it didn't like—or lie about.

Considering the actual results of these pursuits, we shouldn't be surprised to learn that rank-and-file Republicans are defecting *en masse* from the Party's “free-trade” line. (See the Pew Research survey here: www.people-press.org/2010/11/09/public-support-for-increased-trade-except-with-south-korea-and-china)

But tones might be changing as the lame-brained self-destruction in the *Journal's* agenda is becoming more

generally obvious, and the *Journal* finally realizes it can't stay in business if nobody will—or, jobless, can afford to—buy its product.

With that introduction, I'll pass along some interesting current articles from a slightly wiser *Wall Street Journal*:

“China Joins the Axis of Evil”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704156304576003124111945808.html>

- Beginning in 1982, China decided to actively support nuclear proliferation in the Third World, specifically the Muslim and Marxist worlds.
- In 1997, the CIA testified that China was the most significant supplier of WMD-related technology to foreign countries.
- China signs, then ignores, every nonproliferation agreement.
- China behaves as a revolutionary power, supporting activities and regimes that represent the most acute threat to global security.

“China Clones, Sells Russian Fighter Jets”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704679204575646472655698844.html>

- General Electric (GE), partner of communist China's state aerospace company, says it has "elaborate protections" in place to protect the company intellectual property.

“Ex-USTR Not So Diplomatic About China”

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2010/12/04/ex-ustr-schwab-not-so-diplomatic-about-china>

- The Chinese have no respect for anybody's intellectual property.
- Susan Schwab, U.S. Trade Representative under George W. Bush, is finally free to say what she thinks about our trade with China.
- Foreigners are discriminated against.
- The government of China itself is one of the principal perpetrators of the theft of intellectual property. For example, state-owned enterprises almost universally use pirated software.
- The same corporations that U.S. officials counted on to oppose protectionist legislation are now having "severe doubts" about the government of China, subsidies, and forced technology transfer.

95.

Germany's Inspiring Economy: Don't Say It Can't Be Done

December 13, 2010

Germany: powerful unions, high wages, long vacations, deficient education—yet the strongest growth and lowest unemployment in two decades.

How?

They make things. This is how a country makes a living: it makes things.

All the brilliance in Washington can't escape one simple truth: a standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity.

(Makes the 2008 meltdown easier to understand, doesn't it? We should have been *adding* factories, not sending them overseas.)

Tens of millions of Americans—lucky, still collecting a paycheck—sit in front of computer screens, “working,” but not actually making anything.

Where is the money coming from? How long can we get away with this?

Could our country have been built this way—or by any service?

Financial? Legal? Dry cleaning? Dog grooming?

How long before we can no longer draw on the credit of our industrial past?

Too many experts—strangely, smugly devoid of any survival instinct, much less work ethic—are telling us to accept our fate.

Let them take their own advice.

“Germans Get Jobs for Life as Export Boom Shrinks Worker Pool”

www.businessweek.com/news/2010-12-09/germans-get-jobs-for-life-as-export-boom-shrinks-worker-pool.html

“Germany: The Big Engine That Could”

www.fingleton.net/germany-the-big-engine-that-could-2

96.

Lawmakers seek cash during key votes

December 26, 2010

From yesterday's *Washington Post*, another reason why American citizens must seize (yes, *seize*) control of our own economy before it's too late. The deep multinational pockets, and the politicians they buy, can't destroy us without our cooperation. We can cut their cash flow and direct our dollars back into the U.S. economy by purchasing American products from American producers. Then, remember the College Girl: "Corporations manufacturing in foreign countries? Don't buy their stock. Why invest in them when they don't invest in you?"

"Lawmakers seek cash during key votes"

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/25/AR2010122502236.html

- "For three weeks in June, for instance, the members of a joint House and Senate committee worked to draft final rules for regulating the financial industry in the wake of its 2008 meltdown. During that time, the 35 members of the drafting committee collected \$440,000 in donations from that same industry, which was then lobbying heavily for looser rules."

In case you missed this one:

"Republican Minority Leader John Boehner explains why he handed out bribes on the House floor"

- YouTube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAC2xeT2yOg

And just when you thought it was safe to celebrate Larry Summers's departure:

"Gene Sperling, Leading NEC Director Candidate, Made Millions on Wall Street as Economy Tanked"

www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/12/22/sperling-nec_n_800167.html

- "Goldman Sachs paid Sperling \$887,727 for his advice in 2008."

Finally:

"Geithner Aides Reaped Millions Working for Banks, Hedge Funds"

www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=abo3Zo0ifzJg

- "Speaking to financial executives last month, Obama said: 'We will not go back to the days of reckless behavior and unchecked excess that was at the heart of this crisis, where too many were motivated only by the appetite for quick kills and bloated bonuses.'"

Ugh.

Requiem for a Patriot

January 5, 2011

“Requiem for a Patriot”

www.theamericanconservative.com/blog/2011/01/03/requiem-for-a-patriot

“Roger Milliken exemplified the finest in American free enterprise. He cared about his workers. He cared about his industry. He cared about his community. He cared about his country.”—Pat Buchanan

98.

Sacrificing the Country for Re-Election—interesting perspective from a retired Senator

January 12, 2011

“Same act, same scene”

By Former U.S.Senator Ernest F. “Fritz” Hollings

www.citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com/commentary/11.0107.sameact.htm

"Let us disappoint the men who would raise themselves upon the ruin of our country."—John Adams

99.

What Recovery?

January 17, 2011

Yikes. All this nonsense about how Obama is now "pro-business" when he's really *pro-campaign-donor*. Can we at least include the word "multinational," as in "pro-*MULTINATIONAL*-business"? This is not good for the American economy. Government propaganda says 9.4%, but the real unemployment rate, if calculated to include the long-term unemployed and discouraged, is now 22.4%.

www.shadowstats.com/article/no-344-december-employment-and-unemployment

Think about this when you hear about Wall Street profits. No wealth is created by this gambling, so it doesn't contribute to our economic recovery. Further, as with any casino, the house always wins, and the winners' money comes from the losers. This is the real redistribution to be feared: the gutting of the middle class, with the transfer of our assets and power to the top 1%.

Anyway, some interesting reads:

“China Announces \$1.5 Trillion Development Plan for Seven Strategic Industries”

www.martindale.com/government-law/article_King-Spalding-LLP_1220082.htm

The Chinese Communist Party and People's Liberation Army have big plans. Where is OUR development plan? If America were run by Americans, we might have one.

The Atlantic's current feature,

“The Rise of the New Global Elite”

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/01/the-rise-of-the-new-global-elite/8343

caught my eye, maybe because *The Atlantic's* readership comprises so many elites and wannabes. As expected, the article was a little soft on them, but a few observations made it worthwhile:

- The wealthy are now less connected to the nations that granted them opportunity, and the countrymen they are leaving behind.
- The top 25 hedge-fund managers were paid, on average, more than \$1 billion each in 2009, quickly eclipsing the record they had set in pre-recession 2007.
- From a hedge fund executive: If the global economy creates 4 middle class Chinese or Indians for every American it destroys, that's not such a bad trade.
- From an insurance executive: This is a problem for American people, but not for American business, which will adapt.
- American business elites appear removed from American workers and the economy because the global "nation" in which they live and work is doing fine—indeed, it's thriving.
- G.K. Chesterton: "The poor man really has a stake in the country. The rich man hasn't; he can go away to New Guinea in a yacht."
- Paul Volcker: "I wish someone would give me one shred of neutral evidence that financial innovation has led to economic growth—one shred of evidence."
- The real threat facing the super elite is that the American middle class will decide the global economy isn't working for them.

Indeed.

Something else that isn't working: have you noticed that everyone responsible for the financial meltdown has either escaped prosecution or, more likely, has been rewarded? Bernie Madoff, in all probability, was sent to jail because he cheated the wealthy. If he'd stuck to robbing the middle class, he might have gotten away Scot free.

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs” now has almost 12,000 YouTube views. Please continue passing it along:

“Dollar to the Giant” remains prophetic and, IMHO, the most important song of our time. You decide:

100.

China’s Visit—A Call To Action

January 18, 2011

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, "American" multinationals (the same companies that finance our politicians) had invested over \$65 billion in China by the end of 2010.

Millions of American jobs lost. Unprecedented damage to the real American economy.

General Electric (whose CEO proudly declares we've been wrong to send American manufacturing offshore) plans to invest \$ billions more in China, as do so many other "American" multinationals.

China's President is in Washington at this very moment, telling the U.S. President how things are going to be from now on.

Washington begs the multinationals for campaign money at the same time it begs China not to finally destroy us.

Here's what we can do about it:

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”

And why we must:

“Dollar to the Giant”

Please forward this e-mail as if the lives of our children depended on it.

101.

This article from The Washington Post is more important than the Super Bowl or Dancing with the Stars

January 19, 2011

“Chinese follow same old script (and they get the punch line)”

By Steven Pearlstein, *Washington Post* Staff Writer

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/18/AR2011011806900.html

102.

In the Wake of Hu’s Victory Tour

January 21, 2011

Chinese President Hu is flying back to China today. May he never return.

I hope and pray future historians don't look back on Hu's visit as a victory tour, where China celebrated the transfer of power while allowing American "leaders" to temporarily save face. ("Saving face" is an important concept in Chinese culture.)

I'm afraid we're in trouble, though, even deeper than anticipated.

Today, the Industrial & Commercial Bank of China became the first communist Chinese government-owned bank to acquire a U.S. deposit-taking institution. According to *The Wall Street Journal*: "The deal, signed on the last day of Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to the U.S., represents what could be the start of big expansions by Chinese financial institutions into the world's largest economy."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704754304576096002767228880.html>

No more middlemen like Wal-Mart. Now we can deposit our remaining power directly into the giant's bank.

Also today, Jeff Immelt—CEO of General Electric, which owns Administration-friendly NBC, CNBC, and MSNBC—was named chairman of Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness:

“Volcker Out, Immelt In on Economic Board”

www.nytimes.com/2011/01/21/business/economy/21volcker.html

Let's hope there's some twisted logic at work here, as in "It takes a crook to catch a crook." Maybe it takes a hypocritical offshoring traitor to help his fellow scoundrels see the light.

But who knows? Immelt might become the first fox in history to lose the taste for chicken.

Scott Paul posted a good column on this Immelt insanity here:

www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-paul/should-ge-jeffrey-immelt_b_812132.html

You might also appreciate:

“How GE Is Arming China to Compete With Boeing—and America”

www.dailyfinance.com/2011/01/18/is-ge-arming-china-to-compete-with-america

Near as anyone can tell, motivated by greed and short-term glory, GE will be supplying the communist Chinese military with technology that will help them kill us more efficiently.

President Obama says he believes in China, that communist China's power is good for us. President Hu promises peace, improved human rights, and fair treatment of U.S. companies doing business in China.

During the Nazi build-up of the 1930s, David Lloyd George and Neville Chamberlain thought Adolf Hitler was a trustworthy guy who posed no threat to his neighbors.

The fundamental requirement of a statesman is the ability to recognize the difference between a friend and an enemy.

This should be the fundamental requirement of a citizen, as well.

103.

GE Has Shed U.S. Jobs Since “Jobs Czar” Immelt Took Helm

January 22, 2011

“GE Has Shed U.S. Jobs Since ‘Jobs Czar’ Immelt Took Helm”

<http://blogs.barrons.com/stockstowatchtoday/2011/01/21/ge-has-shed-us-jobs-since-jobs-czar-immelt-took-helm>

We need to stop this guy—and his kind.

The New York-Washington multinational-financed media axis is now promoting President Obama as "pro-business." Pro-MULTINATIONAL business would be more accurate. Pro-CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTOR/Pro-RE-ELECTION really cuts through the crap.

Losing more jobs, wealth, and security to the communist People's Republic of China is the last thing we need.

Give your elected officials an earful:

<http://senate.gov>

<http://www.house.gov>

These skunks will do anything to stay in power. When they think their own jobs are in jeopardy, they'll even listen to their constituents.

"Let us disappoint the men who would raise themselves upon the ruin of our country."—John Adams

And let's not forget Edmund Burke:

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

104.

“Foreign Light Bulb Fiasco”—from MadeInUSAForever.com

January 26, 2011

“Foreign Light Bulb Fiasco” [One Man's Experience]

<http://madeinusaforever.com/tomainusane.html>

By Todd Lipscomb in his newsletter of 1/25/11. Mr. Lipscomb is founder of MadeInUSAForever.com and author of *Re-Made in the USA: How We Can Restore Jobs, Retool Manufacturing, and Compete with the*

World.

Dollar to the Giant notes:

GE lobbied in favor of the law that closed their last American light bulb factory in September 2010. GE will enjoy higher multinational corporate profits making compact fluorescent bulbs in China, while our legislators will continue to promote themselves as environmentally "green."

Of course, this also means fewer jobs for American workers, fewer choices for American consumers, and further degradation of American life.

Note that Americans are not the only victims of this corporate/Congressional scam. Hundreds of workers in Chinese compact fluorescent factories have already contracted mercury poisoning.*

Best follow the British government's advice: if you break a compact fluorescent bulb, get out of the room.

While you're waiting for the poison to clear, you might think about the true cost of Chinese (People's Republic of China/Chinese Communist Party/People's Liberation Army) products.

And the true insanity of putting GE's Jeffrey Immelt in charge of Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness.

*Reported 5/3/09 by Michael Sheridan in *The Sunday Times* “‘Green’ lightbulbs poison workers” and subsequently removed. See:

www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org/sites/default/files/file/fluorescent_ligth_44/44C_2009_Fluorescent_Light_Bulbs_Mercury_Poisoning_May_3_2009_Health_Hazards_So_Called_Green_Lightbulb_Poisons_Workers.pdf

105.

Encouraging news: “Americans increasingly view global economy as a negative”

January 28, 2011

Some encouraging news from today's *Washington Post*:

“Americans increasingly view global economy as a negative”

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/28/AR2011012801651.html

- A majority now see being the world's No. 1 economic power as an important national goal.
- The statistics mark a staggering broad-based turnabout over the past decade.
- In another survey conducted this month, 61 percent saw China as a threat. Only half as many saw China as an opportunity.

We've made a difference, you and I, however large or small. Let us continue to reach our fellow citizens.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."—Margaret Mead

106.

Headlines to Ponder

February 3, 2011

“IMF raises spectre of civil wars as global inequalities worsen”

www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/globalbusiness/8296987/IMF-raises-spectre-of-civil-wars-as-global-inequalities-worsen.html

“Wall Street Pay Reaches Record \$135 Billion”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704124504576118421859347048.html>

107.

Chinese Piano Player Performs Anti-American Propaganda for President of America

February 5, 2011

We rolled out the red carpet, hosted a state dinner, and toasted the continuing success of our friends in communist China. . . .

“Chinese Pianist Plays Propaganda Tune at White House: U.S. humiliated in eyes of Chinese by song used to inspire anti-Americanism”

www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/49822

- The song is a leading piece of anti-American propaganda.
- "In the eyes of all Chinese, this will be not be seen as anything other than a big insult to the U.S.," says Yang Jingduan, a Chinese psychiatrist now living in Philadelphia who had in China been a doctor in the Chinese military. "It's like insulting you in your face and you don't know it. It's humiliating."
- Yang adds: "This deeply anti-American chauvinism has been fanned by the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] for years. Lang Lang is expressing the feelings of this generation of angry young people."
- Wei Jingsheng, noted democracy activist, underscores how U.S. administrations have failed to understand the CCP: "These dictators . . . will not want the same values and civilization as the democratic West. They have no hesitation to use subterfuge and insult to the best of their advantage against the people at home, as well as against their hosts abroad, even in the White House."

From *Los Angeles Times*:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jan/26/world/la-fg-china-pianist-20110126>

- "When we heard they played this song at the White House, we burst out laughing. We just couldn't believe it," said Wu Renchu, a Shanghai film critic.

Follow-up from *The Epoch Times*:

www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/50184

- "The great powers' fight will use both piano and steel. Neither can be neglected."—Quoted from a *People's Daily* blog.

Neither piano nor steel can be neglected.

Wise words.

Someone should sing "Dollar to the Giant" for President Hu.

108.

Trade Deficit Widens By 33%; Real Unemployment At Least 22.2%

February 11, 2011

When our President talks about "doubling exports," he's being ignorant or dishonest. What matters is the net figure. If we double exports but triple imports, we're still going backwards—same as if we double our income but triple our expenses.

From today's BBC, what happens when American consumers buy too many foreign products. This is the battlefield where our children's future will be won or lost:

“U.S. trade deficit widened by 33% in 2010”

www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-12431066

- The U.S. trade deficit ballooned in 2010 by the largest amount seen in a decade.
- Imports from China hit record levels.
- The deficit with China was the largest imbalance the U.S. has ever recorded with one country.

The current unemployment rate, measured to include the long-term discouraged, is at least 22.2%:

www.shadowstats.com/article/no-348-labor-conditions-and-revisions

Washington will admit a 16.1% U-6 rate, which means 8.4 job seekers for every opening.

But, hey, Wall Street and Corporate America are "making money," so the worst is behind us—

Right?

109.

From Today's CounterPunch: A Good Essay

February 11, 2011

“Time to Topple Corporate Dictators”

By Ralph Nader

www.counterpunch.org/2011/02/21/time-to-topple-corporate-dictators

Dollar to the Giant notes:

American consumer spending is 70% of the U.S. economy. It is therefore the largest single economic force in the known universe.

(Little wonder the rest of the world is trying to steal it from us.)

Ralph Nader has written a good essay, but I must add that "if 'we the people' want to reassert our proper constitutional sovereignty over our country—we can start by" reasserting common sense over our shopping habits.

We can continue to lose jobs, security, independence, and \$ billions every day through the purchase of foreign goods.

Or we can buy American-made goods.

Mr. Nader concludes:

". . . all things are possible when people begin looking at themselves for the necessary power to produce a just society."

I couldn't agree more.

110.

“One More Jobs Mirage”

March 8, 2011

Worth reading:

“One More Jobs Mirage”

www.counterpunch.org/roberts03072011.html

by Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

- The government claims 192,000 new jobs were created in February. This was overstated by approximately 230,000 jobs. In other words, approximately 38,000 jobs were actually lost in February.

111.

Roberts on a Roll

March 10, 2011

“The Greatest Rip-Off: Stealing from Social Security to Pay for Wars and Bailouts”

www.counterpunch.org/roberts03102011.html

By Paul Craig Roberts, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under Ronald Reagan

- According to the official 2010 Social Security reports, between 1984 and 2009 the American people contributed \$2 trillion, that is \$2,000 billion, more to Social Security and Medicare in payroll taxes than was paid out in benefits.

What happened to this surplus money?

112.

Where are we heading?

March 22, 2011

"If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading."—Lao Tze

“Fired Workers Burn Indian Executive to Death”

www.cbsnews.com/2100-202_162-20039293.html

How long before Americans lose their . . . "patience"?

How long before Americans realize we lose more as workers than we gain as consumers, every time we buy cheaper foreign-made products?

Where are we heading?

Best case: "College Girl, Economy, Jobs"

Worst case: "Dollar to the Giant"

113.

Meet the Economists Challenging Globalism

March 24, 2011

Clear thinking. Effortless writing. Another jewel from Eamonn Fingleton.

Please forward to the "influential" people on your list.

“Beyond Free Trade: Meet the heterodox economists challenging globalism”

www.amconmag.com/blog/beyond-free-trade

The article is so refreshing and informative, so readable, I won't try to summarize with my usual bullet points. Still, I can't resist trying to entice you with *something*. From the final paragraph:

- Why do Anglophone economists win so many Nobel Prizes and their peers in such robust surplus nations as Japan, China, Korea, and Germany so few? And, conversely, why are Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and German exporters so much more effective than their American and British counterparts in world markets?
- It is a fair bet that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in American economics textbooks.

Enjoy.

114.

Libya lunacy prevails on Capitol Hill

March 24, 2011

Zack Hubbard has written extensively and convincingly about U.S. relations with China. In this simple, well-reasoned article published yesterday, he answers some basic questions many of us currently have about Libya.

While seemingly a departure from my normal topic, U.S. involvement in Libya so affects our economy I'd feel irresponsible if I didn't pass this along:

“Libya lunacy prevails on Capitol Hill”

<http://tribune-democrat.com/zacharyhubbard/x977557945/Libya-lunacy-prevails-on-Capitol-Hill>

115.

Immelt's GE Makes \$ Billions in 2010, Pays \$ Zero in Taxes

March 25, 2011

This article from yesterday's *New York Times* might make your blood boil, and the dirty politics should. Keep in mind, however, that corporations do not pay taxes; they merely *collect* taxes. Corporations pass the "corporate income tax" along to you and me in the form of higher prices. So while it's easy to hate the corporations, it's more constructive to hate the politicians who take corporate money, then lie to the voters.

Our elected officials have long regarded American business as a cash dispenser, and have long provoked American business to take its jobs and money elsewhere. Since 2002, General Electric has eliminated 20% of its American workforce, while its accumulated offshore profits have grown from 15 to 92 billion dollars.

We need that money. We need policies that encourage corporations and individuals to keep their money in the United States.

“G.E.’s Strategies Let It Avoid Taxes Altogether”

116.

Jobs, Wealth, Factories, Leadership, Dollars, Yuan

March 26, 2011

The International Monetary Fund has just called the Chinese yuan "substantially undervalued":

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110325-709737.html> [subsequently removed from *WSJ*]

So why doesn't Washington do something about this—and with IMF support? Because the multinational corporations that buy our politicians are profiting from an undervalued yuan. The manipulated exchange rate—a rigged game that our children, of course, wind up paying for—allows multinationals to pay less for Chinese manufacture and make more money selling Chinese products to ignorant American consumers. True, an undervalued yuan can mean temporarily lower prices for the American consumer, but what the American consumer gains at Wal-Mart, he more than loses in his overall financial—and other—security. Ignorant, wouldn't you say?

Since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, the U.S. has lost 50,000 manufacturing jobs per month:

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/how-can-america-create-wealth-if-our-industrial-base-is-destroyed-50000-manufacturing-jobs-have-been-lost-every-month-since-2001>

China "undervalues" the yuan largely by "overvaluing" the dollar through U.S. treasury purchases. Think about this next time you hear someone say China "helps" us by lending us money.

The American consumer is arguably the largest single economic force in the known Universe. China—and the rest of our global competitors, along with their multinational corporate accomplices—will do anything and everything to take it from us.

Note that an overvalued dollar cripples American exports everywhere in the world, not just in China. In fact, since 2001, more than 42,000 American factories have closed.

Clever, our friends in China.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, the people we call "leaders" are refusing to lead:

www.citizensforacompetitiveamerica.com/commentary/11.0322.goingbroke.htm

What are they—we—waiting for?

Essential:

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”—A great primer. Upbeat and optimistic.

“Dollar to the Giant”—More “challenging.”

“Dollar to the Giant” is painful, but in a good way. If enough people heard this song, our future would be secure. Feel free to purchase, rate, and review.

117.

Americans Officially 45% Poorer. And Now For The Bad News. . . .

March 29, 2011

The Federal Reserve has issued a report detailing how Americans became 45% poorer after the 2008 meltdown:

“Surveying the Aftermath of the Storm”

www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/feds/2011/201117/201117pap.pdf

Wealthy Americans are recovering nicely, thanks to Wall Street gambling, foreign investments, and U.S.-taxpayer-funded bailouts. Regular folks depending on their paychecks and houses will continue to suffer until we rebuild our real—that is, productive—economy.

The best way to grow our productive—that is, manufacturing—economy is to buy its products. Put a pencil to it: 309 million Americans each spending how much on U.S.- vs. foreign-made products? We have the power, and we can turn this economy around any time we decide we've suffered enough.

Paul Craig Roberts has written a terrific new essay:

“Obama Raises American Hypocrisy to Higher Level”

www.counterpunch.org/roberts03292011.html

I will remind the reader our President is a Nobel laureate—the Peace Prize, if memory serves.

Oh, what we could be doing with the money (and lives) we're wasting. . . .

Please join me in wishing our College Girl a Happy Birthday. Thanks again for a job well done, CG. Almost 14,000 views so far!

"Dollar to the Giant" is available on Amazon and iTunes. Please download, rate, review, spread the word, and keep your ears open for a good band to record it and save the world.

118.

Foreign Companies Grabbing U.S. Oil and Gas Reserves

April 11, 2011

From yesterday's *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*:

“Marcellus shale gas may head overseas”

www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s_731595.html

- Foreign companies are now buying significant shares of U.S. drilling projects.
- As recently as 2005, Congress considered such activity a threat to national security.
- In just the last 6 months, CNOOC of China has purchased oil fields in Texas, Wyoming, and Colorado—\$3.5 billion worth.
- U.S.-based Chesapeake Energy, the largest Marcellus leaseholder, recently sold \$600 million in preferred stock to investors in Asia.

So much for energy independence and prosperity. There is nothing conservative, nothing liberal about any of this. Our politicians are selling us out for multinational campaign contributions.

119.

Benefits of Globalization: Child Abuse

April 14, 2011

“Abusive Head Trauma in Infants Doubled During Recession”

Financial stress may trigger violent behavior toward babies, researchers say.

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/04/13/abusive-head-trauma-in-infants-doubled-during-recession-study>

“Products of Slavery”

"Investigations show that 122 types of products are made using forced or child labour in 58 different countries. This is modern day slavery and it is linked to the products you buy."

www.ProductsOfSlavery.org

“Defeat the South Korea FTA”

"CPA makes it easy for you to take action. Click here to write to your Congressmen and Senators."

www.tradereform.org/2011/04/cpa-action-request-defeat-the-south-korea-fta

120.

Your Tax Dollars At Work—Recent Revelations

April 18, 2011

Thanks to Bloomberg and the Supreme Court, the Fed has been ordered to release 29,000 pages of information they've tried to keep secret.

It's always interesting to see what the free-trading/globalizing/robbing-the-middle-class crowd is up to.

At the very least, you'd think it would dawn on these guys that if we had a productive manufacturing economy, they wouldn't have to monkey so much with the money supply. ;-)

“The Real Housewives of Wall Street”

Why is the Federal Reserve forking over \$220 million in bailout money to the wives of two Morgan Stanley bigwigs?

www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-real-housewives-of-wall-street-look-whos-cashing-in-on-the-bailout-20110411

- Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars were handed out to investors with addresses in the Cayman Islands.
- \$2.2 billion went to the Korea Development Bank.
- The Fed made massive purchases of securities in BMW, Volkswagen, Honda, Mitsubishi, and Nissan, and extended \$5 billion in credit to Toyota and Mitsubishi.

“Foreign Banks Tapped Fed's Secret Lifeline Most at Crisis Peak”

www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-01/foreign-banks-tapped-fed-s-lifeline-most-as-bernanke-kept-borrowers-secret.html

- Foreign banks borrowed more than 70% of the money loaned during the record week in October 2008.
- Bank of China was the second-largest borrower during a nine-day period in August 2007, when subprime mortgage defaults first roiled broader markets.
- Arab Banking Corporation, then 29% owned by Gaddafi's Libyan central bank, got 73 loans [totaling \$35 billion] from the Fed during the 18 months after the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

A somewhat-related, almost-conspiracy theory worth thinking about:

“Libya: All About Oil, or All About Banking?”

<http://truthout.org/libya-all-about-oil-or-all-about-banking/1302678000>

- Several writers have noticed the odd fact that the Libyan rebels took time out from their rebellion in March to create their own central bank—this before they even had a government.

Simple common sense:

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”

“Dollar to the Giant”

121.

Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

June 13, 2011

“Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement”

can be viewed on Vimeo:

Free citizens can—at least for now—use the Internet to support any candidate we choose. Let's not waste this opportunity. So much depends on communication. So much depends on you and me.

Our speech is arranged in "chapters":

- Opening Statement, Economy, Jobs
- What I've Done, What You Can Do
- Energy
- Personal Income Tax
- Corporate Income Tax
- Immigration and Drugs
- Defense
- Campaign Finance

Audio CDs are available for radio broadcast.

I'll follow up with a PDF of the transcript. Check your inbox.

Please consider running for office yourself. Consider the children—the examples we set for them, the country we're handing them.

Running for President can sometimes be wiser than not running for President.

By the way, the current U.S. unemployment rate is 22.3%—if we include the long-term unemployed and discouraged. This figure does not include America's under-employed.

Next?

122.

Twelve Minutes and Two Clicks

June 16, 2011

Watch the first 12 minutes of

“Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement”

Send this e-mail to 2 friends.

Democracy.

It's all much simpler than we're being told.

123.

My Candidacy—Comments Received Thus Far

June 20, 2011

“Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement”

A sampling of adjectives received thus far:

"Brilliant . . . Crisp . . . Fantastic . . . Great . . . Incredible . . . Ingenious . . . Inspiring . . . Monumental . . . Perfect . . . Poignant . . . Powerful . . . Real . . . Smart . . . Soothing"

Not to mention:

"Wow!"

"Change we can believe in."

"Love, love, love it!"

"Maybe what this country needs more than anything is a leader who wants nothing for himself, who only wants to see future generations have the same opportunity he and I had."

". . . how about we find some ***** good Americans to represent us . . . people that haven't forgotten about our children's future . . . people like Bob Hall . . ."

Please take 12 minutes to hear my opening statement, then decide for yourself.

124.

War Costs to Date: \$3.2 - \$4 Trillion

June 29, 2011

Released today by Brown University:

“225,000 Killed, \$3.2 - 4 Trillion”

www.costsofwar.org

Please see “Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement” for a common-sense solution.

I spend 6 minutes on Defense, starting at 40:06.

Excerpt:

“American citizens—rather, our children—get the bills, the caskets, and the enduring suspicion of the outside world. By design and deceit, the realities of war, for too many of us, remain in the video-game realm of the abstract. Thousands of human lives, millions of productive jobs, and trillions of taxpayer dollars are lost forever as we go about our business, calm in the conventional wisdom that war is good for the economy. Let us disappoint the profiteers who would raise themselves upon the sacrifice of their fellow man.”

125.

39% Say Economy Is In Permanent Decline

June 30, 2011

“CBS News/New York Times Poll: Many Say Economy Is In Permanent Decline”

www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20075539-503544.html

From the article:

- 39% of Americans now believe the economy is in permanent decline—up from 28% in October 2010.
- Only 57% of Americans now believe the economy will eventually recover—down from 68% in October 2010.
- 45% of Americans now believe the government is paying little-to-no attention to the economy.
- Only 20% of Americans now believe the economy is improving.

From my recent speech:

"This is easy to fix—if we can stop being Democrats and Republicans long enough to remember: we're Americans. Our children all share a common interest in the future of their country."

"The Wall Street and Washington boys got it wrong, and most of them still don't quite *get* that a nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity."

(Got that?)

"The power is ours to reclaim and redeem. We can rebuild our productive economy as easily as we created our global competitors and adversaries."

See "Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement" on Vimeo.

Please consider running for office yourself. We've all done enough complaining. It's time to get serious.

126.

Happy Fourth of July!—Short Reading for a Long Weekend (~1300 Words)

July 1, 2011

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
THE UNANIMOUS
DECLARATION
OF THE
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's GOD entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their CREATOR, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that Governments long established, should

not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

HE has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

HE has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

HE has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyranny only.

HE has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

HE has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

HE has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the mean Time, exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

HE has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

HE has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

HE has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

HE has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

HE has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

HE has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

HE has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

FOR quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

FOR protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

FOR cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

FOR imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

FOR depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

FOR transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:

FOR abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

FOR taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

FOR suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

HE has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us.

HE has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

HE is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

HE has constrained our Fellow-Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

HE has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions.

IN every Stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

NOR have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them, from Time to Time, of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connexions and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the Rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

WE, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connexion between them and the State of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our *Lives*, our *Fortunes*, and our *sacred Honour*.

John Hancock.

GEORGIA, *Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, Geo. Walton.*

NORTH-CAROLINA, *Wm. Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.*

SOUTH-CAROLINA, *Edward Rutledge, Thos Heyward, junr. Thomas Lynch, junr. Arthur Middleton.*

MARYLAND, *Samuel Chase, Wm. Paca, Thos. Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.*

VIRGINIA, *George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Ths. Jefferson, Benja. Harrison, Thos. Nelson, jr. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.*

PENNSYLVANIA, *Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Morton, Geo. Clymer, Jas. Smith, Geo. Taylor, James Wilson, Geo. Ross.*

DELAWARE, *Caesar Rodney, Geo. Read.*

NEW-YORK, *Wm. Floyd, Phil. Livingston, Frank Lewis, Lewis Morris.*

NEW-JERSEY, *Richd. Stockton, Jno. Witherspoon, Fras. Hopkinson, John Hart, Abra. Clark.*

NEW-HAMPSHIRE, *Josiah Bartlett, Wm. Whipple, Matthew Thornton.*

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *Saml. Adams, John Adams, Robt. Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.*

RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE, *&c. Step. Hopkins, William Ellery.*

CONNECTICUT, *Roger Sherman, Saml. Huntington, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.*

IN CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1777.

ORDERED,

THAT an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCY, with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be desired to have the same put on RECORD.

By Order of CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.* BALTIMORE, in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY KATHARINE GODDARD.

127.

Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

July 5, 2011

I'm Bob Hall, asking America—*all* of America: the richest 1% and the bottom 99, the currently employed and the homeless—to consider a person like me for President of the United States.

I'm not rich.

I'm not famous.

I'm not a politician, not a lawyer, not a banker.

I don't run a multinational corporation.

I don't work on Wall Street.

I'm not affiliated with any political party.

I hope you like my ideas, and I hope you run for office, too.

A society, a nation, either works or it doesn't. If it works, it works for the long term, for the children—for *everybody's* children.

America needs jobs. *Good* jobs. Most Americans, and their government, need more money. Too many of us are watching our home towns turn into ghost towns. Middle class mobility is now downward. We're stressed, depressed, and feeling powerless.

Our children might not listen to what we say, but they will copy what we do—or, so it is said.

Every generation of Americans, up until the Baby Boomers, followed the laws of human nature and dedicated itself to the same human purpose: that our children shall suffer less.

Some of us are trying hard to meet our children's inner needs: to be understood, taken seriously, and loved unconditionally. We try to protect them from the pressures of conformity, so they can stay healthy, and stay interested in their own lives.

But many of us are forgetting: our children, too, will need jobs. Good jobs. And they'll need their parents to show them how it's done.

Opportunity, in America, is absent without leave. Our lives are increasingly controlled by large multinational corporations and banks; the insecurity they engender; the social division they cultivate and thrive upon; the political campaigns, media, credentialed experts, and Internet trolls they pay for. Heavily foreign influenced by our global adversaries and competitors, these organizations work hand-in-pocket with our public officials—and vice-versa. America's future, America's children, now take a back seat to foreign interests and the so-called "global economy." Opportunity for Americans is, everyday, shipped overseas with our industrial productivity, former prosperity, reserve currency privileges, and national security.

This is easy to fix—if we can stop being Democrats and Republicans long enough to remember: we're Americans. Our children all share a common interest in the future of their country.

We can begin with a simple change of perspective. Do we balance the federal budget by cutting expenses or raising taxes? Either way, someone gets hurt. The two-party system depends on it. But Congress has another option, one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge.

Congress has the power to adopt a national industrial policy that could create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need.

Everything. For generations to come. Congress has this power.

Any discussion of the future must begin and end with an understanding of manufacturing and trade—our country's primary source of income and wealth. Trade is the battlefield upon which our children's possibilities will be won or lost. And—given the current fashion of doing business with state capitalists and adversaries who do not wish us well—trade is the battlefield upon which modern warfare is conducted.

For almost forty years, we've run a trade deficit—a loss—that has drained America's historical wealth, dimmed America's historical prestige, and continues at the rate of more than one billion dollars per day. That's a lot of jobs. And a reminder that our current economic pain has been decades in the making.

Blame it on us voters for making bad choices, then blame it on the financialization of American culture. The Wall Street and Washington boys got it wrong, and most of them still don't quite *get* that a nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity.

The story of American manufacturing and trade is the story of a nation that forgot where it came from. The United States were born in a trade war. The founders—men who pledged, in writing, their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor—saw no future in remaining a colony of England, then the world's manufacturing powerhouse. Americans, through *protectionism*—that is, through the Constitution and trade regulations written to *protect* American manufacturing, American citizens, and American children—through protectionism—*economic patriotism*—we built the strongest economy, with the most opportunity, for the greatest number of people, in all of human history.

Now, it's being lost, as if our goal is to become, once again, the colony of a foreign industrial giant—this time, a clever, cruel, unscrupulous giant that does not share our language, history, or values.

Yet we continue to tolerate officials who fail to meet the fundamental job requirement: that they are capable of recognizing the difference between a friend and an enemy.

They advocate free trade—which means their multinational sponsors want unrestricted free access to the American consumer, arguably the single largest identifiable economic force in the known universe.

They advocate globalization—which means American-based multinational corporations are free to search the globe for the cheapest means of production, then close their American factories and fire their American workers.

In return, they offer us hypocrisy: rigged foreign markets, criminal trade practices, and the consolation of economic theory.

Yes, they've given us lower prices—for now—on consumer goods manufactured in some foreign countries. But what we gain as consumers, we more than lose as workers. One step forward, three steps back, as we get more for our money, and destroy our own economy in the process.

Say what we will about labor unions, America's times of greatest prosperity were times of greatest union membership, as well-paid factory workers spent and circulated their money here, at home, creating jobs and opportunity, creating the American middle class.

Now, as we continue to lose ground, our global competitors and adversaries are gaining, at our expense, in financial and military power, by manufacturing for us the products we use every day.

We could, with some awareness and leadership, achieve full employment, and bequeath to our children a vibrant, prosperous, self-sustaining American economy, simply by producing more of what we consume and exporting more than we import.

We can begin by motivating the most influential lobby in Washington: 300,000,000 American consumers spending *ten trillion* dollars per year. Our public officials and their multinational sponsors want that money. They need us more than we need them, and we can beat them at their own game. Three hundred million Americans buying fewer foreign-made products, and more American-made products, investing less in multinational and foreign businesses, and more in American businesses, means a new American future of opportunity, prosperity, and jobs. Good jobs.

The power is ours to reclaim and redeem. We can rebuild our productive economy as easily as we created our global competitors and adversaries. Trying to justify our previous actions will only diminish us in the eyes of our children and grandchildren, so let's offer the apology of better citizenship and know that someday, they'll forgive us for having made a few mistakes.

What I've Done, What You Can Do

Some people might wonder why a man with no children of his own would work so hard for everybody else's. They might not know that Dr. Seuss never had any children, either.

I have amazing memories of my grandparents, Serbs from Croatia-Slavonia in Austria-Hungary, who came to the United States as children, one hundred years ago, looking for opportunity. Just a chance. These were people who took *nothing* for granted, and rarely hesitated to express gratitude for their adoptive country. During World War II, my grandfather sold so many war bonds out of his little tavern, the United States government bought a new B-29 and called it "Spirit of Milwaukee Serbs." Stories from the old country served to remind young people just how lucky we were to be living in the United States.

My parents, born and raised in the heartland of American productivity, understood the place. My father—manufacturer, exporter, creator of jobs—bought *American* cars. My mother bought Illinois produce to support Illinois farmers, and taught her children how *not* to support foreign dictatorships.

In grade school, I was part of an experimental "special opportunities program" created by the federal government to identify the children they thought capable of someday leading our nation through difficult geopolitical times. It was fun. They never disclosed the mission for which we'd been hand picked. But we learned some useful lessons—and discovered that the purpose of education is happiness, which is largely determined by our ability to know when we're being lied to.

High school and college, for me, are enshrined in the memory of my having been so consistently on the academic honor roll—and *behavioral probation* at the same time. I'm reluctantly proud to say that *most* of my teachers were amused.

I was graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Arts in History. My concentration was Modern Europe, with a minor and independent research in the history of China.

After college, I did lots of things; and, almost always, had a good time doing them.

I was a solar energy pioneer more than 30 years ago, “green” water disinfection more than 25 years ago. I was “green” long before the word was misused to mislead American taxpayers and voters.

I’ve been scientist and artist, worked with my hands and head, as a musician, mechanic, carpenter, inventor, executive, entrepreneur, designer, engineer, consultant, speaker, teacher, counselor, gunsmith, poet, computer geek, ergonomist, photographer, composer, activist, cook, and speechwriter.

I can butcher my own game and teach you how to dance the Argentine tango. But I am far from unique. There is no shortage of talented, accomplished generalists in our country—men and women to lead an American renaissance. You know who you are, and you know it’s time to step up. America cannot last much longer under this tyranny of experts.

I would be remiss not to share with you some defining moments from my personal history.

In 1983, when I was twenty-six, my father decided to retire and leave me his business. I had, at the time, almost no money. Accepting my father’s offer would have made me a multi-millionaire by the time I was thirty. I turned it down.

I somehow doubt most members of Congress are capable of understanding my decision.

Life and learning would be interrupted by the occasional attempt to draw attention to the decline of our productive economy. In the late 1980s, a newspaper editor in a Rocky Mountain state offered me the suggestion that I keep my city ideas to myself. As Mark Twain observed: in the beginning, the patriot is a hated and scorned man.

By late 2007, I was hungry for hatred and scorn. American factories had been moving offshore at a record-and heart-breaking pace. The death of my mother and the birth of my grandniece were all the perspective I needed to shut down my business and begin my real work. The 2008 financial crisis was still beyond the horizon, but I—and many, many others—knew there was trouble ahead.

“Dollar to the Giant”—my worst-case, cautionary tale—was written well in advance of the 2008 meltdown. Analysts of this financial crisis would do well to recognize its roots in our trade deficit—the insolvency that even Sam Walton warned about before his kids and China inherited the family business.

We get into a credit crisis when we don’t have enough money; we don’t have enough money when our income is insufficient. If America had not sent its income-producing real economy offshore, we could have had plenty of real money. Our heads would not have been so easily turned by the fictitious economy of Wall Street, financial innovation, and real estate bubbles. The 2008 crisis would not have happened.

And if our manufacturing sector were in good shape, the Federal Reserve would not have to monkey so much with the money supply to maintain the illusion of prosperity. We would simply prosper.

My activism has been among the grass roots—grass roots, because that’s where the life is—grass roots, because the multinational-sponsored media exhibit little interest in us, and even less in our children. I remember a reporter asking me how long I planned to pursue this project of my country’s economy and children before I threw in the towel.

I continued to “read, think, speak, and write” until I could no longer justify the expense of a roof over my head. But I would not abandon my purpose. I would not be here today if previous generations had

abandoned theirs. I am fortunate to have family and friends who believe in me, believe in my work, and provide me with shelter. I am neither homeless nor destitute, but have, in fact, exhausted my personal resources in the service of my country. Somewhere, my mother and George Washington are smiling.

We can, at our present crossroads, avail ourselves of a unique and lifesaving opportunity: free, open, and democratic communication. But the Internet, as we know it, will not last for long—not if the multinational corporate media are successful in their attempt to control. Now, however, and through 2012, American citizens can effectively campaign for any men or women they choose.

If you like my ideas, if you think I might be the President you've been waiting for, e-mail:

BobHall2012@Gmail.com

We'll need to get me, or someone like me, on the ballots and let American voters know they now have another option—one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge.

Stay tuned for my thoughts on energy, taxes, immigration, drugs, defense, and campaign finance.

Thank you.

Energy

America's energy policy has a strong effect on the economy, unemployment, and our children's well-being.

Foreign oil imports are just that: imported and foreign, supplied by multinational corporations—many with American names and American histories. Oil imports are a major contributor to our trade deficit—the underlying, and ongoing, cause of our country's real economic pain. Oil-based misery travels far beyond what we feel at the gas pump. Oil imports have cost our country—and continue to cost our country—millions of good jobs. American self-determination is in jeopardy. If you feel like a hostage now, think how your children might feel as slaves.

America's dependence on imported oil has given rise to the almost inconceivably absurd: the multinational oil industry makes money by deepening the trade deficit that is destroying their best existing customers and the entire American economy.

They're killing our jobs, killing our children's prospects, by doing, simply, what corporations with no national borders, and a big world market, do to survive. The blame lies in Washington. Our government has no energy policy—none beyond a willingness to accept campaign and lobbyist money from the multinational oil industry, then hide behind the manipulation of so-called “market forces.”

We were supposed to have learned our lesson from the oil crisis of 1973. Not long after The Department of Energy was created, President Jimmy Carter told us that our necks were stretched over a fence and OPEC held a knife. He promised that every new addition to our demand for energy would be met from our own production and our own conservation.

We were desperate then. We are more desperate now. We have become more, not less, dependent on imported oil, and OPEC is not the only threat to our longevity. Too few Americans in the 1970s thought

their painful new trade *deficit* would become a chronic, possibly terminal affliction. Fewer yet predicted America's upcoming love affair with financial innovation—an infatuation that would lead us to abandon our real economy, dismantle the middle class, and redistribute America's wealth—upward—to a financial elite with global interests. American workers have watched their real income and purchasing power stagnate for 30 years, while America's top 1% has watched its real income almost quadruple.

Unwittingly, we betrayed ourselves, and we betrayed our children. American business went multinational; Wall Street turned into a casino; the trade deficit metastasized; the market price of an American Presidential campaign went up fifty fold; the bidders formed a line.

As a result, anything resembling a national energy policy—war, for example, in oil-producing nations—is administered by the multinational interests that control our politics and fuel prices—fuel prices high enough to inflict pain, but not so high that citizens finally take action.

The quick answer might be more drilling and production here in the United States. But remember: the oil business is a global business, run by multinational corporations that extract oil from the U.S. and sell it on a world market. This doesn't do us very much good. We need truly American oil and alternative energy industries, with U.S. government policies in place to protect them. In recent months, billions of dollars in Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania oil and gas properties have been sold to the People's Republic of China. Communist China. In our backyard, grabbing our resources, and nobody seems to care. As recently as 2005, the Chinese attempt to buy Unocal was considered a clear threat to our national security. I shudder to think we've lost so much interest in our *existence* in only six short years.

We can't solve our energy problems by attempting to control the world's oil—even with the world's most powerful weapons. In any case, this is impractical—and a contemptible use of force. Eventually, even the most self-centered begins to think that “no, it's not OK if other people's children die for my gasoline.”

What we can do, immediately and practically, is reduce our consumption by increasing the gas mileage of vehicles operated in the United States. We can, at the very least, *double* our miles per gallon, even if this means giving up some unnecessary horsepower. Doubling our gas mileage will eliminate our current dependence on Middle Eastern oil, reduce America's trade deficit, create American jobs, and give our children a fighting chance.

Frankly, we need some courage and adult responsibility in Washington. There is too much campaigning. We need a government that governs, and leaders who lead. Higher mileage requirements will protect American citizens, the American economy, and American jobs. Some will complain, some will denounce, but the American spirit does not grant us the freedom to deprive our children of theirs.

Personal Income Tax

An ideal system of taxation would:

Lower the average tax rate.

Not penalize wealthy Americans.

Not deprive lower-income Americans.

Raise more money for our government by eliminating tax loopholes and tax evasion.

Raise more money for our government by capturing the underground, criminal, cash economy.

Encourage savings and investment in America.

Subsidize exports.

Tax imports.

Create jobs.

Greatly reduce the size of the Internal Revenue Service—and the entire income tax industry—liberating this labor force for better work.

Rehabilitate politicians who campaign with tax promises.

Encourage our legislators to focus on more important issues.

Eliminate the income tax, its records keeping and filing.

All of this can easily be accomplished with a VAT or Fair Tax on consumption. Our current system is obsolete and counterproductive. It discriminates against our children's future.

Corporate Income Tax

Corporate income tax can be a sensitive issue, especially when so many corporations make money in the United States and don't pay any income tax.

It's a challenging idea to absorb, but no corporation has ever paid taxes. Every economic burden is ultimately borne by the individual. When a corporation is taxed, it passes this expense along to you and me in the form of higher prices on goods and services. Corporations are, in this sense, government-mandated tax collectors. When a politician advocates higher corporate income taxes, he or she is really advocating higher personal taxes in disguise.

"The corporations" are an easy target, especially for propagandists and their campaigns. But corporations are owned and run by human beings. They also employ human beings. Deal with them intelligently, and they'll make our children's world a better place in which to live.

A 5% corporate VAT would more than replace all the revenue currently collected by the nominal 35% corporate income tax.

Our politically motivated tax policies have chased too many formerly American corporations—and their money, and our jobs—overseas. We need them to come home. We need each other. And we need the trillions of dollars they're currently holding offshore, thanks to the lack of common sense in Washington. We should allow these corporations to bring their trillions into the United States with no tax liability whatsoever, providing—and this is not negotiable—that the money be used here in the United States. The

benefit to our economy, to our children, would be much greater than any relatively small gains realized by what we call a “corporate” income tax.

Immigration and Drugs

I just spent a couple of months in Texas, and I have to say: anyone venturing an opinion on the immigration policies of our border states should spend some time down there first.

Mexico is a bigger threat to the United States than the Middle East has ever been. Mexico is right next door, it’s boiling over, and our politicians are selling their souls for the Hispanic vote.

I grew up working in a warehouse with Mexican illegals. *Friends*. At one time, I spoke Spanish as well as I spoke English. I understood the culture. I still have Mexican friends, and probably always will.

The best thing I could do for Mexican illegals is send them home.

People emigrate, in most cases, because they have to. Who wants to leave home? It’s a rare Mexican who would dream of leaving a close-knit family and familiar surroundings for freezing-cold winters and a Gringo boss. But the Mexican climate of drugs and violence leaves them little choice.

Our climate of high unemployment and low opportunity leaves us little choice.

After we get our own country together—which will include private-sector jobs for unskilled American citizens—Mexico should be a priority. We can, and must, for the sake of our own survival, help the Mexican government to develop opportunities for Mexicans at home, so they can stay there and be happy. Mexico, we must always keep in mind, is vulnerable to our global adversaries and competitors—especially China, having thus far invested many billions of dollars in our next-door neighbor, our NAFTA trading partner. We need to be alert.

And we need to change our drug laws. We cannot solve our immigration problems until we take the profit and crime out of the drug trade. For the record, I have no financial interest in drugs, and I don’t use them. My concerns are for traditional American values, and for American children. Our current drug policies are killing them.

The so-called “War on Drugs,” so far, has cost more than one *trillion* dollars. Another pile of debt passed on to the next generations of taxpayers. They won’t be thinking they got their money’s worth. More tragically, hundreds of thousands of human lives have been lost—many of them good cops and innocent children. Yet we continue to fight, and lose, this war.

Why?

Follow the money trail. The War on Drugs has been a cash cow for politicians and special interests, notably the security and defense industries. This so-called war supports enormous bureaucracies—dedicated, in typical bureaucratic fashion, to their own growth. And the North American Free Trade Agreement has made it easier for *anything* or *anybody* to enter the United States through Mexico.

Follow the money trail, and things get clearer, and even more bizarre: American citizens are actually paying for both sides of this War on Drugs. The growers, cartels, and dealers get their money from us. Then we spend even more money in a vain—or artificial—attempt to put them out of business.

The only way to stop this insanity, this war on our children's future, is to remove the financial incentive.

Our country is heading toward legalization. It's going to happen sooner or later, so why not sooner? We'll save time, money, and lives. And we can get on with the rest of our business.

Mexico can then be delivered from the drug lords, back into the hands of the Mexican people—and their children.

There is little reason to believe that legalization will turn our kids into drug addicts. In fact, there is evidence—the experience of other countries—to suggest that legalization reduces first-time drug use among minors because it removes the “forbidden fruit” temptation.

Of course, as our children serve to remind us, the best way to guide them is to give them good examples—in government, and at home.

Defense

We must maintain the most powerful, vigilant defense on Earth. Those who attack us, those who would harm our children, must pay a terrible price. This is not negotiable.

We must restore America's ability to manufacture the products necessary for this country's self-defense and self-reliance. And we must no longer tolerate the insecurity—the abject, corrupt stupidity—of outsourcing from military adversaries the equipment we need to defend ourselves from those very same military adversaries.

We must put an end to unnecessary wars. Not one single American life or limb must ever again be sacrificed in an unnecessary war.

They are, almost all of them, unnecessary wars, yet children today are being raised in an atmosphere of perpetual warfare.

As Marine Corps General S.D. Butler concluded, after the most distinguished of military careers, including two Medals of Honor: *War is a Racket*.

The Constitution—when read for spirit and intention, not loopholes—encourages a standing professional navy to protect American trade, but discourages a standing professional army. The Founding Fathers, having read their history books, understood the dangers. Yet a standing professional army we now have, with bases in foreign countries in every corner of the planet. Most Americans would not welcome a foreign military base in their own backyard. Most Americans don't know that, since the end of the Second World War, their empire has been in the business of creating enemies—job security for the military-industrial complex that President—General—Eisenhower warned us about.

Since World War II, Congress has abrogated its legal responsibility to declare war. The power of the Presidency has grown unchecked and unbalanced. Our standing professional army gets its marching orders

from the President, who gets his marching orders from his multinational money people, who explain the wars to us regular folks through corporate-sponsored media.

American citizens—rather, our children—get the bills, the caskets, and the enduring suspicion of the outside world. By design and deceit, the realities of war remain, for too many of us, in the video-game realm of the abstract. Thousands of human lives, millions of productive jobs, and trillions of taxpayer dollars are lost forever as we go about our business, calm in the conventional wisdom that war is good for the economy.

Let us disappoint the profiteers who would raise themselves upon the sacrifice of their fellow man.

The President is not an emperor. A truly strong President would reduce the power of his own office to that provided for by the Constitution and American tradition, to serve our people—*all* of our people—through balance and representation.

Congress must again shoulder its legal responsibility for declaring war.

Members of Congress must be willing to look in a mirror and ask if *they themselves* are worth dying for.

And what if *their* children are the children dying?

If we are to regain our independence—and our economy—from the multinational war industry, we must be willing to look into the human face of warfare.

Congress should reinstate the draft.

The standing professional army should be decommissioned, disbanded, and absorbed into a safe and economically responsible private sector—a newly thriving private sector, thanks to the establishment of our national industrial policy.

After high school, every young man and woman in America—everyone, even rich politicians' kids—should spend 3 to 6 months in defense and readiness training.

When called for duty, well-trained men and women—no exceptions, no deferments—would be required to defend our country. And defend, we will.

We will stand in each other's shoes. We will all risk our loved ones. If the cause is unjust, the war unnecessary, we will inform our government with little hesitation. We will teach our children to settle their differences, to guide the ships of state, with their children in mind. We will stop throwing away what took over 200 years to build, and we will do our part to raise our children in peace.

Campaign Finance

My thoughts on campaign finance can be summed up in a question:

Why would anyone spend a billion dollars for a job that pays four hundred thousand?

Like it or not, under the current system, our government is for sale. Big Business spends big money on American politics, and expects big favors in return.

This worked a lot better when Big Business was still American, and we could reasonably expect the corruption of special interest politics to benefit Americans. The distribution of favors was not fair, but, for the most part, the money stayed in the United States and benefited our own citizens.

When American business went multinational, our politicians were quick to follow. The United States government is now unduly influenced by multinational, largely foreign, special interests.

Is it any wonder that American middle-class prosperity and security—once the envy of the world—have been sacrificed to the gods of globalization?

If we expect to ever return our country to its people, we must first stop the flow of multinational money to our politicians, then stop the flow of all big money to our politicians. What we call lobbying is really bribery. What we call campaign contributions—another opportunity for bribery.

This is no way to behave in front of the children.

I will accept campaign contributions only from *my* special interest group: American citizens. I will not accept campaign contributions from corporations, organizations, anonymous donors, or non-citizens.

Someone has to do this the *right* way.

128.

Unemployment Now 22.7%, Economists Stunned

July 8, 2011

“Job Growth Falters Badly, Clouding Hope for Recovery”

www.nytimes.com/2011/07/09/business/economy/job-growth-falters-badly-clouding-hope-for-recovery.html

According to the article, "economists were stunned."

Uh, huh.

More remarkable than a roomful of stunned economists, the real unemployment rate—including the long-term unemployed and discouraged—is now 22.7%.

www.shadowstats.com/article/no-377-june-employment-unemployment-and-m3

There is only one political party in America: Money. Democrats and Republicans now feed at the same trough, and the big multinational money that supports this two-party charade is perfectly content with our

current malaise. After all, they helped bring it about.

The top 1% is "making" money like never before. I put the word "making" in quotes because the money is actually being transferred/stolen from what used to be America's middle class and redistributed upward to our financial elites.

High unemployment keeps their labor costs down. Low inflation protects creditors and keeps our elites' capital from eroding. A "strong" dollar (an ignorant expression if ever there was one*) preserves the multinational purchasing power of dollar assets, and allows inexpensive foreign vacations—depositing U.S. dollars directly into competitive economies, by the way.

Never mind that a "strong" dollar damages U.S. exports and makes it more difficult for our real economy to recover. Hasn't anyone noticed that China has built—and continues to build, with little resistance from the U.S. Treasury—its own economy by keeping the U.S. dollar "strong," the Chinese yuan "weak," and Chinese imports cheap, by purchasing U.S. government securities?

But, hey, what's temporarily good for the top 1% is good for everyone—right?

*If you substitute "high dollar" for "strong dollar" and "low dollar" for "weak dollar," the whole subject begins to make more sense.

129.

Pre-Infected Consumer Tech, New Short Videos To Share

July 13, 2011

No surprise here:

“DHS: Imported Consumer Tech Contains Hidden Hacker Attack Tools”

www.fastcompany.com/1765855/dhs-someones-spiking-our-imported-tech-with-attack-tools

The article doesn't mention China by name—again, no surprise—but I will. It's also worth mentioning that our nation's aging telecom infrastructure is being replaced with Chinese-made equipment.

Who thinks this stuff up?

For years now, the U.S. government (I hesitate to call it "our" government) has purchased security and

defense electronics from the communist People's Republic of China—much of it counterfeit and defective. Now might be a good time to revisit Richard McCormack's November 2008 article. (By the way, this guy is a real reporter.)

“U.S. Government Finds Thousands Of Counterfeit Electronics From China In Avionics Weapon Supply Chain”

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/08/1117/counterfeitelectronics.html

I can hardly blame China. After all, they're a competitor and adversary. They're just doing their job.

When will our elected officials start doing theirs?

New Short Videos:

My 49-minute candidacy speech can now be viewed—and shared—as 8 separate videos on YouTube, Vimeo, and Facebook. Three of the videos are shorter than three minutes.

130.

Bob Hall 2012 Campaign now on Facebook

July 18, 2011

One click:

Please forward this e-mail. Please talk about this e-mail. Please shout this e-mail from the rooftops.

Please. Our children's future depends on us.

We don't need a billion-dollar advertising budget to make a difference—or to win an election.

We just need to stop being Democrats and Republicans long enough to remember that we're Americans.

Americans.

131.

Gallup 7/20/2011: Concerns About Economy, Jobs Outweigh Worries About Deficit

July 20, 2011

Gallup 7/20/2011:

“Concerns About Economy, Jobs Outweigh Worries About Deficit”

www.gallup.com/poll/148589/Concerns-Economy-Jobs-Outweigh-Worries-Deficit.aspx

- The percentage of Americans naming jobs as the top problem has been on the rise.
- About three-quarters of Americans say some aspect of the economy is the top problem facing the nation—far more than mention non-economic concerns such as dissatisfaction with government, healthcare, wars, immigration, or education.
- Almost 9 in 10 Americans say now is not a good time to find a quality job.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans (as if there's any difference) will lift a finger. Believe their actions, not their words. Both parties—and their financiers—are committed to the top 1 percent at the expense of the bottom 99.

However:

"A society, a nation, either works or it doesn't. If it works, it works for the long term, for the children—for *everybody's* children."

Furthermore (at the risk of quoting myself again):

"Lots of things are crazier than running for President. Not running is one of them."

132.

Fake Apple Stores Found In China

July 21, 2011

In the old clichés, the Chinese were frequently described as "inscrutable." To anyone paying attention, "predictable" is more like it.

“Fake Apple Stores Found In China”

www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-14236786

is based on

“Are you listening, Steve Jobs?”

<http://birdabroad.wordpress.com/2011/07/20/are-you-listening-steve-jobs>

Makes me want to ask: Is *anybody* listening? Oh sure, some of us get it. But not enough of us get it. Those who do, have a responsibility to those who don't.

Come on. We're all, most of us, in this together. Our children share a common interest in the future of this country. Few people are naturally as self-destructive (or divided) as we Americans have been. Mostly, we've been conditioned to just not know any better.

So please lend a hand, lift a finger (keyboard or keypad), and help spread the word. The alternative is to keep buying foreign-made goods—funding China and the multinationals at Americans' expense—until we don't have a penny or a job left. We'll be dead—or thereabouts—and they'll move on to the next victim.

China's priority is the Chinese Communist Party. The multinationals' priority is profit.

Washington, are you listening?

133.

Article: “How Globalism Has Destroyed. . . .”

July 26, 2011

A lively article, worth a look:

“How Globalism Has Destroyed Our Jobs, Businesses And National Wealth In 10 Easy Steps”

<http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/how-globalism-has-destroyed-our-jobs-businesses-and-national-wealth-in-10-easy-steps>

Some interesting stuff here, including a couple of all-time records:

- Only 66.8% of American men had a job last year—an all-time record.
- More than 44 million Americans are now on food stamps—another all-time record.

Yet we continue to send our jobs and money overseas by purchasing foreign-made products.

We can choose *not* to. In fact, we have no *choice* but to choose *not* to—if we want our children to survive and have a country to call "home."

And we can choose *not* to vote for lessers of evils representing the same multinational money interests.

Before you say "it can't be done," please ask yourself what possible good it might do to express such a sentiment, much less within earshot of a child. A handful of multinationals cannot possibly stand up to the American citizenry if we stop being Democrats and Republicans long enough to do what needs to be done.

Instead of scapegoating and scolding over the debt, we could be creating enough new wealth to pay for what we need.

Confucius (relatively forgotten but eminently wiser than Sun-Tzu or Mao) said,

"To see what is right and not to do it is cowardice."

134.

Crime—Two Scenarios

July 27, 2011

I'm still troubled by:

“Abusive Head Trauma in Infants Doubled During Recession: Financial stress may trigger violent behavior toward babies”

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2011/04/13/abusive-head-trauma-in-infants-doubled-during-recession-study>

Violent crime—most crime—will increase as our economy dies. This is to be expected, regardless of government and media spin.

But it's not inevitable, and our children deserve better. Let's consider two possible scenarios:

The Republican-Democrat-Corporate Way:

- Our real economy continues its decline. Desperate to survive, more Americans turn to crime. The two-party system "fights" crime by spending more on law enforcement personnel and/or defense and security contractors. This increases debt and/or taxes, which further cripples our real economy, leading to more desperation and crime.

My way:

- Our real economy recovers. Every young American receives defense training. We are financially and personally secure. Crime rates plummet.

For more, see: "Defense—Bob Hall 2012”

135.

Tired of Debt Ceiling Theater?

August 2, 2011

Nonsense—distracting, destructive nonsense. You'd think our elected officials and media would have the wit to realize we have to make some money. It's that simple: we have to make money. Oh sure, we occasionally hear them mention “revenues,” but they're talking about *tax* revenues. I suppose if you're a Congressman, this is where money comes from.

Funny, with half of these Democrats and Republicans being millionaires, you'd think they'd know better.

Note to Washington: Invest four minutes of your precious campaign fundraising time in “College Girl, Economy, Jobs.” Begin with a short lesson in real American economics. Be able to answer simple questions like:

- Where does money come from?
- How can we fix the American economy?
- Why do American politicians represent foreign interests at the expense of their American constituents?

Note to my fellow citizens: Always follow the money trail. Beware the distractions and wedge issues. As I said in Chapter One of my candidacy speech:

“... Congress has another option, one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge. Congress has the power to adopt a national industrial policy that could create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need. Everything. For generations to come. Congress has this power.”

Of course, when these so-called “American” Congressmen are bought and paid for by multinationals, I'm not sure I want them anywhere near our children.

136.

Monkeys Climb High Branches, Expose Backsides

August 5, 2011

What a week.

The monkeys in Washington once again proved they climb the highest branches to better expose their backsides. The rest of the world—dependent on the illusion of American responsibility—were little amused.

Vladimir Putin called the U.S. a "parasite" on the world. China's Dagong downgraded our credit rating to equal Russia's. Both outsized adversaries continued to express keen interest in replacing the U.S. dollar.

The Dow lost 1,200 points in two weeks—512 points just yesterday. This was the worst one-day drop since the meltdown of October 2008.

The -crats at the BLS released the July 2011 unemployment figures this morning. Before you get too excited over the improvement from 9.2 to 9.1 percent, you might take a look at the actual report

www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.htm

or at least Table A-15

www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t15.htm

Too, the official "improvement" in our employment picture is easier to understand when you know that 193,000 Americans dropped out of the work force. Our labor force participation rate is now only 63.9 percent—the lowest since January 1984.

ShadowStats.com hasn't yet published their SGS unemployment figure, which more accurately includes the long-term unemployed and discouraged, but you can bet it will be higher than 22 percent.

If all this isn't bad enough, the U.S. Department of Agriculture now reports that 45,753,078 Americans are on food stamps—that is, 1 of every 7 Americans:

www.fns.usda.gov/pd/34SNAPmonthly.htm

Can you imagine the 1930s-style soup lines if we didn't have food stamps to help us deny our disgraceful reality?

Such are the consequences of a decades-long trade deficit and clueless so-called "leaders" who care mostly about getting elected and then re-elected.

FYI, both China and Mexico—Mexico—are trading at a surplus. China's unemployment rate is 4.1 percent; GDP growth is 9.5 percent. Mexico's unemployment rate is 5.42 percent; GDP growth is 4.6 percent.

So, now, while Congress is taking the month off, our President is trying to scrape up \$1,000,000,000 in campaign money (which shouldn't be difficult with some of his beneficiaries willing to pay \$35,800/plate for dinner), and mysterious corporations like WL Spann are being formed to deposit \$1,000,000 in the Romney campaign, then dissolve before anyone can figure out where the money came from.

I have to tell you: if I had to spend this kind of money to win an election, I wouldn't want the job. I would hide my head in shame.

(For more about campaign finance, see my short—two-and-a-half-minute—video on the subject.)

Truly, it's "do-it-or-die" time. We simply have no choice. Fortunately, there's plenty we can do.

If everyone contributes a few mouse clicks or phone calls to help spread the word, our grass roots campaign can become a peaceful revolution. Our fellow citizens—and their children—deserve to know they don't have to *waste their votes* on lessers of evils representing the same multinational money interests.

If my bid for the Presidency is crazy, then we should all take a moment to thank the lunatics of generations past—people crazy enough to pay attention to the world around them, crazy enough to want their children to survive and be free.

137.

Real Unemployment Now 22.7%, Wall Street Worries

August 8, 2011

By now, most everyone knows the stock market took another dive today. Do the numbers matter? Maybe not. The long and short of it: we're hostages of a false economy. If our real—that is, wealth-creating, productive, industrial—economy were in good shape, we wouldn't be so terrorized by Wall Street or so manipulated by the ignorant and unprincipled. We could—if we wanted—have a source of real income, real prosperity, and real security.

(We could—if we wanted—put better people in public office. But I digress. . . .)

ShadowStats.com has just released our current unemployment figure:

22.7 percent.

This ShadowStats figure includes America's long-term unemployed and discouraged. The official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics figure does not. Neither includes America's under-employed.

In other words: you, or someone you care about, might be next—and very soon.

There's still only one way out:

Through the door.

138.

New Poll, New Low, The House Always Wins, What It Means August 10, 2011

From RasmussenReports.com, August 7:

“New Low: 17% Say U.S. Government Has Consent of the Governed”

- The number of voters who feel the government has our consent—a principle of The Declaration of Independence—is at a record low, down from 23% in May.
- Only 8% of voters believe Congress listens to constituents more than it listens to party leaders.
- Only 6% of voters rate Congress's performance as "good or excellent."

Americans should soon be turning out in record numbers to "throw their votes away" on non-Democrats and non-Republicans. We're learning that, as in Las Vegas, the house always wins. The same deep pockets—multinational pockets, it should be noted—finance both of our political parties. No matter which party we choose, the campaign financiers always get what they want. Our system is so twisted, the financiers almost always win at the public's expense.

Same with the casino we call "Wall Street." Trading does not create new wealth; it merely transfers existing wealth. In the long run, the house always wins.

Have you noticed how much of our economic pain is inflicted by the stock market? Obviously, we're preoccupied with the false/fictitious economy when we could be making things, selling them, appreciating the joys of a real economy, and leaving the financial innovation to gamblers and con men. But the market also destroys at a more fundamental level. As if to finalize the transfer of wealth, the market pressures America's middle class to also surrender its tools. A public corporation's short-term performance—however

achieved—is what matters to Wall Street. American factories and jobs are sent offshore, our real economy and tax base eviscerated, to reduce corporate expenses and satisfy Wall Street's demand for short-term profits.

Feed Wall Street, starve the USA.

Of course, this is just the tip of the Wall Street-Washington iceberg. For now, I'll leave you with this strangely related thought: the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China is not only an unscrupulous competitor, it is a committed adversary. Any American supporting China through the purchase of Chinese stocks or Chinese goods might as well have done the same for Germany in 1942. In fact, I'm sure the Nazis were less of a threat. They weren't as experienced, clever, or wealthy; there weren't 1.3 billion of them; and, back in those days, our politicians were on our side. But don't we feel brilliant when we look back and wonder how any society could have so misunderstood the writing on the wall?

139.

Trade Deficit Surges, Economy and Jobs Hammered, Washington Clueless

August 12, 2011

From the U.S. Census Bureau:

"The nation's international trade deficit in goods and services increased [4.5%] to \$53.1 billion in June from \$50.8 billion (revised) in May, as exports decreased more than imports."

- Note that our trade deficit is the highest since October 2008, even though imports and exports both declined with the "post-recession" economy.
- Our deficit with China increased 6.8% as American purchases of Chinese-made products—computers, apparel, household goods—grew to \$34.4 billion.
- American consumers continue to fuel the Chinese economy—creating Chinese jobs and prosperity—at the expense of our own.
- American exports fell 2.3%—the worst decline in over two years.

If American citizens won't support the American economy to create American jobs, who will? By now, it's pretty clear the government won't lift a finger to help us.

All of our economic troubles are rooted in the trade deficit, yet Washington remains clueless. (Well, maybe more "careless" than "clueless." The current Administration of Wall Street insiders managed to silence former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker after he blurted the simple-and-obvious truth.) For some insight into our politicians' mentality, take a look at Richard McCormack's "Anti-Free Trade Lobby Is Completely Ignored

By U.S. Senators; Overseas Producers And Their Interests Control America's Economic Policy” in *Manufacturing & Technology News*:

www.manufacturingnews.com/news/11/0729/KoreaFTA.html

As I've said before, "free trade" means our lives are decided by corporations—multinational corporations. There is nothing conservative, nothing liberal, nothing free about this.

While we're on the subject of national survival, I'll call your attention to this from the Council on Foreign Relations:

“The Evolving Structure of the American Economy and the Employment Challenge”

www.cfr.org/industrial-policy/evolving-structure-american-economy-employment-challenge/p24366

According to the authors, one a Nobel Laureate (not that this means as much as it used to):

- Higher-paying jobs may soon follow low-paying jobs in leaving the U.S.
- The free flow of labor and capital that has diminished employment opportunities in America will continue to do so at all levels of society.
- Between 1990 and 2008, 27.3 million jobs were created in the U.S.; however,
- Of these 27.3 million jobs, 97.7% were non-tradable—typically, government and health care jobs that could not be offshored. This occurred despite dramatic labor-saving technology in information processing that ran across all sectors of the economy.
- A "tradable" job is, basically, a job that can be offshored. If a new job could be offshored to China or India, it was.

Have a great weekend. Do something great while a child is watching you. Buy something made by American hands.

140.

American Children Now In Poverty: 1 in 5

August 17, 2011

The Annie E. Casey Foundation today released their *2011 Kids Count Data Book*:

www.aecf.org

- 14.7 million American children now live in poverty—up 2.5 million from 2000
- The 2011 poverty line for a family of 4 is \$22,350
- \$22,350

American poverty, America's future: Made in China.

Our country was not built by a service economy, nor can it survive on a service economy.

Financial? Legal? Dry cleaning? Dog grooming? Government?

It is impossible to build—or rebuild—a real country on service jobs. A real country needs to create wealth through manufacturing, agriculture, and natural resource extraction. Service industries then develop to provide services to wealth creators—and, of course, share in the wealth.

Our country needs to get back to the business of making things and selling them.

Simple as that.

If President Obama's daughters opened a lemonade stand, they'd know they'd have to move product—enough to make a go of it—or close down.

Maybe they should have a talk with their Dad.

(And their Mom, next time she's getting ready to buy another foreign-made dress.)

141.

Where have you gone, Abe and Teddy? A nation turns its lonely eyes. . . .

August 18, 2011

Our leaders used to be on our side. Back when England was a serious economic competitor, Abraham Lincoln said:

“If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the rails and the money both.”

In June, the U.S. imported \$34.4 billion worth of stuff—computers, apparel, household goods, etc.—from the People's Republic of China. Think how that money could be used to stimulate our economy instead of their economy. We could be creating jobs right here at home, instead of funding China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the People's "Liberation" Army.

The transfer of assets continues unabated: from the American middle class, to a financial elite with global interests, to adversaries who do not necessarily wish us well.

We're led by "the malefactors of great wealth"—Teddy Roosevelt's words for the financial elites he held responsible for the 1907 Bankers' Panic and a 48% drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average:

“It may well be that the determination of the government (in which, gentlemen, it will not waver) to punish certain malefactors of great wealth, has been responsible for something of the trouble; at least to the extent of having caused these men to combine to bring about as much financial stress as possible, in order to discredit the policy of the government and thereby secure a reversal of that policy, so that they may enjoy unmolested the fruits of their own evil-doing. . . . I regard this contest as one to determine who shall rule this free country—the people through their governmental agents, or a few ruthless and domineering men whose wealth makes them peculiarly formidable because they hide behind the breastworks of corporate organization.”

Teddy Roosevelt was not afraid of the malefactors, nor am I, nor are most of my fellow citizens.

It seems the only people afraid of the malefactors are elected officials and official candidates.

142.

The “Made In China” Content of the Federal Reserve—A Rebuttal

August 22, 2011

In their outrageously misleading and viral "Economic Letter" of August 8, 2011:

“The U.S. Content of ‘Made in China’”

www.frbsf.org/publications/economics/letter/2011/el2011-25.html

Thus Spake The Fed:

- "Although globalization is widely recognized these days, the U.S. economy actually remains relatively closed."
- "Chinese imports still make up only a small share of total U.S. consumer spending."
- "Goods and services from China accounted for only 2.7% of U.S. personal consumption expenditures in 2010, of which less than half reflected the actual costs of Chinese imports."
- "The fact that overall import content of U.S. consumer goods has remained relatively constant while the Chinese share has doubled indicates that Chinese gains have come, in large part, at the expense of other exporting nations."

Outrageous. Preposterous. Insulting. As if the authors—Galina Borisova Hale (Russia) and Bart Hobijn (Netherlands)—the Federal Reserve, and our corporate-sponsored media assume the reader has never set foot in an American store.

I can hear Chico Marx asking, "Who you gonna believe, me or your own eyes?"

You just can't make this stuff up. (Sorry, figure of speech. Obviously, someone *did* make this stuff up. But I will not apologize for economic nationalism—mine or anyone else's.)

I've been wondering how the Fed might top their act of 2008, reviewed in yesterday's Bloomberg article:

“Wall Street Aristocracy Got \$1.2T in Loans”

www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-21/wall-street-aristocracy-got-1-2-trillion-in-fed-s-secret-loans.html

See also the GAO's euphemistically entitled "Federal Reserve System: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Policies and Processes for Managing Emergency Assistance" (Gee, ya think?)

www.gao.gov/new.items/d11696.pdf

and my 4/18/11 mailing

“Your Tax Dollars At Work—Recent Revelations”

A few highlights from the 4/18/11 mailing:

- Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars were handed out to investors with addresses in the Cayman Islands. [Panama, of the "U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement," while not much of a market for American-made goods, is a bustling tax haven for American-made dollars.]
- \$2.2 billion went to the Korea Development Bank.
- The Fed made massive purchases of securities in BMW, Volkswagen, Honda, Mitsubishi, and Nissan, and extended \$5 billion in credit to Toyota and Mitsubishi.
- Foreign banks borrowed more than 70% of the money loaned during the record week in October 2008.
- Bank of China was the second-largest borrower during a nine-day period in August 2007, when subprime mortgage defaults first roiled broader markets.
- Arab Banking Corporation, then 29% owned by Gaddafi's Libyan central bank, got 73 loans [totaling \$35 billion] from the Fed during the 18 months after the collapse of Lehman Brothers. [Interesting that the Fed charged Gaddafi less than the Fed charged our own U.S. Treasury.]

So much for the character, purpose, or credibility of America's central bank. The Fed takes care of Fed members and Fed friends. American citizens unlucky enough to inhabit the bottom 99% of our economic strata have to pay the bills and bequeath the unpaid balances to their children.

The Fed's "Economic Letter" is, to my skeptical reading, an attempt to advance the Fed's notorious free trade agenda—see, for example, the ridiculous “The Fruits of Free Trade” from the Dallas Fed: www.dallasfed.org/assets/documents/fed/annual/2002/ar02.pdf—and to reassure the free-trading/globalizing/robbing-the-American-middle-class crowd:

- "Chinese inflation will have little direct effect on American consumer prices."

- "It is unlikely that recent increases in labor costs and inflation in China will generate broad-based inflationary pressures in the United States."

Full speed ahead, all capital preserved—music to the ears of Teddy Roosevelt's "malefactors of great wealth."

(Disturbing, really, the similarities between our obstacles and his. See my 8/18/11 mailing: "Where have you gone, Abe and Teddy? A nation turns its lonely eyes. . . .")

The current People's Republic propaganda from the U.S. Federal Reserve System is so wrong on so many levels, I couldn't do it justice in the time I have. But I'm compelled to say a little something. The Fed's claims don't ring true and their numbers don't add.

Most people have a difficult time feeding their families with "percentages," so I sometimes find it helpful to communicate with the word "dollars." Consider that in 2010, the year covered in the Fed's "Economic Letter," the U.S. bought

\$ 364,943,900,000

worth of stuff (mostly finished consumer goods) from China. That's a lot of jobs—wealth-producing manufacturing jobs, not service-sector stuff. Even if we deduct our shamefully low exports to China (mostly recyclable scrap and industrial supplies China needed for production), we're left with a 2010 trade deficit of

\$ 273,063,200,000

just with China—an all-time record. No wonder the Fed felt moved to prevaricate.

(I could argue that all 365 billion dollars' worth could and should have been produced here in the U.S., but, for the time being, I'm sure we can agree that the deficit portion, at least, was a major blow to our country's well-being.)

Now, as long as we're talking real figures, we can and should put a pencil to them. The Fed's "Economic Letter" says the total Americans spent on China-labeled products was 2.25 times their imported cost—basically markups from shipping dock to cash register. (U.S. exports to China are not a consideration here.)

In other words: $\$ 364,943,900,000 \times 2.25 = \$ 821,123,775,000$ or—when divided by a population of 312 million—\$2,632 each for every man, woman, and child in the USA.

To those willing to accept the Fed's 2.7% figure: \$ 821,123,775,000 is 2.7% of \$30.4 trillion—three times the actual size of our consumer economy.

Yes, I'm working with international trade figures, and true, not 100% of Chinese imports are finished consumer goods, but most of them are. The portion not, is still eventually paid for by the consumer, so we can keep this rebuttal simple—and effective enough to fight the fabrications of the Fed.

(Now there's an idea: we can fight lies instead of one another.)

You may have noticed that the Fed's "Economic Letter" included in its calculations American consumer spending on services, which the Fed claims accounted for 66.9% of personal consumption expenditures, or PCE. (How comforting that 66.9% of our money, or so the Fed claims, goes to services that do not create

wealth. How predictable that the Fed doesn't say this is a problem.) Because Americans buy Chinese products (which create Chinese wealth), not Chinese services, this trick was clearly designed to manipulate the headlines and, of course, the public. If we accept the Fed's catchy claim that "goods and services from China accounted for only 2.7% of U.S. personal consumption expenditures in 2010," we can at least drop the "and services" baloney and revise their figure from 2.7% to 8.2%.

Good grief, according to the Fed's own report, this is more than twice what Americans spent on motor vehicles (3.4%), more than what we spent on food (8%) and almost half of what we spent on housing (16.6%). "Made in China" is suddenly more alarming than the Fed wants us to believe.

To reinforce my contention that the Fed's contentions are absurd:

If \$2,632 per person was 2.7% of personal consumption expenditures, then Americans spent more than \$97,000 per person on the personal consumption of goods and services in 2010.

Not likely.

If \$2,632 per person was 8.2% of personal consumption expenditures, then Americans spent closer to \$32,000 per person on the personal consumption of goods and services in 2010.

Not on the money, but closer to the truth. I'm not trying to be right; I'm trying to prove the Fed wrong—perhaps even criminally so.

A few more objections:

- The Fed does not identify foreign companies manufacturing in the U.S. So far as the Fed is concerned, it's "Made in USA" even if the profits go back to, say, Japan and the benefit to the U.S. economy is significantly reduced.
- The "motor vehicles" category is particularly disturbing at 74.9% Made in USA.
- The Fed does not identify Chinese-made products that carry origin labels from other countries—for example, "Made in Mexico" so Chinese goods can enter the U.S. under NAFTA protection, or "Made in Germany" so the perceived quality of Chinese merchandise goes up a few notches.
- The Fed does not identify non-Chinese foreign products made from Chinese components.
- The Fed tries to sell the reader on Chinese benefits to American workers, managers, retailers, and shareholders while it ignores the relative plight of American workers and the frequently disproportionate benefits to managers, multinational retailers, foreign shareholders, and multinational corporations.

Finally, the Fed seems to forget there are 312 million of us, and not quite so many of them.

Enough for now. It's almost 4:00 AM. The Fed's "Economic Letter" is self-serving hogwash.

Just one more thing:

Vote.

143.

EXTRA: Bob Hall Rebuttal of Fed Deception—Published Today by ManufactureThis

August 23, 2011

Published today 8/23/11 by www.ManufactureThis.org:

GUEST COLUMN: “Deceptive 'Made in China' Statistics from the Federal Reserve”

<http://americanmanufacturing.org/blog/guest-column-deceptive-made-china-statistics-federal-reserve>

You can read the full rebuttal on my Facebook campaign page:

144.

CPA Features Bob Hall Fed Rebuttal, USA TODAY Abandons USA, We Connect Some Old Dots

August 29, 2011

The highly respected Coalition for a Prosperous America published on 8/26/11 my rebuttal to the Fed's erroneous and self-serving claim that imports from China make up only a small share of American consumer spending:

www.tradereform.org/2011/08/guest-column-deceptive-made-in-china-statistics-from-the-federal-reserve

The full rebuttal can be found on my Facebook campaign page:

CPA timely answers USA TODAY, which on Wednesday joined the feeding frenzy and published a Hong Kong dispatch capitalizing on the deceptive Fed report. USA TODAY assured the reader,

"Because we import from China, prices are cheaper, consumers have more money in their pocket, and they go out and spend more, generating a greater number of U.S. jobs than are lost. . . ."

To experience the full-brain-wash from USA (USA?) TODAY:

www.usatoday.com/money/world/story/2011-08-24/Buy-Made-in-China-goods-Benefits-to-US-may-surprise-you/50127452/1

All said, the week's "Emperor's New Clothes" award must go to this jewel published in 2003 by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in "The Fruits of Free Trade":

"We hear that exports are good because they support U.S. industry but imports are bad because they steal business from domestic producers. Actually, imports are the real fruits of trade because the end goal of economic activity is consumption. Exports represent resources we don't consume at home. This is how we pay for what we buy abroad, and we're better off when we pay as little as possible. Mercantilism, with its mania for exporting, lost favor for good reason."

When did we become comedians playing for a Chinese audience?

Stay alert, my friends. "They"—the People's Republic of China, the offshore producers, the campaign financiers, obviously our trusted bankers—will continue to manipulate American citizens to spend more on Chinese products and less on American products. This is how it's done. This is how they get our money and jobs. It all happens at the cash register.

"The future decided at the giant's store—took every dollar we had and loaned us money for more."

That's it. I'll sign off with my best lyrics. Three years later, they're still accurate.

They don't have to be "deadly" accurate. It's up to you.

"Dollar to the Giant"

Echoing rust. Factory line.
Dead-child memory of another time.
The sign said this spot was USA—
Too young to know it didn't have to be this way.

Sweat-stain genius, practical hands,
Built factories, built the goods, built the land.
First steps forgotten. History blind,
We're connected to our roots by a credit line.

Wakening giant. Hunger and rice.
Caught the scent of our money, knew we wouldn't fight.
Slippery giant. History wise.
Put down his guns, put on a friendly disguise.

We closed our eyes

And the Giant from the East woke up from a sleep, hunger for the heads of our young.
No suspicion of war, through the open door, manifest of Mao Tse-Tung.
Ulterior plans in the giant's hands, steel cages hit our shores in a flood.
And all we received for a moment of greed was paid for with our children's blood.

We gave up our future, families and friends.
Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again.

Agreeable climate: pickpockets and noise.
The bankers jumped to the giant like little boys.
Economy experts selling their time,
But nothing made nothing. Can you spare a dime?

Productivity's children sleeping in chains.
Giant kept our credit up, kept us entertained.
Fear-fallen children couldn't say no.
Wouldn't read label made in Chinese. Where did the money go?

Detoured discussion about manufacturing trade.
Instead we're led to every trap the giant made.
The future decided at the giant's store—
Took every dollar we had and loaned us money for more.

Who are we doing this for?

The Giant from the East, a billion-head beast, feeding on the hopes of our young.
No resemblance of war, through the open door, mannequins of Mao Tse-Tung.
Invisible plans in the giant's hands, temptation hit our stores in a flood.
And all we received for bargains we believed was paid for with our children's blood.

We traded in our future, families and friends.
Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again.

Reckoning rust. Factory line.
Lost-dream memory of a better time.
All the signs say this choice was Made in USA—
Too numb to know it didn't have to be this way.

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Music By Robert Hall (ASCAP)

145.

Our Presidential Campaign Begins October 1. Here's the plan:

September 1, 2011

Our campaign begins in one month. We can win.

I will walk across the USA.

Yes, on my own two feet, to learn from real live American citizens who are not being heard, represented, or led by our government, campaign financiers, or media. In other words: at least 99% of the U.S. population.

(Our top 1% need not fear. Listen to my candidacy speech. If a society works, it works for everyone, for the long term, for their children. I want everyone—absolutely everyone—to make more money, but not at the expense of their fellow citizens and future generations. We can—we must—generate new wealth and stop trying to grab existing wealth.)

Join me! Walk a mile or a thousand. My schedule—departures, events, destinations—will be posted on my Facebook campaign page along with lots of interesting stuff from the road.

Tentatively, my first walk will be from Detroit, through America's former industrial heartland, to Washington, D.C. Much as I'd love to carry everything on my back, I'll need electronics and enough soap, toothpaste, and clean American clothes to keep myself presentable. I hope to recruit volunteers (and a documentary filmmaker, perhaps?) to drive with the luggage so we walkers are free to walk—and to grow in number.

Imagine the impact of a million people arriving in Washington in time for Christmas, Labor Day, or Election Day 2012.

With tens of millions unemployed, why stop at a million?

This walk is the best way I can imagine to put our message across and to show America's youngest citizens they don't need a billion-dollar advertising budget to make a difference—or to win this do-it-or-die election.

We also have to teach them the power of simply trying. If our children will not try, they will not succeed. If they try, just try, there's no telling what kind of talent they'll discover—and what kind of future they'll enjoy.

Please try. A vote for anyone other than "a person like me" is a vote for the multinational money people who finance our official parties, control our elected officials, send the U.S. economy offshore, and make unprecedented profits while the greatest country in the world is on life support.

This is intolerable. I refuse to surrender my country and her children to these people. I will fight them. I will fight them with everything I've got. I will meet every challenge, and I will meet every challenger.

I will fight them to my last breath.

Some things are worth fighting for.

146.

Make Money With My Campaign (and Other Ways You Can Help)

September 2, 2011

So many have asked how they can help with my campaign, I thought I'd put some ideas out there:

1. You may profit from my campaign. (Literally. Personally. Almost immediately.)

Feel free to make and sell Bob Hall 2012 shirts and bumper stickers. (Business cards with the URL of my Facebook campaign page will be useful gifts for the cynical, the misguided, and the disheartened.)

You keep all the profits. I don't have to approve your designs. This campaign should be a grass-roots American community effort. My only rules are obvious:

- You must be an American citizen.
- All materials and labor must be U.S.
- All profits must be saved or spent here in the U.S. to benefit our own economy. (None of this "multinational leakage" garbage.)
- If it's legally copyrighted—my music, for example—you'll have to obtain permission.
- Be honest and set a good example for the children whether they're watching or not.

Have fun! Be as creative as you like. I'm currently favoring “Real.” and “Vision.” and “Jobs.” as one-word communications, but you might have some ideas of your own.

In any case, it's not my place to make money with campaign swag. But I'd be pleased as punch if you did.

Well there you go: I'm creating jobs already.

Just imagine what a big-name performer could do with "Dollar to the Giant"—or what a documentary filmmaker could do with this Presidential campaign.

2. Talk. Write. Click.

Keep spreading the word in every way possible. If everyone told two friends who each told two friends, and so on, everyone in this country would very quickly learn they now have an opportunity to elect a truly independent non-partisan with no ties to big money.

3. Join me on my walk.

We'll also need volunteers to drive with the luggage and other heavy items. We'll have a lot of fun and get 'er done.

4. Collect signatures. Get me on the ballots.

It will be helpful, very helpful, to collect enough signatures to put my name on the ballots in all 50 states. (Anyone interested in this effort, please contact me.) However, my name is short, easy to spell, and ideally suited for a write-in candidate. If we invest our time and resources both wisely and creatively, we can make a fool of the two-party system.

5. Send money.

Sorry, I know this sounds tacky, but I'd rather be direct and not go around and around the bush. This campaign will cost next to nothing, but it will still cost something—and your candidate has exhausted his financial resources in the service of this country.

Our system of tax-deductible contributions to political non-profits is unproductive and anti-American. The legal hurdles of fees and registrations in all 50 states are designed to keep outsiders out—with "outsiders" defined as the non-Democrat, non-Republican, non-Wealthy. Are any of these organizations honestly "not-for-profit" or are they formed to avoid taxes and concentrate political power—while paying themselves very well indeed?

I'm not looking for money from people who want the tax deduction. People should contribute because they want to support the candidate and the platform—hopefully, because the candidate and platform are good for the country.

You can make a contribution (let's be legal and call this "a non-tax-deductible payment or gift") using PayPal and the current mailing's address:

DollarToTheGiant@Gmail.com

or, preferably, the e-mail address shown on my Facebook campaign page:

BobHall2012@Gmail.com

You can also mail a check (payable to Robert Hall) to the postal address shown on my Facebook campaign page:

PO Box 59288, Schaumburg, IL, 60159-0288

Please identify yourself clearly. I will not accept money from corporations, organizations, anonymous donors, or non-citizens.

If the rest of our politicians had the same philosophy, I wouldn't have to be President.

Thank you. Best wishes for a safe and thoughtful Labor Day.

147.

Simple Observations on the State of the Union

September 8, 2011

"Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason? Why, if it prosper, none dare call it treason."—Sir John Harrington (1561-1612)

Fast forward to 2011: Life has become so distracting, we have to remind ourselves to step back, breathe, and take in the big picture. When we do, we can recognize some major movements:

- For the first time in world history, the East is conquering the West.
- For the first time in U.S. history, the American middle class is being sacrificed to a global system of financial aristocrats and peasants.
- #1 and #2, above, operate in tandem.

Take heart. They are few and we are many.

(This is not meant to encourage class warfare. Were I to decide, every law-abiding American, even the most unpleasant of billionaires, would grow in prosperity.)

If we are not, as "Dollar to the Giant" warns, "too numb to know it didn't have to be this way," we can easily—so easily—turn things around. The aforementioned "major movements" are not inexorable forces of nature. They are man-made, and they can be man-*un*-made. We can learn to sniff out a money trail and recognize the differences between friends and enemies. Above all, perhaps, we must never concede that politics is the preserve of the wealthy, or justice and humanity would fly out the window with any hopes for our children's future.

Amazing, what we're missing, what's right under our noses:

- Our futures are being decided by publicly traded multinational corporations that, frequently in partnership with the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China, move our jobs and productive economy offshore.
- Our government works for these very same multinationals, which spend \$ billions on political campaigns and lobbyists, thereby controlling our elected officials and policies.
- China's economy is subsidized by both the Chinese and U.S. governments.
- Ever notice how American-taxpayer-funded stimulus spending falls flat in the U.S. but stimulates the bejeezus out of China's manufacturing economy?
- Multinational-sponsored media ignore our tragic real economy while hyping the non-productive, fictitious economy of Wall Street and "the markets."
- Meanwhile, the world's healthy economies are still making things and selling them.
- Our nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve, a secretive collection of private banks and interests, is not accountable to the American people. If judged by its actions, the Fed is in business to route the country's money supply through Wall Street banks, cater to the financial aristocracy and its global interests, and guarantee Wall Street profits and bonuses whether deserved or not—all at the expense

of the American citizens the Fed purports to serve. The average American citizen wouldn't know the Federal Reserve from a pork chop, and the aristocracy wants to keep it this way.

If only our politicians cared for people the way they care for campaign money.

Some day. In the meantime, please do what you can to starve the multinationals and the traitors they sponsor.

Buy American products from American companies. Vote for truly independent non-partisan candidates with no ties to big money.

Interested in helping? Please see "Make Money With My Campaign (and Other Ways You Can Help)":

148.

OK, I'll say something about the President's jobs speech

September 11, 2011

Multinational corporate money staged another Democrats-vs.-Republicans puppet show on Thursday: the President's so-called "jobs" speech. In the follow-through, both divisions of the multinational corporate media, both left and right, are granting the President's performance—one of the most contemptuous and contemptible in memory—enough legitimacy to keep us from hearing the smoke alarm. In time, they seem to think, they'll get it all—at fire sale prices.

I could call the President's performance "diabolically clever," but I won't because it wasn't. It was simply dishonest and (therefore) stupid. Those emerging from the spell of his oratory are encouraged to review his speechwriters' actual words on the White House website:

www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/08/address-president-joint-session-congress

I wonder whether the administration actually wants Main Street to recover, or if they even know we're in trouble. Painful to contemplate, but the big money party that finances our nominal "two"-party system has found its guy in Barack Obama. Expect a long parade of Republican candidates incapable of unseating the President. The big money people have never had it better, and the GOP has been ordered to stand down.

(If they haven't actually been ordered to stand down, they have a lot of explaining to do.)

Anyway, back to the "jobs" speech and how to say "the check is in the mail" in Washing-talk:

Tax Cuts: More than 50% of this jobs plan is tax cuts. Specifically targeted is payroll, which—oh, by the way—funds Social Security and Medicare. (Money which—oh, by the way—the multinational megabanks

would dearly love to get their hands on.) No, we should not raise taxes during times like these. But tax cuts, if effective vote getters, are ineffective jobs creators, especially during times like these, when people save or pay off debt. The "more-money-in-our-pockets" pitch benefits the multinationals. We've lost so much of our manufacturing base, we can no longer cost-effectively stimulate the U.S. economy through indiscriminate spending. Too many American dollars leak to offshore producers.

(Keynesians: require that stimulus money be spent on American-made products, and you won't have to work so hard. Keynes himself said, "I sympathize . . . with those who would minimize economic entanglement among nations. [Let] goods be homespun . . . and . . . let finance be primarily national.")

My candidacy speech calls for the elimination of personal and corporate income taxes, in part to "rehabilitate politicians who campaign with tax promises."

Remember: in our country's post-World War II heyday, the top personal income tax rate was 91% and union membership was at an all-time high. No, I am not advocating a return to either one, but there's a lesson here. When this country was making money, creating wealth and opportunity through manufacturing, we could afford ourselves and we weren't afraid of the future. Now we'll fight over the last piece of pie before we'll bake a new one. Strange to some, we were much happier when taxes were higher and unions were stronger.

Don't get sidetracked by scapegoating and wedge issues. We need to get back on our feet again—together, as Americans. When we're making money again, if we really want, we can go back to squabbling as Democrats and Republicans.

Free Trade Agreements: Our President hustling Panama, Colombia, and Korea free trade agreements in a "pro"-jobs speech is an insult to the American electorate—and an obvious gift to his multinational sponsors, who can't offshore American jobs fast enough. To insinuate that Koreans will drive "Fords and Chevys and Chryslers" the way "Americans can buy Kias and Hyundais" is to display an astonishing (a) ignorance of Koreans, (b) lack of business acumen, or (c) capacity for deceit, none of which is desirable in an American President.

This proliferation of free trade agreements is a relatively recent phenomenon. In truth, we don't need them. We can just trade. Multinational corporations lobby for "free" trade legislation so they can produce in foreign countries to the greatest possible advantage, at the lowest possible cost, then exploit the \$10-trillion American consumer economy for as long as American pawn shops stay open and American credit cards remain unrevoked. Free-trade deals frequently benefit American special interests, but they're one-way deals for the overall American economy. We have the most to lose, so we invariably wind up losing it.

There are a lot of simple, sensible fixes for our trade problems, not the least of which are clearly articulated in my four-minute "College Girl, Economy, Jobs" video:

The President and his backers could save our country—indeed, the world—a ton of trouble if they would simply acknowledge the elephant in the middle of the room: a trade war we've been losing for decades, a trade war in which the American consumer and government are strangely complicit, a trade war in which we stubbornly refuse to defend ourselves, a trade war in which we have suffered more economic damage than in all of our "real" wars combined.

Accordingly, when dealing with the communist dictatorship in China, the term "trade war" should be rethought. As the People's Liberation Army declared a decade ago: nuclear weapons are obsolete. Modern warfare is conducted through trade and finance. The implications of this should be reconsidered as well. For example, China manufactures most of our electronics, including critical hardware for security and defense

applications. Why would China *not* build undetectable kill switches and back doors into every chip they sell us? Is there any reason to believe this hasn't already been accomplished, or at least begun? China would have only to hit the "Enter" key to bring our lives to a grinding halt. They could then dictate to us the new terms of our continued existence.

Much as I hate to discourage the multi-trillion-dollar, multinational war industry—they've worked so hard to school us in the ways of the outside world—war has changed forever. This can be a good thing. Instead of fattening the war industry by spending taxpayer money on fireworks displays in foreign countries, we can divert a significant portion of our defense budget to productive endeavors.

Small Business: To be sure, the President said some nice things about small business—surprisingly nice, really, when you consider that his biggest fans are gigantic multinationals like BP. Of course, I like small business, too. I was a small business owner for 25 years. A lot of big companies have begun as small companies. But, all that said, we can do without the political happy talk that tacitly promotes the service economy delusion. This country wasn't built by lawyers and dog fluffers—or by any other kind of small business. Our country needs industry, big industry, big jobs creators: steel, electronics, glass, plastics, textiles, clothing, chemicals, machinery, energy, automobiles—all the products we need for independence, prosperity, and national security. Small businesses organize to supply—and, yes, service—what big business creates.

(Environmentalists, please note: American factories are 5x - 10x cleaner than their Chinese counterparts. Currently, more than 700,000 Chinese die every year from air pollution, while 25% of the air pollution in our western states blows across the Pacific from China. One of the best things we can do for our planet is to manufacture here in the U.S. Something else you might like to know: I ran a solar energy manufacturing business 30 years ago.)

Education: Another vote getter that's getting old. Yes, our educational system is pathetic. No, American workers are not unemployed because their educations are deficient. American workers are unemployed because their *legislators'* educations are deficient.

Mr. President: send Congress to school. American workers are ready to work.

Multinational corporations game the system to hire foreigners at lower wages, but despite their self-serving claims backed by campaign contributions, there is no shortage of capable Americans. In fact, American workers are on average considerably more educated than their Chinese and Indian H-1B replacements.

This jobs plan, if taken seriously as a jobs plan and not as a cheap campaign speech, could have us barking up the wrong tree for a long time. Instead of creating new wealth and growing, we would rearrange existing wealth and shrink. The trade war would rage unacknowledged; China and the multinationals would continue to advance with no resistance; we would lose even more jobs to free trade agreements. Instead of re-industrializing and protecting American interests, we would buy time with tax cuts and government spending, the recipients of this spending no doubt selected by big campaign contributors and lobbyists. This jobs plan would choke the public sector and domestic private sector, resulting in the overall diminution of our country. We would sell the family silver until there was nothing left.

It's interesting and a bit audacious, I think, that President Obama referenced Abraham Lincoln in this jobs speech, a speech with which Abraham Lincoln would not have been impressed. Lincoln had the integrity to tell us:

"If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the rails and the money both."

Abraham Lincoln also said, "You can't fool all of the people all of the time."

I wonder if he was thinking of anyone in particular.

149.

Your Job—Your Family—Could Be Next

September 19, 2011

A record number of Americans are now living in poverty: 46.2 million.*

- 22% of children age 17 and younger are living in poverty.
- 14.2% of adults age 25 - 34 are living "doubled-up" with their parents.
- Of these, 45.3% have incomes below the poverty threshold of \$945.33 per month.
- 31.6% of "female-householder-with-no-husband-present" families are also living in poverty.

Now consider:

Campaign 2012 spending could reach \$7 billion.

Our politicians and media will do almost anything for that money. The multinational campaign financiers expect big favors, big returns on their investment in American politics.

What are the chances any of them care anything about you?

What are the chances our nation will survive if we don't start supporting candidates like me?

*Source: www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf

150.

Two Quotes to Compare

September 20, 2011

"A very wise man . . . believed if a man were permitted to make all the ballads he need not care who should make the laws of a nation, and we find that most of the ancient legislators thought that they could not well reform the manners of any city without the help of a lyric, and sometimes of a dramatic poet." — Andrew Fletcher (1655 - 1716)

"Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws."— popularly attributed to Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744 - 1812)

151.

Two More Quotes: If Abraham Lincoln Were Alive Today

September 20, 2011

If Abraham Lincoln could see his country today, he'd solve our fundamental problems with one simple piece of advice:

“If we purchase a product from China for twenty dollars, then we have the product and China the money. But if we buy a product from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the product and the money both.”

Why not? Aren't these words as true as when Lincoln first spoke them?

“If we purchase a ton of steel rails from England for twenty dollars, then we have the rails and England the money. But if we buy a ton of steel rails from an American for twenty-five dollars, then America has the rails and the money both.”

I will admit there have been some changes since Lincoln's day:

1. Our politicians are now controlled by multinationals that will not allow the U.S. Government to defend American national interests.
2. England was not a communist dictatorship that considers the U.S. its main political, philosophical, and military adversary.

Otherwise, people are still people. When will our people get back in the game?

(I wonder: if Abraham Lincoln were alive today, who would he vote for?)

152.

Class Warfare: Un-Intelligent if not Un-American

September 23, 2011

It seems every time we turn on the news, some expert is yammering about class warfare, rioting in the streets, taxing the rich, taxing the corporations—nothing, ever, about working together as sane American citizens to manufacture new wealth to pay for what we need.

We are defined—increasingly, distressingly—by what we hate. Yammering experts are hired by people who understand this and use it to manipulate public opinion.

I'll leave you to imagine who these people are and what's in it for them.

But what's in it for us? Consider what will happen when we require wealthy individuals and corporations to pay their fair share of income tax:

They will leave the United States and take their money with them.

The U.S. is not the only game in town—not any more, it's not.

Now, I will admit, a lot of wealthy individuals and corporations don't exactly give me the warm fuzzies either, but I think it helps to calm down, take a deep breath, and realize:

We need their money.

We need their savvy.

We need their factories and jobs.

Wash my mouth out with soap, but we even need their greed—parts of it, anyway.

We can start by letting them bring home the \$\$\$ trillions they're currently holding offshore to avoid the IRS and the U.S. Congress. (I know a great way to capitalize a national infrastructure bank.)

In my candidacy speech, I recommend replacing our counterproductive income tax with a tax on consumption—this, in part, to counter politicians who spout tax-related nonsense and class warfare to distract ignorant voters.

A well-designed consumption tax is progressive but fair. The poor are not deprived. The rich are not penalized. Everybody wins, except the multi-billion-dollar income-tax-related lobbies.

We should also abolish the corporate income tax. Reality check: no corporation has ever paid income tax. Corporations simply pass this liability along in the form of higher prices on goods and services.

Ultimately, you and I pay all the bills for everything, including what the politicians steal while we agree to look the other way. The bills we can't afford, we dump on our children.

Nothing will change, however, until we stop falling for the same old tricks.

Hate the lies. Hate ignorance. But when we hate each other, our real enemies have us exactly where they want us.

153.

Class Warfare, cont.; Fairness, etc.

September 25, 2011

Our Presidents' (plural, not just Obama) campaign financiers campaign, cleverly, against their own class. The vast majority of American voters are not wealthy, nor do we tend to (c'mon, admit it) independent thought. We like candidates who talk about "fairness" in American life—typically related to money, taxes, and the entities not earning or paying their fair share. The campaign financiers, a tiny minority of the world's population, willingly don black hats to steer the majority of American voters to candidates hand-picked by the campaign financiers.

After the hand-picked candidates are installed . . . well, we know what happens next. Yet we persist.

I don't blame the rich folks. They're protecting their interests—short-term, too often, but they're still better at it than we are and we could learn something. With a little gumption, we could force the U.S. Government to represent us, too. After all, we own the votes that the rich folks have to buy and the politicians have to earn.

I blame us—the buck really starts and stops here—but it's so difficult to get people's attention these days, especially when they're trained to work against their own interests, I'll shift the blame to our official representatives.

What were we thinking when we hired these people?

(Ooops, sorry, I'm blaming the voters again.)

At the very least, nobody can get a fair shake if our politicians spend most of their time fundraising for re-election. To this end, they legislate (including taxes) to maximize political campaign contributions. The result is a system only the biggest checkbooks can penetrate—or so it dauntingly appears—and country of origin is rarely a problem.

An American businessman might observe that many foreign economies—those successfully plundering the American economy in the name of "globalization"—are well defined as "state capitalist." Increasingly, our global competitors are national governments or nominally private enterprises powerfully supported by national governments.

Our hypothetical (or not) American businessman (or woman) might be an exceptional asset to our country. His factory and its suppliers might create enormous wealth manufacturing unglamorous products essential to our lives. Together, they might employ thousands of people supporting children, local economies, and the big American picture.

Lest we forget the government: our businessman and his suppliers create jobs that pay taxes and grow the tax base to pay even more taxes—regardless, one might provoke, of how much or little our businesspeople contribute with their personal income tax returns.*

You'd think any country would bend over backwards for such an engine of widespread prosperity, and indeed the smart ones do. We lose some of our best and brightest every day.

But when our best-and-brightest wealth creators (note that this necessarily excludes friends of the Fed) need help from the country they feed:

- The U.S. Government will rarely help them compete with imports to make payroll, even as American jobs and lives are destroyed by offshore producers owned by adversarial regimes operating well outside the law.
- Our government offers tax incentives for American businesses to relocate offshore and keep their money in foreign accounts.
- In effect, our government routinely pays businesses to leave our country, but not to stay.
- Businesses the world over are organized to manufacture in China, then ship the goods through (and buy an origin label in) a country with which the U.S. has a free trade agreement.
- Entrepreneurs and investors the world over organize businesses in countries with which the U.S. has free trade agreements—Mexico, for example—then sell to the American consumer under protected terms.
- Panama should be popular when the multinationals get their way. It's already an established tax haven, and China controls the ports at both ends of the canal.
- American businesses are encouraged by our government's H-1B visa program to replace American workers with lower-wage foreigners.
- Businesses and individuals alike are encouraged by our tax system to abandon the real economy and regular income rates for the fictitious economy of Wall Street and lower capital gains rates.
- American business owners frequently get discouraged and close the doors, or—by the thousands—sell their companies to foreign investors.

Fairness, one might surmise, is in the eye of the beholder and not easily described or agreed upon in an unfair society. It would help, I think, if we caught a glimpse of it in our leaders every so often.

*It's worth noting that if we replace the income tax with a VAT, our wealthy individuals and corporations will have little choice but to pay their fair share to the satisfaction of most critics.

154.

Saving the Rich from Themselves

September 26, 2011

M.S. Eccles, then of First Security Corporation, quoting Stuart Chase or William Trufant Foster in his February 1933 statement to the Senate Finance Committee:*

“It is utterly impossible, as this country has demonstrated again and again, for the rich to save as much as they have been trying to save, and save anything that is worth saving. They can save idle factories and useless railroad coaches; they can save empty office buildings and closed banks; they can save paper evidences of foreign loans; but as a class they can not save anything that is worth saving, above and beyond the amount that is made profitable by the increase of consumer buying. It is for the interests of the well to do—to protect them from the results of their own folly—that we should take from them a sufficient amount of their surplus to enable consumers to consume and business to operate at a profit. [Eccles: "I am speaking of business during normal times."] This is not ‘soaking the rich’; it is saving the rich. Incidentally, it is the only way to assure them the serenity and security which they do not have at the present moment.”

Interesting advice from the pre-Federal Reserve Marriner Eccles, who apparently hadn't anticipated the rise of competitive regimes in a global economy. Now, the rich can strip us bare and move on to the next country, thus avoiding the results of their own folly.

In the last three years, China's GDP has grown more than 30%, while U.S. GDP has grown less than 2%-- thanks, in large part, to the rich and the American politicians they own.

I'm afraid none of them is going to find much serenity and security in the People's Republic of China.

*Eccles couldn't remember which economist he was quoting:

<http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/docs/meltzer/ecctes33.pdf>

155.

ABC News Video: “Are American Infrastructure Jobs Being Shipped to China?”

September 27, 2011

“Bringing America Back: Are Infrastructure Jobs Being Shipped to China?”

http://abcnews.go.com/US/bringing_america_back/american-infrastructure-jobs-shipped-china/story?id=14592567

To repeat an observation from my 9/26 note, "Saving the Rich from Themselves":

"In the last three years, China's GDP has grown more than 30%, while U.S. GDP has grown less than 2%—thanks, in large part, to the rich and the American politicians they own."

156.

Campaign Day 1: “I look forward to it and hope you're worth my effort.” :-)

October 1, 2011

October 1: The first day of [my] campaign. Plans have changed.

I'm going it alone. I don't have any help—no driver to transport the clumsy stuff while I and my fellow walkers walk; no fellow walkers, even; and not a dime in campaign contributions.

While a bit disappointing, this is not discouraging. On the contrary: it says I'm on the right track. My country needs people like me.

For the foreseeable future, instead of just walking across the country like a normal person, I'll drive from Point A to Point B, park, walk from B to A to B, drive from Point B to Point C, park, walk from C to B to C, and so on.

Every challenge an opportunity, I just doubled the distance—and our chances of meeting on the trail.

I look forward to it and hope you're worth my effort.

Yes, of course I know how obnoxious this sounds. Good grief, I cringe just typing it.

But what if it's really true that we get what we deserve? What if we (ultimately and immediately) become our own punishment?

If this is true, we have to conclude that Americans* simply do not deserve good leaders.

The bad people we've chosen, and why, are for another conversation—some day, maybe, if we ever have the time.

Best, for now, to reject the endless parade of scapegoaters and the fear they exploit.

All human relationships are two-way streets. Sometimes, unusual people are willing to sacrifice everything for the undeserving likes of you and me.

We might not be worth dying for.

But we can listen.

*American *adults*, that is. An old historian friend used to say, "most adults aren't worth the gunpowder to blow 'em to Hell," and I sometimes wonder if he hadn't stumbled into the meaning of life. But a lot of marginally tolerable adults have children and grandchildren who deserve better. I'm working for the kids.

157.

Lyrics: “Dollar to the Giant”

October 5, 2011

Echoing rust. Factory line.
Dead-child memory of another time.
The sign said this spot was USA—
Too young to know it didn't have to be this way.

Sweat-stain genius, practical hands,
Built factories, built the goods, built the land.
First steps forgotten. History blind,
We're connected to our roots by a credit line.

Wakening giant. Hunger and rice.
Caught the scent of our money, knew we wouldn't fight.
Slippery giant. History wise.
Put down his guns, put on a friendly disguise.

We closed our eyes

And the Giant from the East woke up from a sleep, hunger for the heads of our young.
No suspicion of war, through the open door, manifest of Mao Tse-Tung.
Ulterior plans in the giant's hands, steel cages hit our shores in a flood.
And all we received for a moment of greed was paid for with our children's blood.

We gave up our future, families and friends.
Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again.

Agreeable climate: pickpockets and noise.
The bankers jumped to the giant like little boys.
Economy experts selling their time,
But nothing made nothing. Can you spare a dime?

Productivity's children sleeping in chains.
Giant kept our credit up, kept us entertained.
Fear-fallen children couldn't say no.
Wouldn't read label made in Chinese. Where did the money go?

Detoured discussion about manufacturing trade.
Instead we're led to every trap the giant made.
The future decided at the giant's store—
Took every dollar we had and loaned us money for more.

Who are we doing this for?

The Giant from the East, a billion-head beast, feeding on the hopes of our young.
No resemblance of war, through the open door, mannequins of Mao Tse-Tung.
Invisible plans in the giant's hands, temptation hit our stores in a flood.
And all we received for bargains we believed was paid for with our children's blood.

We traded in our future, families and friends.
Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again.

Reckoning rust. Factory line.
Lost-dream memory of a better time.
All the signs say this choice was Made in USA—
Too numb to know it didn't have to be this way.

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Music By Robert Hall (ASCAP)

158.

A Broken Computer, a Valuable Reminder

October 5, 2011

My dying hard drive is symbolic.

For the moment, I'm lucky to have a spare laptop, but how would I—how would this country—survive if our telecom infrastructure went down?

Yes, "survive"—as in "life and death." Listen up. (Darn it.)

For years now, most of the world's electronics have been manufactured by the world's adversary: the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China.

Offended by my description? Then you should know the Chinese constitution officially declares China a communist dictatorship. It should also include the words "cruelty" and "slavery."

Do you honestly think they plan to treat our people any better than they treat their own?

(Now if that question doesn't bear repeating. . . .)

In the three years since I wrote "Dollar to the Giant," China's economy has grown more than 30%—thanks, mostly, to U.S. elected officials and the U.S. consumers who voted them into office.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army wrote more than a decade ago: warfare, as we know it, is obsolete.

Do not be fooled by the American rocket's red glare. Modern warfare is conducted through trade, finance, and electronics.

While it might be perversely amusing to watch our campaigning politicians pretend to confront China while China confronts us back, it's important—vitally so—to wake up and stop being such amused perverts.

We've been in a trade war for decades. Make no mistake about it: this is real war. The trade deficit has inflicted more damage on our country—and its children—than any nuclear attack.

Now consider this: if you were the People's Republic of China and your half-witted enemies asked you to manufacture their electronics—including critical electronics for defense and national security—what would you do?

At the very least—not being a dimwit yourself—you'd build undetectable kill switches and back doors into every electronic circuit you sold.

(Remember the computers we sold to Iraq?)

That way, when you wanted, you could bring the world to its knees with a keystroke.

"Detoured discussion about manufacturing trade./Instead we're led to every trap the giant made."

At the moment, I'm trusting that some, though not all, of my messages will be permitted to reach their destinations.

But I feel safer meeting with real people who know that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Here's a thought provoker from legendary American historian Charles Beard:

“It is sobering to reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence.”

Tired of Democrats and Republicans? Tired of feeling helpless? Ready to get involved?

159.

“Great ideas. How ya gonna do this?”

October 6, 2011

Even though Democrats and Republicans will spend \$ billions on the 2012 campaign

(yes, \$ billions to land a government job that pays \$400,000. Any guesses why?)

remember, they'll be spending this money to separate us from our votes—yours and mine.

We own the votes. Politicians should have to earn them. Campaign financiers will always have to buy them.

With the barest of minimal efforts, we can invest our precious votes in non-partisan, non-special-interest candidates to represent—and accomplish—the real interests of all Americans.

Let me add to this all-American wish list:

- Candidates with no ties to big money.
- Candidates who educate rather than exploit.
- Candidates who want nothing for themselves.

Yes, these old-fashioned oddities really do exist. Some have already declared their candidacies. Some have not. Not yet.

When such a President is chosen by The People—hopefully, before it's too late—he or she will, by definition in our rigged political system, have The People's trust and support.

Call me what you will (I prefer "patriot" to "whistle-blower" or "snitch"), I will never hesitate to take America's interests to the American people—over the heads of Congress, over the Supreme Court, over the Federal Reserve—whenever necessary.

It will be necessary, time and again. The media will love it. Our children deserve it.

The People need a trustworthy advocate in Washington. We need someone we can depend on to tell us when our representatives are representing someone else, so we can vote intelligently.

A truly independent nonpartisan with no ties to big money can do this.

Just think what will happen when we push aside the special interests.

No more Democrats. No more Republicans.

Just Americans. With jobs and opportunity.

We can do this.

If we spread the word, this whole-great-big-beautiful country will know:

We can do this.

160.

Unemployment Worsens to 16.5% or 23.1%

October 7, 2011

The "headline" unemployment rate is holding at 9.1%, but the official U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics U-6 figure has jumped from 16.2% to 16.5%:

www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t15.htm

Include the long-term unemployed and discouraged (as our government did 30 years ago, as ShadowStats.com does today) and unemployment has jumped from 22.8% to 23.1%.

This is not part of any natural or cyclical downturn we're naturally going to recover from. This is globalization, and it's pretty darned unnatural. Everything Americans have worked for since Plymouth Rock is being plundered by insiders and parceled out to global competitors—while our elected officials, bought and paid for by the globalists, pretend to be doing their jobs.

It doesn't have to be this way. "College Girl, Economy, Jobs" solves the problem in 4 minutes:

Please don't tell me how awful you feel on your way to Walmart.

In the three years since I wrote "Dollar to the Giant," China's economy has grown by more than 30%, while the U.S. economy has grown less than 2%.

Are we connecting the dots yet?

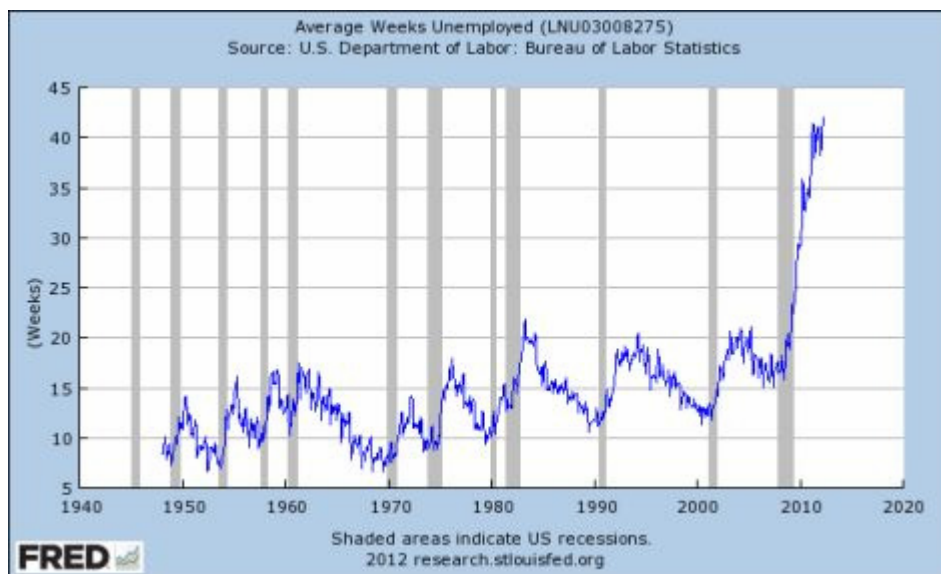
So what are we waiting for?

161.

Strange New Unemployment Record & How to Fix

October 8, 2011

Are you sitting down? Take a look at “Average Weeks Unemployed”*



Another record, another road sign. The graph supports what I said yesterday:

“This is not part of any natural or cyclical downturn we're naturally going to recover from. This is globalization, and it's pretty darned unnatural. Everything Americans have worked for since Plymouth Rock is being plundered by insiders and parceled out to global competitors—while our elected officials, bought and paid for by the globalists, pretend to be doing their jobs.”

Unemployment—and its undeniable agony—will continue to work their way up the income ladder. Lower-skill jobs were only the first to be sent offshore.

No, I won't say your job might be next. I'll let you figure this out for yourself.

Even if you're perched in the top 1%, making a "good" living at your country's and your children's expense (for example, by deepening the U.S. trade deficit or by aiding and abetting the fictitious economy)

how long can this go on?

America's decline crosses party lines. Republicans and Democrats are equally culpable yet equally uninterested in righting their wrongs. Both parties are equally controlled by the big multinational money currently dismantling the U.S. economy.

We're out of options. If we want our country to survive, if we want our children to have a place to call "home," we have no choice but to vote for independent nonpartisan candidates with no connections to political parties, lobbyists, special interests, or big money.

Don't say it can't be done. Think about recycling. One plastic bottle doesn't make a hill of difference, but some of our stubbornest citizens eventually learned that

1 plastic bottle x 312 million Americans x 365 days per year, adds up to

more than 113 billion plastic bottles per year. That's a pretty big pile of plastic bottles.

By the same token, 10 dollars per American per day, reallocated from foreign-made goods to American-made goods, adds up to

more than 1.1 trillion dollars per year. That's a lot of jobs.

Now just think:

If enough Americans vote for the best candidate, even if the best candidate doesn't stand a chance of winning, then the best candidate wins.

And we *all* win.

*<http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/LNU03008275?rid=50>

Corporate Profits Good, Corporate Power Bad

October 9, 2011

With popular discontent currently soft-focused on vague misunderstandings of "Wall Street," I thought I'd remind folks not to throw the baby out with the bathwater (or hate the sins rather than the sinners, or look in the mirror first, or some such useful cliché).

We should be encouraging rich people and rich corporations to produce, create jobs, and keep their money here in America.

Just keep their money out of American politics.

Of course, they will never do this voluntarily. We will need to do it for them.

For neat explanations of how eliminating all income taxes—personal and corporate—would benefit all Americans, please see my candidacy speech.

That said . . .

Remember the "Financial WMDs" blamed for the 2008 meltdown? Not only have they gone unregulated, they're growing like mushrooms. Take a look at this before the government takes it down:

“OCC’s Quarterly Report on Bank Trading and Derivatives Activities, Second Quarter 2011”

www.occ.gov/topics/capital-markets/financial-markets/trading/derivatives/dq211.pdf

From the first page:

"The notional amount of derivatives held by insured U.S. commercial banks increased \$5.3 trillion, or 2.2%, from the first quarter of 2011 to \$249 trillion. Notional derivatives are 11.6% higher than a year ago."

\$249 Trillion.

With a T.

163.

Occupy Wall Street? A Call For Cooler Heads

October 10, 2011

The Wall Street protests worry me. So does their timing. Much as I'm encouraged by the protesters' energy, I'm afraid it will be misdirected and defused.

It's not 100% impossible that this has been the plan all along. "Wall Street & Co." are projected to spend \$6 - \$7 billion on Campaign 2012. Shrewd proprietors of a crooked casino, they leave little to chance. What better way to protect their investment than to crush the resistance well in advance of Election Day?

Wall Street owns the media. The media, tragically, control public opinion. The media effectively use this power to discredit the opposition.

Don't be surprised when the mainstream media don't give equal time to effective critics, or when they allow the ineffective ones to look like buffoons.

Let's say "Occupy Wall Street" was not an inside job by the top 1%. Who's to say the movement won't be—or hasn't been—hijacked by big money?

Any movement—certainly, any viable third political party—will attract opportunists. The Tea Party is a relevant example. It might—just might—have begun with honest intentions, but it soon gained momentum and, of course, funding from multinationals, free traders, and billionaires.

Some of us are old enough to remember more than one Presidential election decided by hatred for the previous administration.

Some of us are old enough to remember the expression, "out of the frying pan, into the fire."

Be cool. If we don't allow ourselves to be divided by wedge issues, we can outmaneuver the manipulators and arrive at our destination.

Remember, there is only one political party in the United States: Money. Both parties feed at the same trough.

"Clowns to the left of me. Jokers to the right. Here I am: Stuck in the middle with you."

164.

What kind of person sees what needs to be done and doesn't do it?

October 10, 2011

That's all. Just this question.

165.

What do you MEAN “there's nothing we can do about it”?

October 12, 2011

Of course, I can see American spirits running low. But don't think for a minute that "we can't do anything about it."

And for cryin' out loud, don't say it—especially in front of a child. Young spirits are crushed, young lives are ruined, every day, by ignorant, cynical adults who. . . .

The truth is, we are the ONLY people who can do anything about it.

We own the votes.

Big Multinational Money will spend \$ billions on Campaign 2012 trying to reach you and me—American voters and consumers—because they know:

We own the votes.

We vote with our votes on Election Day. We vote with our dollars on every day.

We are where the power lives.

Why does it feel like we're being trained to believe we have no power?

Who are these trainers?

What do they want?

166.

Job-Killing Trade Deals Pass. Obama and Tea Party Flip-Flop.

October 13, 2011

While we were distracted:

“Job-Killing Trade Deals Pass Congress Amidst Record Democratic Opposition. Obama and Tea Party Flip Flop on Fair Trade Campaign Commitments.”

Statement of Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch:

<http://citizen.typepad.com/eyesontrade/2011/10/job-killing-trade-deals-pass-congress-amidst-record-democratic-opposition.html>

167.

China Said This. You Should Know This.

October 14, 2011

(From my 10/21/10 article, “A Rare Look Inside The Chinese Mind.” The politically incorrect will recognize China's considerable headway over the past year.)

From a conversation* between Mo Xiusong, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Dr. Clark Bowers, member of a U.S. delegation to China:

- Clark Bowers: Is the long-term goal of the Communist Party of China still world Communism?
- Mo Xiusong: Yes, of course, that is the reason we exist. However, the road to Communism may take well over a hundred years and the transition doesn't have to be violent.
- Clark Bowers: Is it possible to reach your goal of world Communism while any of the bourgeois or their economic environment still exist?
- Mo Xiusong: No, that would be against the laws of science.
- Clark Bowers: As part of your reform, do you even desire to ever allow for anti-Socialist political parties?
- Mo Xiusong: No, that would be unconstitutional.
- Clark Bowers: Do you have any desire to change this part of the constitution?
- Mo Xiusong: No, the people wouldn't support it.

- Clark Bowers: Who speaks for the people of China?
- Mo Xiusong: The Communist Party of China acts on behalf of the workers of China. We are their mind.
- Mo Xiusong continues: The historical miscalculations of Gorbachev led to an unbridled chaos that tore the social fabric of the USSR apart. We opposed a similar destabilization in Tiananmen Square in 1989, and history has vindicated our leadership by the economic and political stability that has followed.

Dollar to the Giant note: Surprisingly few Americans remember that the Communist Party of China created the People's Liberation Army long before there was a People's Republic of China. The CCP and PLA then—“out of the barrel of a gun,” in Mao's words—established the People's Republic of China. Essentially, they are all one and the same.

When we buy Chinese-made goods, our money supports the People's Liberation Army. When multinational corporations do business in China, they partner with the Chinese Communist Party—worth thinking about now that people are thinking about “Wall Street.” Follow the money trail and you will not bark up the wrong tree.

*Quoted in *Beating the Unbeatable Foe*, by Frederick Schwarz, M.D., pages 408 – 410

168.

All-Time Record Trade Loss. What To Do.

October 17, 2011

Our trade deficit/damage/loss with China for August 2011 was \$28,955,700,000—\$ billions worse than July 2011.

This is an all-time record for one month. We're on pace to set an all-time record for one year.

As I noted on October 8, we're also setting all-time records for long-term unemployment and economic depression.

Psychological depression, too, if truth could be told.

We Americans are stimulating China's economy—and destroying our own—like there's no tomorrow.

Like there's no tomorrow. . . .

In the last three years for which we have complete data—2008, 2009, 2010—China's economy grew more than 30%, while ours grew less than 2%.

The U.S. economy cannot possibly recover at the same time it's being sacrificed to the People's Republic of China.

American children, one should recognize, are also being sacrificed to the People's Republic of China.

Confucius (who probably never met Chairman Mao) said: "The way out is through the door. Why is it that no one will use this method?"

The U.S. Census Bureau said: "household goods and toys, games, and sporting goods" were responsible for the \$2.2 billion July-August increase in our trade deficit with China.

Stop waiting for the government to do something about it. By now, we all know who these guys are working for. We can change things come November 2012.

Meanwhile, get in the habit of reading origin labels. They're there to help us.

If it's made in China, you don't need it.

We voting, consuming, American citizens have made our own mess.

We vote for the wrong people.

Then we buy Chinese products and vote for the wrong future.

169.

Thoreau, Confucius

October 17, 2011

Thoreau, *Walden*:

“There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root, and it may be that he who bestows the largest amount of time and money on the needy is doing the most by his mode of life to produce that misery which he strives in vain to relieve.”

Confucius, *Analects*:

“When the Way does not prevail in your state and you are wealthy and in an honorable position, be ashamed of yourself.”

170.

More From Confucius, Some About China

October 18, 2011

My correspondents are having so much fun with the quotations I sent and posted yesterday, I'll send and post some more.

This might be a good time for me to repeat what should be obvious: I do not hate the Chinese. I minored in Chinese history, so my mature respect and admiration can be assumed. However, every government is an expression of the governed, and the Chinese people must be responsible for the horrors, ideologies, and inhumanities of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, and the so-called "country" (rather a military-industrial base) they've created: the People's Republic of China.

I will remind the Chinese people they have not always been thus. They, too, have forgotten where they came from.

(They've strayed even more than we have.)

We cannot lower our guard. Modern China is our most dangerous and committed adversary.

But Ancient China can still be inspiring.

From the *Analects of Confucius*, the wisdom China once held sacred:

Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you.

A man with clever words and an ingratiating appearance is seldom a man of humanity.

If the superior man is not grave, he will not inspire awe, and his learning will not be on a firm foundation.

The superior man does not seek fulfillment of his appetite nor comfort in his lodging. He is diligent in his duties and careful in his speech. He associates with men of moral principles and thereby realizes himself. Such a person may be said to love learning.

A good man does not worry about not being known by others but rather worries about not knowing them.

A ruler who governs his state by virtue is like the north polar star, which remains in its place while all the other stars revolve around it.

Have no depraved thoughts.

Lead the people with governmental measures and regulate them by law and punishment, and they will avoid wrongdoing but will have no sense of honor and shame. Lead them with virtue and regulate them by the rules of propriety, and they will have a sense of shame and, moreover, set themselves right.

A man who reviews the old so as to find out the new is qualified to teach others.

The superior man is broadminded but not partisan; the inferior man is partisan but not broadminded.

He who learns but does not think is lost; he who thinks but does not learn is in danger.

To say that you know when you do know and say that you do not know when you do not know—that is knowledge.

To see what is right and not to do it is cowardice.

Only the man of humanity knows how to love people and hate people.

If you set your mind on humanity, you will be free from evil.

Wealth and honor are what every man desires. But if they have been obtained in violation of moral principles, they must not be kept. Poverty and humble station are what every man dislikes. But if they can be avoided only in violation of moral principles, they must not be avoided. If a superior man departs from humanity, how can he fulfill that name? A superior man never abandons humanity even for the lapse of a single meal. In moments of haste, he acts according to it. In times of difficulty or confusion, he acts according to it.

A superior man in dealing with the world is not for anything or against anything. He follows righteousness as the standard.

The superior man thinks of virtue; the inferior man thinks of possessions. The superior man thinks of sanctions; the inferior man thinks of personal favors.

If one's acts are motivated by profit, he will have many enemies.

The superior man understands righteousness. The inferior man understands profit.

The superior man wants to be slow in word but diligent in action.

When substance exceeds refinement, one becomes rude. When refinement exceeds substance, one becomes urbane. It is only when one's substance and refinement are properly blended that he becomes a superior man.

The man of humanity first of all considers what is difficult in the task and then thinks of success. Such a man may be called humane.

The superior man extensively studies literature and restrains himself with the rules of propriety. Thus he will not violate the Way.

A man of humanity, wishing to establish his own character, also establishes the character of others, and wishing to be prominent himself, also helps others to be prominent. To be able to judge others by what is near to ourselves may be called the method of realizing humanity.

Confucius fished with a line but not a net. While shooting he would not shoot a bird at rest.

A man who can be entrusted with an orphaned child, delegated with the authority over a whole state, and whose integrity cannot be violated even in the face of a great emergency—is such a man a superior man? He is a superior man indeed!

Let a man be stimulated by poetry, established by the rules of propriety, and perfected by music.

Confucius was completely free from four things: he had no arbitrariness of opinion, no dogmatism, no obstinacy, and no egotism.

The commander of three armies may be taken away, but the will of even a common man may not be taken away from him.

When his mat was not straight, Confucius did not sit on it.

A man who is strong, resolute, simple, and slow to speak is near to humanity.

No state can exist without the confidence of the people.

The superior man brings the good things of others to completion and does not bring the bad things of others to completion. The inferior man does just the opposite.

In your government what is the need of killing? If you desire what is good, the people will be good. The character of a ruler is like wind and that of the people is like grass. In whatever direction the wind blows, the grass always bends.

There is good government when those who are near are happy and those far away desire to come.

The superior man is dignified but not proud; the inferior man is proud but not dignified.

The superior man understands moral principles; the inferior man understands profit.

The superior man is ashamed that his words exceed his deeds.

A resolute scholar and a man of humanity will never seek to live at the expense of injuring humanity. He would rather sacrifice his life in order to realize humanity.

The superior man regards righteousness as the substance of everything. He practices it according to the principles of propriety. He brings it forth in modesty. And he carries it to its conclusion with faithfulness. He is indeed a superior man!

The superior man does not promote a man on the basis of his words; nor does he reject his words because of the man.

The superior man seeks the Way and not a mere living. There may be starvation in farming, and there may be riches in the pursuit of studies. The superior man worries about the Way and not about poverty.

When a man's knowledge is sufficient for him to attain his position but his humanity is not sufficient for him to hold it, he will lose it again. When his knowledge is sufficient for him to attain it and his humanity is sufficient for him to hold it, if he does not approach the people with dignity, the people will not respect him. If his knowledge is sufficient for him to attain it, his humanity sufficient for him to hold it, and he approaches the people with dignity, yet does not influence them with the principle of propriety, it is still not good.

When it comes to the practice of humanity, one should not defer even to his teacher.

In education there should be no class distinction.

In words all that matters is to express the meaning.

Friendship with the upright, with the truthful, and with the well informed is beneficial. Friendship with those who flatter, with those who are meek and who compromise with principles, and with those who talk cleverly is harmful.

Although a man may want to shut his eyes to the sun and the moon, what harm does it do to them? It would only show in large measure that he does not know his own limitations.

171.

Useful Advice for Wall Street Protesters

October 19, 2011

Watch this short video:

“College Girl, Economy, Jobs”

Pay attention when the smart, pretty girl asks:

"Why invest in them when they don't invest in you?"

Now take a good look at your clothes, your shoes, your money habits.

We, my friends, are not only Wall Street protesters.

We are Wall Street.

For every thousand hacking at the branches of evil, there is one striking at the root.

172.

Ignore the Dow. Pay attention to trade.

October 22, 2011

We really have to stop being cowed by people with money.

Wall Street, once a source of capital for American industry, has become a multinational casino. We are bombarded by round-the-clock messages stressing the importance of the "markets" while the real economy and simple truth remain shrouded in neglect.

No new wealth is created by Wall Street gambling. There are winners and losers; for every dollar won, a dollar is lost; and, in the long run, the "House" always wins. Existing wealth (built by industrial America) is redistributed from working- and middle-class gamblers (in the bottom 99%) to the House (in the top 1%).

This does not help our country or its people.

The House invests part of its loot in social control, promoting its indispensability through House-sponsored politicians and campaigns, House-sponsored media, "think" tanks, "experts," and whatnot that establish conventional wisdom and compliance.

This social control succeeds. When the House gets too greedy and its house of cards comes crashing down, official spokesmen—from big banks, the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, academia, media, you name it—have only to remind American taxpayers that the entire country, indeed the entire world, hangs in the balance, depending, as we all know, on the "health" of Wall Street. They tell us they need money, a lot of money—now!—and to hand it over, including what rightfully belongs to our children.

And so we hand it over. Not only do we support the House with our taxes and offspring, but by purchasing the House's products and services.

The House skins us almost every time we shop—unless, of course, we have the sense to spend our money in ways that don't come back to bite us.

(Spending our money on goods produced by the Chinese Communist Party/People's Liberation Army/People's Republic of China has come back to bite us in a big way, by the way.)

Wall Street might represent a lot of money on paper (for example, \$249 trillion in derivatives can sound scary), but remember: it's paper, printed by a casino and backed by propaganda. Like most economic notions, what's important is what people *believe* is important.

The "real" economy, however, is something *not* dreamed up by academics and opportunists.

Regardless of what happens in the "markets" (a smart-sounding word usually meaning "human beings driven by self-interest"), people need food, clothing, shelter, energy, transportation, security, and recreation.

The more of life's essentials we purchase from other countries, the less we purchase from ourselves, the more we cripple our ability to *provide* for ourselves.

(Of course, the more we purchase from other countries, the more we fatten Wall Street's offshore producers.)

What kinds of "leaders" would allow their country to become dependent on any foreigners, much less malevolent foreigners, for its day-to-day survival?

What kinds of "leaders" would allow their country to surrender its tools?

The trade deficit is immensely more important than the stock market. If I—or *someone like me*—had been President when Wall Street demanded \$700 billion and got away with \$ trillions (including \$35 billion for Gaddafi's bank, it will be remembered), Wall Street's representatives would not have been so graciously accommodated, and life would have gone on.

Then again, someone like me would never have allowed—much less encouraged—his fellow citizens to give up their real economy and their tools in the first place.

Don't be fooled or intimidated by the top 1%. There are so few of them. There are so many of us.

They are nothing without our votes—one of the few tools we have left.

173.

Fixing The Economy With A 20-Second Video

October 25, 2011

First of a new series I'm calling "60 Seconds From The Road":

“60 Seconds from the Road #1” (video)

This one's only 20 seconds long, but that's all it needed.

174.

Is China's Military Saginaw's Biggest Employer?

October 29, 2011

“60 Seconds From The Road #2” (video)

Consider this:

The Communist Party of China built an army—the People's "Liberation" Army—before they established a country. Together—"out of the barrel of a gun," to quote Chairman Mao—the Party and the Army established the communist dictatorship (their words, not mine) of the People's Republic of China.

The CPC, PLA, and PRC are, for all intents and purposes, one and the very same.

Now consider the text of my new video:

“The biggest employer in Saginaw is China. This is Nexteer. Last year, it was sold to the city of Beijing, then quickly resold to state-owned AVIC, which was created during the Korean War, before the U.S. and China took the fighting to Wall Street and Walmart. Chinese media said, ‘acquiring technologies [and] manufacturing facilities from leading foreign companies is a shortcut for domestic manufacturers.’¹ On AVIC's website, the owners of Nexteer declare their mission to ‘strengthen the military forces and enrich the people [through] market-oriented reform . . . capital operation [and] globalization-based development.’² Yesterday, GM invested \$215 million in its Saginaw Metal Casting Operation. On the same day, China committed another \$150 million to Nexteer. With one brave exception, nobody in Saginaw would talk to me about Nexteer or China.”

Things are tough here in Saginaw. I wouldn't want to have to make a living in this town—or in the direction our entire country is headed. But a deal with the Devil is no deal at all, and never necessary.

Where are the statesmen? Where are the leaders?

Where are the Americans?

Right here, Chairman Mao. You know where to find me.

¹http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2011-04/11/content_12306250.htm

²www.avic.com.cn/cn/EnglishVersion/FromthePresident/index.shtml

175.

Easy Ways To Make Things Happen

October 31, 2011

1. Change one mind every week.

We can't afford to waste time preaching to the choir, seeking comfort in people who agree with us, or arguing for the sake of being "right." Nothing of tangible value gets accomplished this way. (At this point in our nation's history, we have no choice but to concern ourselves with "tangible" value.) Instead, we should spend more time talking, personally, with people who disagree with us. We can be educating and changing minds. Think about the last election that disappointed you. If everyone on your side had invested a little more time in your opponents, changing just one mind and one vote each, the election results would have been different.

2. Listen to what you disagree with.

This is how we develop the ability to think critically. For example: "liberals" should spend equal time on "conservative" interpretations of events, and vice-versa. Hear the hired guns take apart each other's arguments. After a while, you'll do this for yourself automatically. You'll be less partisan and less easily manipulated. A theory of mine: key to the two-party system is that neither party can make complete sense. If one party made complete sense, there would be no room for argument. How, then, would the money people keep us blaming each other?

3. Remember where we came from.

This country started with nothing, and we've been in tight spots before. We wouldn't be here today if the early generations buckled or sold out under pressure.

4. Every day, spend a little less on foreign-made goods, a little more on American-made goods.

No need to spend more money overall, just reallocate. Workers and consumers are the same people. See "College Girl, Economy, Jobs"

5. Forward useful e-mails, but never rely on electronic communication.

Electronics are too easily bugged, hacked, and disabled by outside sources. Our entire telecommunications infrastructure is being replaced with equipment manufactured by the People's Republic of China, which considers the U.S. its main adversary. In 2009, there were more than 7,300 reported cases of China shipping counterfeit and defective electronics to U.S. security and defense agencies. Someday soon, we might have to drum, smoke, or otherwise signal our messages from town to town. It can't hurt to be prepared. We can practice by talking with one another—eye-to-eye, face-to-face—the old-fashioned, real human being way. It might even be fun.

176.

My Visit to Occupy Wall St. in Flint, Michigan

November 2, 2011

“60 Seconds From The Road #3” (video)

Today, I visited the Occupy Wall St. encampment in Flint, Michigan, which looks enough like a hobo jungle that it unnerves the locals.

At first, some occupiers seemed suspicious of me—perhaps a bit aggressive—as if they'd had some experience with reporters, detractors, and opportunists.

But we talked like real human beings, and the real human beings I met in the Flint encampment were:

- Professional and underemployed
- Retired and financially comfortable
- Educated and skilled but underemployed
- Surprisingly well aware of the importance of American manufacturing
- Passionate, engaged
- Angrily patriotic
- Purposeful, determined, imbued with responsibility
- Generous, compassionate
- Polite
- Hopeful
- Openly sensitive and spiritual
- More focused on Wall Street's crimes than Wall Street's money
- More focused on Washington's crimes than you might guess
- Parents with children

Yep, these people are a menace. . . .

177.

“Remains Of Ancient Race Of Job Creators Found In Rust Belt”—the ONION

November 2, 2011

the ONION gets it. Our global competitors get it. American voters are beginning to get it.

Washington doesn't get it at all.

“Remains Of Ancient Race Of Job Creators Found In Rust Belt”

www.theonion.com/articles/remains-of-ancient-race-of-job-creators-found-in-r,26490

178.

New “Road” Video, More Chinese Attacks on U.S. Industry

November 3, 2011

“60 Seconds From The Road #4” (video)

Genuine rocket scientist Charles William Kauffman stood up to China and wound up punished and betrayed by the University of Michigan.

See also:

“Chinese hackers launched summer offensive on US chemical industry”

www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/1101/Report-Chinese-hackers-launched-summer-offensive-on-US-chemical-industry

179.

China Fails To Provide Its Enemies With Adequate Weapons

November 8, 2011

This is not a joke. Our so-called "leadership" might be a joke—an inconceivably cruel one—but this is hardly a laughing matter:

“U.S. Senators say China supplying bogus weapons parts”

www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/08/us-china-weapons-idUSTRE7A70FF20111108

How is it even remotely sane for us to buy anything, much less defense and security, from a committed military and commercial adversary?

This is what happens when our nation's decisions are made by, our politicians funded by, offshore producers—and there is nothing sane about it.

Almost three years ago, I featured Richard A. McCormack's "U.S. Government Finds Thousands Of Counterfeit Electronics From China In Avionics Weapon Supply Chain" in my "Foxes, Hens, Trojan Horses" mailing.

At the time, I offended some readers with my quote from Kurt Vonnegut:

"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country."

I'll add another classic you might recognize, this from Frank Zappa:

"Politics is like high school with guns and more money."

From 2008 - 2010, the GDP of the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China grew by more than 30%, while ours struggled on life support and less than 2% growth.

How many more American jobs?

How many more American homes?

How many more American lives?

Will be lost—forever—before Americans wake up and finally do something about these high school boys who are ruining our lives?

180.

Late-night cafe, Detroit

November 10, 2011

I love Michigan. Michigan breaks my heart. What a manufacturing powerhouse this place was. Birthplace of the American middle class. I'd call it a "gold mine," but no gold mine ever fed so many. Detroit—Detroit!—led our nation in home ownership.

You should see it now. No, really, you should. It's long been said that "what happens to Michigan, happens to the rest of the country," so come to Michigan and see where you're going.

Of course, I can hear the same old blaming. But consider this: Henry Ford paid what many considered "excessively" high wages to (a) attract and retain the best workers, and (b) to give Ford employees the money to buy Ford products. And buy Ford products, they did. They didn't stop there. American workers spent their American wages on an increasing variety of American goods and services, and the American economy grew to be the envy of the world.

It must never be forgotten that workers and consumers are the same people.

(Two more words for undereducated politicians: "tax base.")

Something else to put in your pipe and smoke: during our post-WWII economic heyday, while a Republican (Ike) was President, the top personal income tax rate was over 90% (still over 50% with loopholes), union membership was at an all-time high, and it meant something more to call oneself "American."

Now, I'm afraid, we've so given up any hope of achieving happiness, we put most of our effort into being "right."

Think about it. Think about how we really spend our time. We pick our reading and listening material, news programs, entertainment, politicians, consumer products, friends, attitudes, philosophies, memories, histories, even some of our spiritual beliefs and spouses, more often than not, in an effort to be "right."

Seriously, now: would you rather be "right" or happy?

Clearly, there is no shortage of opportunists promising both.

I think it's possible to be both. I'll skip the philosophical push-pull and ask you to consider an attitude that could help us all.

Our country needs jobs. We need to restore opportunity to American life.

Beneath the surface, past the wedge issues, around the multinational corporate media "reporting," Tea Party people and Occupy Wall Street people are people—American people motivated by the same basic personal

financial concerns. If our country had a prosperous manufacturing economy, we wouldn't have heard from either camp.

But in these times, both movements deserve our respect. No question that the political/financial/entertainment complex has commandeered both movements, but most of the activists have energy and purpose.

Just imagine what they—we, as Americans—could accomplish if the Tea Partiers and Occupiers discovered they really have the same purpose and, accordingly, pooled their energy.

Let us resolve to work together, as Americans, to get the American economy back on its feet. After we're rolling in dough again, we can go back to fighting over wedge issues and living out our differences.

If we really want to.

181.

Put Me In The White House Or Put Up With Obama For Another Four Years

November 12, 2011

Two months ago, in my September 11 commentary on the President's hideous "jobs" speech, I wrote:

"Painful to contemplate, but the big money party that finances our nominal 'two'-party system has found its guy in Barack Obama. Expect a long parade of Republican candidates incapable of unseating the President. The big money people have never had it better, and the GOP has been ordered to stand down."

Well? Are you convinced yet?

Regardless of the money and talent at their disposal, the Republican Party will be offering you a Presidential candidate with less chance of winning than I have.

Literally: less chance of winning than I have.

The campaign financiers—the top 1%—long ago decided the 2012 election. Over the next year, they will spend \$ billions trying to entertain you otherwise.

The only candidate capable of defeating the incumbent puppet is me or someone like me: a real candidate, a People's candidate, with no ties to big money.

If you found my subject line aggressive, please know:

If I thought our nation could survive another four years of Obama, the top 1%, and the lives and opportunities they destroy, I would not be doing what I'm doing.

But I can't do this alone, and it won't happen unless we make it happen together.

If you're sick and tired of Democrats and Republicans, if you're not willing to bet your future on four more years of Obama, it's time to get behind me—or someone like me—and push like you've never pushed before.

We've got one year. We can do this. We'll need volunteers.

I'm on the road. Sleeves are up. Gloves are off.

I'm all yours. Write me.

182.

That said, I'm busting my ** for the top 1%, too.**

November 12, 2011

"A society, a nation, either works or it doesn't. If it works, it works for the long term, for the children—for *everybody's* children."

Eliminate the special interests and treasonous—yes, Treasonous—politicians, and we are not Democrats and Republicans, haves and have-nots, or citizens of a world busy robbing us.

We are Americans.

But we are easily distracted and pitted against one another. How can the average American—manipulated by offshore producers and their operatives in media and government—be expected to understand our country has been handed a pink slip?

The top 1% are no less oblivious.

Well, not the entire top 1%. Think who's sitting at the very top of the top 1%. The fattest checkbook, the cleverest player of all:

The People's Republic of China.

The bottom 99% of the top 1% need to realize they're way out of their league. They're being used and their days are numbered.

Too:

Mega-wealthy Americans accomplish nothing if they starve the American goose. They and their children will enjoy greater long-term wealth and security by cultivating the American economy to the benefit of all Americans. The golden eggs were manufactured in American factories. Foreign eggs will be served to 6.5 billion foreigners—at communist and state capitalist tables. American-based multinationals will prove no match.

Ignorant American media dig their own graves when they promote the interests of offshore producers.

Power-obsessed American politicians weaken their constituents and their tax base when they trade their real economy for votes. Ditto when they penalize American business and investment.

Lastly, regarding the surprisingly similar European crisis:

The EU—a banker idea, not a people idea—hasn't worked any better for Europe than globalization has worked for the United States. At the root of the EU crisis is the abandonment of most members' productive economies. Germany is in good shape because Germany manufactures and exports at a surplus. In fact, it should be noted that "deficit" countries like Greece assist German prosperity by making room for German "surplus" production—not something most Germans would care to admit, but the interdependent EU system has to balance.

And so we've come full circle:

A society works for everybody—for the long term, for the children—or it doesn't work. Period.

I don't have anything against rich people. My complaint is with criminals and power abusers. Honest American fat cats will think me the best President they ever had.

I'd like everyone—rich, poor, public sector, private—to make more money.

To this end, I've advocated the complete elimination of personal and corporate income tax. For details, please watch or read my candidacy speech:

183.

Video #5: Toledo Crumbles While City Politicians Favor China

November 13, 2011

New video:

“60 Seconds From The Road #5”

Transcript, “Chuck in Toledo”:

“This used to be a great city. Jobs everywhere. Now, where I grew up, I won’t even let my kids walk the streets ‘cause it’s gotten so bad, the poverty level. And our city selling out our old riverfront to China, which is one of the biggest assets we got in the city of Toledo. They had a developer, wanted to develop it, here from Toledo. They wouldn’t give no tax breaks. A month later, they sold it to China. They gave ‘em all the tax breaks they needed.”

184.

Egads, this place has lost 3,500 factories in 10 years

November 14, 2011

Gotta tell you: deep down, I love what I'm doing—the purpose and the people. But the human economic slaughter I'm seeing is depressing—depressing beyond imagination and oh-my-God it can really knock the stuffings out of a person. No wonder so many Americans stop trying (—if only long enough to remember America's kids and how we all deserve better American adults).

Every politician, every policy maker, every cold-blooded ivory tower sociopath and theorist in government and media should make a trip—a pilgrimage—to our country's industrial heartland.

See where we came from. See what built this country. See how wealth, opportunity, strength, and security were created—and still are.

See what established the credit this country has been living on since we accomplished our last trade surplus in 1975.

See what the face of unemployment really looks like. Not the 9% headline deceit or the 3% "let them eat cake" enjoyed by our bubble-dwelling decision makers. I mean the 22.9% across-the-board U.S. average and the 50%+ of our less fortunate.

See—feel, if you dare—the human lives you pretend to represent. Look into their eyes. Then try to sleep at night.

Over the past 10 years, the U.S. has lost 15 factories per day.

Over the past 10 years, Ohio alone has lost 3,500 factories.

Yes, Ohio has *lost* 3,500 factories in the past 10 years.

The gold mine that smarty-pants Americans write off as "The Rust Belt," the communist Chinese are snapping up for pennies on the dollar.

As we tumble into the Third World, China advances to the First, buying us at fire sale prices. China's GDP has grown more than 30% in just the last three years.

China manufactures. China's leaders put China first.

You might appreciate this article from *Dayton Daily News*:

“Ohio has lost 3,500 factories over last 10 years, stats show: The loss shows the impact on Ohio of moving jobs overseas.”

www.daytondailynews.com/business/ohio-has-lost-3-500-factories-over-last-10-years-stats-show-1273207.html

Particularly charming are the comments from John Boehner, who likely never met an offshoring corporate sponsor he didn't like, and the Koch-founded Cato Institute (a so-called "think" tank), which has been hustling its self-serving "free"-trade agenda since the 1970s.

Difficult, sometimes, times like these, not to think of the 16th century and Sir John Harrington:

"Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason? Why, if it prosper, none dare call it treason."

(Oh, yeah. We've learned a lot since Shakespeare's day. And we're so much more politically correct.)

The vast majority of American people are being betrayed by a prosperous few, who are being used by a more-prosperous fewer.

Come on, now. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's Goldman Sachs being "allowed" to purchase 5.75% of China's biggest bank? Warren Buffett buying 9.9% of a Chinese automaker? Peter G. Peterson—who would rather criticize U.S. debt than promote U.S. productivity—getting \$3 billion from China just before Blackstone's IPO? And don't get me started on the Federal Reserve or the very nature of Wall Street promoting offshore production.

All minions of the most-prosperous most few.

I need to wrap this up and get back on the road. Before I do, one more trip to the 1500s:

"Gentlemen in America now-a-bed shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us in Campaign 2012."

Feminist readers, I trust, will understand the linguistic restraints upon me placed by William Shakespeare.

Oh, speaking of which: I can't wait until our country is back on its feet and confident once again. When we try, simply try, we'll find that hidden among our 312 millions—with all of history to draw upon—are writers to surpass Shakespeare, sculptors to equal Michelangelo, thinkers to challenge Socrates and Einstein.

But if we don't try, simply try, how will we ever know?

185.

What I'm Finding—in 25 Words or Less (not counting the URL)

November 15, 2011

The People know the problem but feel powerless.

Politicians and media want us divided, feeling powerless.

Lefties think I'm Lefty. Righties think I'm Righty.

2012.

186.

60 Seconds From The Road #6 (41 seconds, to be precise)

November 15, 2011

“60 Seconds From The Road #6” (video)

I'm calling this lighter-weight video "The Shawshank Center for Economic Treason," even if the word "economic" is unnecessary. Treason is treason, and the economic damage our country has suffered at the hands of traitors—witting and unwitting—could hardly be equaled by a nuclear attack.

Most people I met in Mansfield, Ohio were exceptionally warm and friendly, openly embarrassed about the condition of their town, seemingly depressed as the economy of their town, solidly aware of manufacturing's importance to their town, and utterly befuddled by their politicians.

One lifelong resident held an economics degree, worked at a menial service job, and still wasn't sure whether sending American factories and jobs to China was good or bad for the American economy.

My head's still spinning.

In all fairness to the surreal economist, this could be the result of a sleepless last night in a disgusting motel room.

I'm off to find a clean one. The coffee shop's ready to close, anyway. Goodnight.

187.

U.S. Counterintelligence Report: Foreign Theft of U.S. Economic Secrets

November 16, 2011

From U.S. Counterintelligence:

“Foreign Spies Stealing US Economic Secrets In Cyberspace: Report to Congress on Foreign Economic Collection and Industrial Espionage, 2009 – 2011”

www.ncix.gov/publications/reports/fecie_all/Foreign_Economic_Collection_2011.pdf

Print this report. Roll it tightly. Next time you hear some "expert" warn we can't afford to risk trade war with China, hit them with the right information.

Not only have we long been in a "trade" war with China, trade is how China long ago decided to wage "real" war against the militarily superior United States.

(Unrestricted Warfare, Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui, PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House, Beijing, February 1999)

Did you think the People's Republic of China was our buddy?

(Did you think the Chinese were somehow stupid or unsophisticated?)

In the last three years for which we have complete data, 2008 - 2010, China's economy grew more than 30%. Ours grew less than 2%—with no recovery, "jobless" or otherwise, in sight.

Could the People's Republic be more effective with battleships than with container ships?

Amazing. They manufacture the electronics they sell us to gather information to manufacture more products to sell us to expand their empire at our permanent expense.

And we buy the stuff. Main Street shoppers, Wall Street investors, The Pentagon, The White House, and Congress.

We buy the stuff. And we point fingers.

"Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again."

188.

No. 7

November 17, 2011

“60 Seconds From The Road #7” (video)

I hope you find my title thought provoking:

“From (ironically named) Canton, Ohio on 11/17/2011”

I wish our Founding Fathers named the Bill of Rights the "Bill of Responsibilities."

Not that my version would have been more correct in 1791.

But it could improve some things today.

189.

“35 Facts About The Gutting Of America's Industrial Might That Should Make You Very Angry”

November 17, 2011

I thought this was worth passing along:

“35 Facts About The Gutting Of America's Industrial Might That Should Make You Very Angry”

www.theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/35-facts-about-the-gutting-of-americas-industrial-might-that-should-make-you-very-angry

Remember: workers and consumers are the same people.

From "Dollar to the Giant":

Reckoning rust. Factory line.
Lost-dream memory of a better time.
All the signs say this choice was Made in USA—
Too numb to know it didn't have to be this way.

From "35 Facts":

“Yes, it is fun to go out and fill up our shopping carts with ‘cheap products’ from the other side of the world, but when we do that it destroys our jobs, our businesses and our communities. Our addiction to cheap foreign products is incredibly self-destructive. Essentially what we are doing is that we are ripping apart pieces of our own home and throwing them into the fire in an attempt to keep it going. Eventually we will cannibalize our entire home. And we never really think about what it is like for the slave laborers that make all these cheap products for us. . . .”

From "College Girl, Economy, Jobs":

“Google ‘American-made goods.’ And have a great future.”

Hear "Dollar to the Giant" on Jango Internet Radio. Download the MP3 from Amazon or iTunes.

190.

60 Seconds From The Road #8

November 21, 2011

New video:

“60 Seconds From The Road #8”

You don't need a Facebook account to see my campaign page.

All you need is an Internet connection.

191.

Criminal Prosecutions for Financial Institution Fraud Continue to Fall

November 22, 2011

From Syracuse University:

“Criminal Prosecutions for Financial Institution Fraud Continue to Fall”

www.trac.syr.edu/tracreports/crim/267

Decrease in prosecutions over the past 10 years: 57.7%

It should also be noted that over the past 10 years:

- The U.S. has lost more than 56,000 factories.
- The U.S. has more than tripled its trade deficit with the People's Republic of China.
- China's GDP has more than quadrupled.

As I said in my candidacy announcement:

“If America had not sent its income-producing real economy offshore, we could have had plenty of real money. Our heads would not have been so easily turned by the fictitious economy of Wall Street, financial innovation, and real estate bubbles. The 2008 crisis would not have happened.”

We all know what we have to do.

So let's do it.

192.

Thanksgiving, Youngstown, Ohio

November 24, 2011

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite "official" holiday—something I'm sure I got from my Mom. We both loved the idea of a day set aside for humility and gratitude. Since her death, I've taken to fasting and simply trying to be more "present" on Thanksgiving—something, I admit, I never would have considered with my Mom in the kitchen.

("Presence" might not be for everybody, but I can guarantee you wouldn't think fasting was so crazy after tasting holiday leftovers after not having eaten for 24 hours!)

Today, Thanksgiving Day, I'm on the road in Youngstown, Ohio—quite happy to be here and feeling oddly grateful for steel.

Yes, I know what a lot of people think of when, if ever, they think about Youngstown, Ohio. They've seen the pictures, heard the stories, surfed the danged Web.

In my experience—though it took me 54 years to really get to Youngstown—such vicarious experiences bear no more resemblance to the real Youngstown than our politicians and media understand what's really happening to the real people of the real United States of America.

Here's something nobody will tell you about Youngstown:

These might be the most genuinely polite people in the country.

It's a bit disarming at first, but easy—and so nice—to get used to. As depressed and relatively poor as Youngstown is, the people here are happier because—my early theory—they're not so focused on defeating one other. They seem more connected to others, and to life, because of their commitment to Youngstown. They're going to make this place work again. And they'll do it together.

The younger residents are especially inspiring, especially the college students. Youngstown State University publishes a literary journal called *Jenny* after the legendary Jeanette blast furnace. Nobody has to tell these "kids" what built their country:

“The Jeanette blast furnace was much more than a structure, more than a tool for industry, and more than the epicenter of our former steel capital. It is the ultimate representation and manifestation of the process of creation: into the core of this structure went the guts of the earth, raw and ancient metals mined from the depths of the earth, and out came something energized and fiercely hot and malleable that was used to build and create. The essence of Jenny is the process of refinement, the transformation of the old into the fresh and invigorated new.”*

So, with that amazing paragraph to follow, I'll simply wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and ask you to think about steel—American steel—the people who made it—and where we'd be without it.

Think, too, about maybe taking a trip to Youngstown. Be careful, though. This place is the real deal. At the least, you'll want to stay for a few extra days.

*Dave Drogowski in www.jennymag.org/fall-10-issue/forewords

193.

Definitely Worth Repeating This Holiday Season

November 25, 2011

Over the past decade:

- The U.S. has lost more than 56,000 factories.
- The U.S. has more than TRIPLED its trade deficit with the People's Republic of China.
- China's entire economy has more than QUADRUPLED in size.

Obviously, we've been supporting the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China at enormous expense to ourselves and our loved ones.

Remember:

Workers and consumers are the same people. In the longer run, we cannot expect to have jobs (much less decent jobs) or a country (much less a free country) if we do not support our own manufacturers.

The longer run has arrived.

Note to the (typically Baby Boom and older) people who've told me, "I got mine—that's all that matters. I don't give a **** what happens after I'm dead and I don't give a **** what happens to the kids":

If your parents left you the same economic mess and lack of opportunity you're leaving to the next generation, you'd have been angry about it—very, very angry about it.

From a wi-fi truck stop outside a formerly prosperous American manufacturing town, I bid you a better night. . . .

194.

“We Riot For Waffle Irons And Disgraced Football Coaches” (good ideas, offensive language)

November 26, 2011

From the Web:

“Why America Is Doomed: We Riot For Waffle Irons And Disgraced Football Coaches”

www.mediaite.com/online/why-america-is-doomed-we-riot-for-waffle-irons-and-disgraced-football-coaches

"You're all being fed your own lost jobs, and rioting over the privilege."

For the record: I don't think we're doomed. But I can tell you some stories about trying to call people's attention to things that matter.

Adult people's attention, that is. The kids usually get it. Too bad they're not allowed to vote—or otherwise shape their future.

195.

Opening Statement, Economy, Jobs—Chapter 1 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

I'm Bob Hall, asking America—*all* of America: the richest 1% and the bottom 99, the currently employed and the homeless—to consider a person like me for President of the United States.

I'm not rich.

I'm not famous.

I'm not a politician, not a lawyer, not a banker.

I don't run a multinational corporation.

I don't work on Wall Street.

I'm not affiliated with any political party.

I hope you like my ideas, and I hope you run for office, too.

A society, a nation, either works or it doesn't. If it works, it works for the long term, for the children—for *everybody's* children.

America needs jobs. *Good* jobs. Most Americans, and their government, need more money. Too many of us are watching our home towns turn into ghost towns. Middle class mobility is now downward. We're stressed, depressed, and feeling powerless.

Our children might not listen to what we say, but they will copy what we do—or, so it is said.

Every generation of Americans, up until the Baby Boomers, followed the laws of human nature and dedicated itself to the same human purpose: that our children shall suffer less.

Some of us are trying hard to meet our children's inner needs: to be understood, taken seriously, and loved unconditionally. We try to protect them from the pressures of conformity, so they can stay healthy, and stay interested in their own lives.

But many of us are forgetting: our children, too, will need jobs. Good jobs. And they'll need their parents to show them how it's done.

Opportunity, in America, is absent without leave. Our lives are increasingly controlled by large multinational corporations and banks; the insecurity they engender; the social division they cultivate and thrive upon; the political campaigns, media, credentialed experts, and Internet trolls they pay for. Heavily foreign influenced by our global adversaries and competitors, these organizations work hand-in-pocket with our public officials—and vice-versa. America's future, America's children, now take a back seat to foreign interests and the so-called "global economy." Opportunity for Americans is, everyday, shipped overseas with our industrial productivity, former prosperity, reserve currency privileges, and national security.

This is easy to fix—if we can stop being Democrats and Republicans long enough to remember: we're Americans. Our children all share a common interest in the future of their country.

We can begin with a simple change of perspective. Do we balance the federal budget by cutting expenses or raising taxes? Either way, someone gets hurt. The two-party system depends on it. But Congress has another option, one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge. Congress has the power to adopt a national industrial policy that could create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need.

Everything. For generations to come. Congress has this power.

Any discussion of the future must begin and end with an understanding of manufacturing and trade—our country's primary source of income and wealth. Trade is the battlefield upon which our children's possibilities will be won or lost. And—given the current fashion of doing business with state capitalists and adversaries who do not wish us well—trade is the battlefield upon which modern warfare is conducted.

For almost forty years, we've run a trade deficit—a loss—that has drained America's historical wealth, dimmed America's historical prestige, and continues at the rate of more than one billion dollars per day. That's a lot of jobs. And a reminder that our current economic pain has been decades in the making.

Blame it on us voters for making bad choices, then blame it on the financialization of American culture. The Wall Street and Washington boys got it wrong, and most of them still don't quite *get* that a nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity.

The story of American manufacturing and trade is the story of a nation that forgot where it came from. The United States were born in a trade war. The founders—men who pledged, in writing, their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor—saw no future in remaining a colony of England, then the world's

manufacturing powerhouse. Americans, through *protectionism*—that is, through the Constitution and trade regulations written to *protect* American manufacturing, American citizens, and American children—through protectionism—*economic patriotism*—we built the strongest economy, with the most opportunity, for the greatest number of people, in all of human history.

Now, it's being lost, as if our goal is to become, once again, the colony of a foreign industrial giant—this time, a clever, cruel, unscrupulous giant that does not share our language, history, or values.

Yet we continue to tolerate officials who fail to meet the fundamental job requirement: that they are capable of recognizing the difference between a friend and an enemy.

They advocate free trade—which means their multinational sponsors want unrestricted free access to the American consumer, arguably the single largest identifiable economic force in the known universe.

They advocate globalization—which means American-based multinational corporations are free to search the globe for the cheapest means of production, then close their American factories and fire their American workers.

In return, they offer us hypocrisy: rigged foreign markets, criminal trade practices, and the consolation of economic theory.

Yes, they've given us lower prices—for now—on consumer goods manufactured in some foreign countries. But what we gain as consumers, we more than lose as workers. One step forward, three steps back, as we get more for our money, and destroy our own economy in the process.

Say what we will about labor unions, America's times of greatest prosperity were times of greatest union membership, as well-paid factory workers spent and circulated their money here, at home, creating jobs and opportunity, creating the American middle class.

Now, as we continue to lose ground, our global competitors and adversaries are gaining, at our expense, in financial and military power, by manufacturing for us the products we use every day.

We could, with some awareness and leadership, achieve full employment, and bequeath to our children a vibrant, prosperous, self-sustaining American economy, simply by producing more of what we consume and exporting more than we import.

We can begin by motivating the most influential lobby in Washington: 300,000,000 American consumers spending *ten trillion* dollars per year. Our public officials and their multinational sponsors want that money. They need us more than we need them, and we can beat them at their own game. Three hundred million Americans buying fewer foreign-made products, and more American-made products, investing less in multinational and foreign businesses, and more in American businesses, means a new American future of opportunity, prosperity, and jobs. Good jobs.

The power is ours to reclaim and redeem. We can rebuild our productive economy as easily as we created our global competitors and adversaries. Trying to justify our previous actions will only diminish us in the eyes of our children and grandchildren, so let's offer the apology of better citizenship and know that someday, they'll forgive us for having made a few mistakes.

196.

What I've Done, What You Can Do—Chapter 2 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

Some people might wonder why a man with no children of his own would work so hard for everybody else's. They might not know that Dr. Seuss never had any children, either.

I have amazing memories of my grandparents, Serbs from Croatia-Slavonia in Austria-Hungary, who came to the United States as children, one hundred years ago, looking for opportunity. Just a chance. These were people who took *nothing* for granted, and rarely hesitated to express gratitude for their adoptive country. During World War II, my grandfather sold so many war bonds out of his little tavern, the United States government bought a new B-29 and called it "Spirit of Milwaukee Serbs." Stories from the old country served to remind young people just how lucky we were to be living in the United States.

My parents, born and raised in the heartland of American productivity, understood the place. My father—manufacturer, exporter, creator of jobs—bought *American* cars. My mother bought Illinois produce to support Illinois farmers, and taught her children how *not* to support foreign dictatorships.

In grade school, I was part of an experimental "special opportunities program" created by the federal government to identify the children they thought capable of someday leading our nation through difficult geopolitical times. It was fun. They never disclosed the mission for which we'd been hand picked. But we learned some useful lessons—and discovered that the purpose of education is happiness, which is largely determined by our ability to know when we're being lied to.

High school and college, for me, are enshrined in the memory of my having been so consistently on the academic honor roll—and *behavioral probation* at the same time. I'm reluctantly proud to say that *most* of my teachers were amused.

I was graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Arts in History. My concentration was Modern Europe, with a minor and independent research in the history of China.

After college, I did lots of things; and, almost always, had a good time doing them.

I was a solar energy pioneer more than 30 years ago, "green" water disinfection more than 25 years ago. I was "green" long before the word was misused to mislead American taxpayers and voters.

I've been scientist and artist, worked with my hands and head, as a musician, mechanic, carpenter, inventor, executive, entrepreneur, designer, engineer, consultant, speaker, teacher, counselor, gunsmith, poet, computer geek, ergonomist, photographer, composer, activist, cook, and speechwriter.

I can butcher my own game and teach you how to dance the Argentine tango. But I am far from unique. There is no shortage of talented, accomplished generalists in our country—men and women to lead an

American renaissance. You know who you are, and you know it's time to step up. America cannot last much longer under this tyranny of experts.

I would be remiss not to share with you some defining moments from my personal history.

In 1983, when I was twenty-six, my father decided to retire and leave me his business. I had, at the time, almost no money. Accepting my father's offer would have made me a multi-millionaire by the time I was thirty. I turned it down.

I somehow doubt most members of Congress are capable of understanding my decision.

Life and learning would be interrupted by the occasional attempt to draw attention to the decline of our productive economy. In the late 1980s, a newspaper editor in a Rocky Mountain state offered me the suggestion that I keep my city ideas to myself. As Mark Twain observed: in the beginning, the patriot is a hated and scorned man.

By late 2007, I was hungry for hatred and scorn. American factories had been moving offshore at a record- and heart-breaking pace. The death of my mother and the birth of my grandniece were all the perspective I needed to shut down my business and begin my real work. The 2008 financial crisis was still beyond the horizon, but I—and many, many others—knew there was trouble ahead.

“Dollar to the Giant”—my worst-case, cautionary tale—was written well in advance of the 2008 meltdown. Analysts of this financial crisis would do well to recognize its roots in our trade deficit—the insolvency that even Sam Walton warned about before his kids and China inherited the family business.

We get into a credit crisis when we don't have enough money; we don't have enough money when our income is insufficient. If America had not sent its income-producing real economy offshore, we could have had plenty of real money. Our heads would not have been so easily turned by the fictitious economy of Wall Street, financial innovation, and real estate bubbles. The 2008 crisis would not have happened.

And if our manufacturing sector were in good shape, the Federal Reserve would not have to monkey so much with the money supply to maintain the illusion of prosperity. We would simply prosper.

My activism has been among the grass roots—grass roots, because that's where the life is—grass roots, because the multinational-sponsored media exhibit little interest in us, and even less in our children. I remember a reporter asking me how long I planned to pursue this project of my country's economy and children before I threw in the towel.

I continued to “read, think, speak, and write” until I could no longer justify the expense of a roof over my head. But I would not abandon my purpose. I would not be here today if previous generations had abandoned theirs. I am fortunate to have family and friends who believe in me, believe in my work, and provide me with shelter. I am neither homeless nor destitute, but have, in fact, exhausted my personal resources in the service of my country. Somewhere, my mother and George Washington are smiling.

We can, at our present crossroads, avail ourselves of a unique and lifesaving opportunity: free, open, and democratic communication. But the Internet, as we know it, will not last for long—not if the multinational corporate media are successful in their attempt to control. Now, however, and through 2012, American citizens can effectively campaign for any men or women they choose.

If you like my ideas, if you think I might be the President you've been waiting for, e-mail:

BobHall2012@Gmail.com

We'll need to get me, or someone like me, on the ballots and let American voters know they now have another option—one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge.

Stay tuned for my thoughts on energy, taxes, immigration, drugs, defense, and campaign finance.

Thank you.

197.

Energy—Chapter 3 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

America's energy policy has a strong effect on the economy, unemployment, and our children's well-being.

Foreign oil imports are just that: imported and foreign, supplied by multinational corporations—many with American names and American histories. Oil imports are a major contributor to our trade deficit—the underlying, and ongoing, cause of our country's real economic pain. Oil-based misery travels far beyond what we feel at the gas pump. Oil imports have cost our country—and continue to cost our country—millions of good jobs. American self-determination is in jeopardy. If you feel like a hostage now, think how your children might feel as slaves.

America's dependence on imported oil has given rise to the almost inconceivably absurd: the multinational oil industry makes money by deepening the trade deficit that is destroying their best existing customers and the entire American economy.

They're killing our jobs, killing our children's prospects, by doing, simply, what corporations with no national borders, and a big world market, do to survive. The blame lies in Washington. Our government has no energy policy—none beyond a willingness to accept campaign and lobbyist money from the multinational oil industry, then hide behind the manipulation of so-called “market forces.”

We were supposed to have learned our lesson from the oil crisis of 1973. Not long after The Department of Energy was created, President Jimmy Carter told us that our necks were stretched over a fence and OPEC held a knife. He promised that every new addition to our demand for energy would be met from our own production and our own conservation.

We were desperate then. We are more desperate now. We have become more, not less, dependent on imported oil, and OPEC is not the only threat to our longevity. Too few Americans in the 1970s thought

their painful new trade *deficit* would become a chronic, possibly terminal affliction. Fewer yet predicted America's upcoming love affair with financial innovation—an infatuation that would lead us to abandon our real economy, dismantle the middle class, and redistribute America's wealth—upward—to a financial elite with global interests. American workers have watched their real income and purchasing power stagnate for 30 years, while America's top 1% has watched its real income almost quadruple.

Unwittingly, we betrayed ourselves, and we betrayed our children. American business went multinational; Wall Street turned into a casino; the trade deficit metastasized; the market price of an American Presidential campaign went up fifty fold; the bidders formed a line.

As a result, anything resembling a national energy policy—war, for example, in oil-producing nations—is administered by the multinational interests that control our politics and fuel prices—fuel prices high enough to inflict pain, but not so high that citizens finally take action.

The quick answer might be more drilling and production here in the United States. But remember: the oil business is a global business, run by multinational corporations that extract oil from the U.S. and sell it on a world market. This doesn't do us very much good. We need truly American oil and alternative energy industries, with U.S. government policies in place to protect them. In recent months, billions of dollars in Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania oil and gas properties have been sold to the People's Republic of China. Communist China. In our backyard, grabbing our resources, and nobody seems to care. As recently as 2005, the Chinese attempt to buy Unocal was considered a clear threat to our national security. I shudder to think we've lost so much interest in our *existence* in only six short years.

We can't solve our energy problems by attempting to control the world's oil—even with the world's most powerful weapons. In any case, this is impractical—and a contemptible use of force. Eventually, even the most self-centered begins to think that “no, it's not OK if other people's children die for my gasoline.”

What we can do, immediately and practically, is reduce our consumption by increasing the gas mileage of vehicles operated in the United States. We can, at the very least, *double* our miles per gallon, even if this means giving up some unnecessary horsepower. Doubling our gas mileage will eliminate our current dependence on Middle Eastern oil, reduce America's trade deficit, create American jobs, and give our children a fighting chance.

Frankly, we need some courage and adult responsibility in Washington. There is too much campaigning. We need a government that governs, and leaders who lead. Higher mileage requirements will protect American citizens, the American economy, and American jobs. Some will complain, some will denounce, but the American spirit does not grant us the freedom to deprive our children of theirs.

198.

Personal Income Tax—Chapter 4 of 8, Bob Hall 2012

Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

An ideal system of taxation would:

Lower the average tax rate.

Not penalize wealthy Americans.

Not deprive lower-income Americans.

Raise more money for our government by eliminating tax loopholes and tax evasion.

Raise more money for our government by capturing the underground, criminal, cash economy.

Encourage savings and investment in America.

Subsidize exports.

Tax imports.

Create jobs.

Greatly reduce the size of the Internal Revenue Service—and the entire income tax industry—liberating this labor force for better work.

Rehabilitate politicians who campaign with tax promises.

Encourage our legislators to focus on more important issues.

Eliminate the income tax, its records keeping and filing.

All of this can easily be accomplished with a VAT or Fair Tax on consumption. Our current system is obsolete and counterproductive. It discriminates against our children's future.

199.

**Corporate Income Tax—Chapter 5 of 8, Bob Hall 2012
Presidential Candidacy Announcement**

November 27, 2011

Corporate income tax can be a sensitive issue, especially when so many corporations make money in the United States and don't pay any income tax.

It's a challenging idea to absorb, but no corporation has ever paid taxes. Every economic burden is ultimately borne by the individual. When a corporation is taxed, it passes this expense along to you and me in the form of higher prices on goods and services. Corporations are, in this sense, government-mandated tax collectors. When a politician advocates higher corporate income taxes, he or she is really advocating higher personal taxes in disguise.

"The corporations" are an easy target, especially for propagandists and their campaigns. But corporations are owned and run by human beings. They also employ human beings. Deal with them intelligently, and they'll make our children's world a better place in which to live.

A 5% corporate VAT would more than replace all the revenue currently collected by the nominal 35% corporate income tax.

Our politically motivated tax policies have chased too many formerly American corporations—and their money, and our jobs—overseas. We need them to come home. We need each other. And we need the trillions of dollars they're currently holding offshore, thanks to the lack of common sense in Washington. We should allow these corporations to bring their trillions into the United States with no tax liability whatsoever, providing—and this is not negotiable—that the money be used here in the United States. The benefit to our economy, to our children, would be much greater than any relatively small gains realized by what we call a "corporate" income tax.

200.

Immigration and Drugs—Chapter 6 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

I just spent a couple of months in Texas, and I have to say: anyone venturing an opinion on the immigration policies of our border states should spend some time down there first.

Mexico is a bigger threat to the United States than the Middle East has ever been. Mexico is right next door, it's boiling over, and our politicians are selling their souls for the Hispanic vote.

I grew up working in a warehouse with Mexican illegals. *Friends*. At one time, I spoke Spanish as well as I spoke English. I understood the culture. I still have Mexican friends, and probably always will.

The best thing I could do for Mexican illegals is send them home.

People emigrate, in most cases, because they have to. Who wants to leave home? It's a rare Mexican who would dream of leaving a close-knit family and familiar surroundings for freezing-cold winters and a Gringo boss. But the Mexican climate of drugs and violence leaves them little choice.

Our climate of high unemployment and low opportunity leaves us little choice.

After we get our own country together—which will include private-sector jobs for unskilled American citizens—Mexico should be a priority. We can, and must, for the sake of our own survival, help the Mexican government to develop opportunities for Mexicans at home, so they can stay there and be happy. Mexico, we must always keep in mind, is vulnerable to our global adversaries and competitors—especially China, having thus far invested many billions of dollars in our next-door neighbor, our NAFTA trading partner. We need to be alert.

And we need to change our drug laws. We cannot solve our immigration problems until we take the profit and crime out of the drug trade. For the record, I have no financial interest in drugs, and I don't use them. My concerns are for traditional American values, and for American children. Our current drug policies are killing them.

The so-called “War on Drugs,” so far, has cost more than one *trillion* dollars. Another pile of debt passed on to the next generations of taxpayers. They won't be thinking they got their money's worth. More tragically, hundreds of thousands of human lives have been lost—many of them good cops and innocent children. Yet we continue to fight, and lose, this war.

Why?

Follow the money trail. The War on Drugs has been a cash cow for politicians and special interests, notably the security and defense industries. This so-called war supports enormous bureaucracies—dedicated, in typical bureaucratic fashion, to their own growth. And the North American Free Trade Agreement has made it easier for *anything* or *anybody* to enter the United States through Mexico.

Follow the money trail, and things get clearer, and even more bizarre: American citizens are actually paying for both sides of this War on Drugs. The growers, cartels, and dealers get their money from us. Then we spend even more money in a vain—or artificial—attempt to put them out of business.

The only way to stop this insanity, this war on our children's future, is to remove the financial incentive.

Our country is heading toward legalization. It's going to happen sooner or later, so why not sooner? We'll save time, money, and lives. And we can get on with the rest of our business.

Mexico can then be delivered from the drug lords, back into the hands of the Mexican people—and their children.

There is little reason to believe that legalization will turn our kids into drug addicts. In fact, there is evidence—the experience of other countries—to suggest that legalization reduces first-time drug use among minors because it removes the “forbidden fruit” temptation.

Of course, as our children serve to remind us, the best way to guide them is to give them good examples—in government, and at home.

201.

Defense—Chapter 7 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

We must maintain the most powerful, vigilant defense on Earth. Those who attack us, those who would harm our children, must pay a terrible price. This is not negotiable.

We must restore America's ability to manufacture the products necessary for this country's self-defense and self-reliance. And we must no longer tolerate the insecurity—the abject, corrupt stupidity—of outsourcing from military adversaries the equipment we need to defend ourselves from those very same military adversaries.

We must put an end to unnecessary wars. Not one single American life or limb must ever again be sacrificed in an unnecessary war.

They are, almost all of them, unnecessary wars, yet children today are being raised in an atmosphere of perpetual warfare.

As Marine Corps General S.D. Butler concluded, after the most distinguished of military careers, including two Medals of Honor: *War is a Racket*.

The Constitution—when read for spirit and intention, not loopholes—encourages a standing professional navy to protect American trade, but discourages a standing professional army. The Founding Fathers, having read their history books, understood the dangers. Yet a standing professional army we now have, with bases in foreign countries in every corner of the planet. Most Americans would not welcome a foreign military base in their own backyard. Most Americans don't know that, since the end of the Second World War, their empire has been in the business of creating enemies—job security for the military-industrial complex that President—General—Eisenhower warned us about.

Since World War II, Congress has abrogated its legal responsibility to declare war. The power of the Presidency has grown unchecked and unbalanced. Our standing professional army gets its marching orders from the President, who gets his marching orders from his multinational money people, who explain the wars to us regular folks through corporate-sponsored media.

American citizens—rather, our children—get the bills, the caskets, and the enduring suspicion of the outside world. By design and deceit, the realities of war remain, for too many of us, in the video-game realm of the

abstract. Thousands of human lives, millions of productive jobs, and trillions of taxpayer dollars are lost forever as we go about our business, calm in the conventional wisdom that war is good for the economy.

Let us disappoint the profiteers who would raise themselves upon the sacrifice of their fellow man.

The President is not an emperor. A truly strong President would reduce the power of his own office to that provided for by the Constitution and American tradition, to serve our people—*all* of our people—through balance and representation.

Congress must again shoulder its legal responsibility for declaring war.

Members of Congress must be willing to look in a mirror and ask if *they themselves* are worth dying for.

And what if *their* children are the children dying?

If we are to regain our independence—and our economy—from the multinational war industry, we must be willing to look into the human face of warfare.

Congress should reinstate the draft.

The standing professional army should be decommissioned, disbanded, and absorbed into a safe and economically responsible private sector—a newly thriving private sector, thanks to the establishment of our national industrial policy.

After high school, every young man and woman in America—everyone, even rich politicians' kids—should spend 3 to 6 months in defense and readiness training.

When called for duty, well-trained men and women—no exceptions, no deferments—would be required to defend our country. And defend, we will.

We will stand in each other's shoes. We will all risk our loved ones. If the cause is unjust, the war unnecessary, we will inform our government with little hesitation. We will teach our children to settle their differences, to guide the ships of state, with their children in mind. We will stop throwing away what took over 200 years to build, and we will do our part to raise our children in peace.

202.

Campaign Finance—Chapter 8 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement

November 27, 2011

My thoughts on campaign finance can be summed up in a question:

Why would anyone spend a billion dollars for a job that pays four hundred thousand?

Like it or not, under the current system, our government is for sale. Big Business spends big money on American politics, and expects big favors in return.

This worked a lot better when Big Business was still American, and we could reasonably expect the corruption of special interest politics to benefit Americans. The distribution of favors was not fair, but, for the most part, the money stayed in the United States and benefited our own citizens.

When American business went multinational, our politicians were quick to follow. The United States government is now unduly influenced by multinational, largely foreign, special interests.

Is it any wonder that American middle-class prosperity and security—once the envy of the world—have been sacrificed to the gods of globalization?

If we expect to ever return our country to its people, we must first stop the flow of multinational money to our politicians, then stop the flow of all big money to our politicians. What we call lobbying is really bribery. What we call campaign contributions—another opportunity for bribery.

This is no way to behave in front of the children.

I will accept campaign contributions only from *my* special interest group: American citizens. I will not accept campaign contributions from corporations, organizations, anonymous donors, or non-citizens.

Someone has to do this the *right* way.

203.

Our Problem, Our Solution

November 29, 2011

America's decline is a classic tale of human greed—mostly, one might argue, the self-destructive ability to recognize greed in others before we recognize greed in ourselves.

If this unflattering assessment of the redwhiteandblue doesn't derail my campaign, read on.

To be sure, we have been, and we continue to be, exploited by very greedy people. But aren't these people most effective when they turn our own greed against us?

Isn't greed. . .

really Fear

. . . in disguise?

This country is stuck in "survival mode." The longer we're in survival mode, the more stuck we become.

Survival is killing us.

Some Americans, especially young Americans, clearly understand we're all Americans in the same boat together.

If we don't let go of our greed/fear, we will sink forever together.

When we do let go of our greed/fear, there will be more for everybody.

Does anyone really believe our country has lost the ability to create opportunity? That all we can aspire to is "survival" and fighting over scraps?

A proposal:

Tea Party Americans, Occupy Wall Street Americans, and every other American with energy, purpose, and will should:

Unite.

Combine forces, state by state, against the same federal government that has disappointed and/or betrayed almost all of us—past, present, and future. Work for what we have in common, rather than the few points on which we choose to disagree.

Be an example for America's children—indeed, the world's children. Before it's too late.

We can no longer allow politicians and media to sow and harvest our worst impulses. We must rise above their lies, their stinking wedge issues.

We don't need no stinking wedge issues.

We need jobs. We need an economy—a productive economy. We need opportunity. A middle class. Security. A future we can look forward to.

Now. It's time.

One more proposal:

We need leadership and vision.

From the beginning, Americans from the Right, Left, and Middle have embraced my ideas and claimed me as one of their very own.

Remove the special interests and we are not Democrats, Republicans, or slaves of a political system controlled by money. We are Americans.

We need a President who has understood, fought for, and lived this from the very beginning.

Me.

Or someone like me.

I don't care, as long as it gets done.

204.

Georgetown Students Shed Light On China's Tunnel System For Nuclear Weapons

December 1, 2011

From *The Washington Post* :

“Georgetown students shed light on China's tunnel system for nuclear weapons”

www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/georgetown-students-shed-light-on-chinas-tunnel-system-for-nuclear-weapons/2011/11/16/gIQA6AmKAO_story.html

- A vast network of tunnels designed to hide China's missile and nuclear arsenal, dug by a secretive branch of the Chinese military.
- China's nuclear arsenal could be many times larger than the well-established estimates of arms-control experts.
- The U.S. and Russia are bound by treaties that require on-site inspections, disclosure of forces, and bans on certain missiles.
- China is not.

In 1999, a U.S. House of Representatives committee concluded:

"The Chinese Communist Party's main aim for the civilian economy is to support the building of modern military weapons and to support the aims of the People's Liberation Army."

www.house.gov/coxreport

Since then, our trade deficit with China has more than tripled, China's GDP has more than quadrupled, and the United States has lost more than 56,000 factories.

The Chinese Communist Party and People's Liberation Army never had friends better than American consumers and American politicians.

"We gave up our future, families and friends. Dollar to the giant, dollar never seen again."

See also: U.S. Department of State 2010 Human Rights Report, China

www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/eap/154382.htm

205.

India Adopts National Manufacturing Policy; U.S. Does Not

December 1, 2011

“Do we balance the federal budget by cutting expenses or raising taxes? Either way, someone gets hurt. The two-party system depends on it. But Congress has another option, one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge. Congress has the power to adopt a national industrial policy that could create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need. Everything. For generations to come. Congress has this power.” *

If our democracy has no use for creativity, courage, or common sense, India's does:

“India Adopts National Manufacturing Policy”

www.kslaw.com/library/newsletters/TradeManufacturingAlert/2011/December/article2.html

India's new 10-year plan:

- Aims to increase the manufacturing share of India's GDP from 16% to 25%.
- Is expected to create 100,000,000 new jobs.
- Prioritizes environmental sustainability and green technologies.
- Reduces regulation of manufacturers.
- Ensures that no trade agreement or economic partnership will have a detrimental effect on domestic manufacturing in India.

Don't be surprised if one billion Indians supported by a national manufacturing policy have a powerfully detrimental effect on domestic manufacturing—and quality of life—here in the USA.

The world is competitive. Life is competitive. Are we going to compete again or not?

206.

To Republicans—Democrats, too, but more Republicans this time

December 4, 2011

Months ago, I wrote:

“... the big money party that finances our nominal 'two'-party system has found its guy in Barack Obama. Expect a long parade of Republican candidates incapable of unseating the President. The big money people have never had it better, and the GOP has been ordered to stand down.”

People are now realizing I was right, if too polite.

We're all being played, not just the Republicans.

(And not just the non-racists.)

Some 2,000 years ago, the Roman poet Juvenal observed:

“Already long ago, from when we sold our vote to no man, the People have abdicated our duties, for the People who once upon a time handed out military command, high civil office, legions—everything, now restrains itself and anxiously hopes for just two things: bread and circuses.” (*Satires X*)

In other words: keep the People fed and diverted and you can get away with anything.

The People can be impossible to insult.

A favorite, commonly attributed to Pablo Picasso:

“The people no longer seek consolation in art. But the refined people, the rich, the idlers seek the new, the extraordinary, the extravagant, the scandalous. I have contented these people with all the many bizarre things that come into my head. And the less they understand, the more they admire it. By amusing myself with all these games, all this nonsense, all these picture puzzles, I became famous. . . . I am only a public entertainer who has understood his time.”

If the Republican faithful understand our time, they will understand that politics—corrupt politics—is public entertainment. Little is left to chance or ceded to ticket buyers. Campaign 2012 was scripted long ago, written for an audience more passive and gullible, I suspect, than any imagined by Juvenal or Picasso.

If the Republican faithful understand our time, they will look to their ranks—not to their offshoring leaders, media, and money people—and recast their party in economic nationalism.

This could happen someday, but it won't happen soon enough. Republicans interested in our republic need to find an independent candidate to support—*now*—for the Presidency, and talk about this candidate a lot.

Democrats interested in our democracy should do the same.

207.

All that stands between you and a President you can be proud of

December 4, 2011

If every recipient of this e-mail sends it to at least two more people . . . well, I'm betting you can do the math.

Find a candidate you like and start clicking. Better yet, start talking.

The only thing standing between you and a President you can be proud of, is

You.

Dig a little deeper, and you'll see that the only candidate standing between you and China, you and India, you and a two-party system that can't seem to do enough for offshore producers and the fictitious economy, is

Me.

Or somebody like me. Please just click, talk, and give our kids a fighting chance.

Grass roots campaigns work when we do.

208.

EU Crisis & EU Trade Deficit: Not Particular EU Genius

December 6, 2011

I thought I'd remind the current crop of EU crisis analysts:

In 2010, the European Union's goods trade deficit with China—China alone—was 168.8 billion euros.

It's not rocket science. It's never been rocket science.

If this isn't disturbing enough, the deficit, according to the European Commission, "is mainly caused by sectors like office and telecommunication equipment, textiles, iron and steel."

Essentials.

The conventional criticism, as always, is scapegoating it safe, currently railing against "the bankers." I agree we should hold them accountable, prosecute their crimes, and reduce their power. But are "the bankers" the fundamental problem—or are they merely opportunists?

Soon after the October 2008 meltdown, Paul Volcker—a better Fed Chairman I try not to mention alongside Greenspan and Bernanke—testified, repeatedly, that the economic crisis was rooted in our trade deficit:

www.house.gov/jec/news/2009/Volcker%20testimony%202-26-09%20%282%29.pdf

www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/feb/05/volcker-blames-recession-on-trade-imbalances

Mr. Volcker's words went unheard, unheeded, as Mr. Volcker all but disappeared from public view.

Let us focus—we must focus—on the fundamental problem. We can begin by hearing these words from my favorite writer:

"Blame it on us voters for making bad choices, then blame it on the financialization of American culture. The Wall Street and Washington boys got it wrong, and most of them still don't quite *get* that a nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity."

"A nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity."

Not bad, if I do say so myself.

(I trust the reader will forgive my appearance of immodesty. Writing, like cooking and eating, I believe, should be more a participant than a spectator sport.)

[Volcker testimony of 2/26/09 subsequently removed from the U.S. House of Representatives website.]

209.

Positive Results Easily Achieved

December 7, 2011

Upbeat. Inspiring. Positive results.

ABC News video:

“Made in America” Christmas Creates Jobs

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/made-america-christmas-creates-jobs-15092299>

See? All we have to do is spread the word.

Which brings me to yesterday's e-mail about the EU crisis:

We should invest our energy, direct our anger, for the greatest return.

Corrupt bankers cannot be as corrupt as corrupt politicians. Private entities finance, sponsor, lobby, and otherwise bribe our elected officials—the culprits who betray the public trust.

Fortunately, we can easily replace our politicians—much more easily than we can replace our bankers.

First, we change ourselves into real citizens who vote in their own best interests.

The rest will follow.

210.

“The U.S. Balance Of Trade Is Mind-Blowingly Bad”

December 8, 2011

Different writer, different tone, worth passing along:

“The Worst In The World—The U.S. Balance Of Trade Is Mind-Blowingly Bad”

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/the-worst-in-the-world-the-u-s-balance-of-trade-is-mind-blowingly-bad>

My money-making tip of the day:

If you're a multinational corporation, big bank—"Wall Street"—or part of the Top 1%.

If you want to become even richer on the American economy and American trade deficit.

The first thing you do is recruit an American politician.

They've little loyalty to anything but power—power maintained, simply, by shifting blame for the damage they've done.

Once discovered, however, politicians are easily replaced.

By their financiers.

And by their constituents.

211.

Words, Steve Biko

December 9, 2011

“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

—Steve Biko, Cape Town, 1971

212.

Graphic: Reelection Rates Over The Years

December 11, 2011

Interesting (and disturbing) graphics from OpenSecrets.org:

“Reelection Rates Over The Years”

www.opensecrets.org/bigpicture/reelect.php

Politicians and voters—few relationships are more abusive.

Yet we stay.

Why?

213.

Occupy Movement Moving Closer To Truth

December 12, 2011

The Occupy movement is getting smarter. Can a boycott of Chinese goods be far behind?

(China, after all, sits on top of the top 1%.)

I liked this report:

“Occupy Protesters Halt Operations at Some West Coast Ports”

www.foxnews.com/us/2011/12/12/occupy-protesters-seek-to-shut-down-west-coast-ports

because the free-trading globalists on Rupert Murdoch's payroll (*Fox News*, *The Wall Street Journal*) actually, perhaps inadvertently, connected some dots:

"Kari Koch, organizer with Shut Down the Ports Working Group of Occupy Portland, said by shutting down the port, Wall Street will be unable to create profit."

The Salt Lake Tribune included a Walmart protest in its report:

www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/53098741-79/port-occupy-protesters-ports.html.csp

along with the useful comment that,

"Protesters were targeting the American ports because they believe the ports have become 'economic engines for the elite.'"

"Economic engines for the elite." More dots connected.

Indeed, Goldman Sachs is in the port business. But rather than focus on the money Goldman derives directly from SSA Marine, we should observe how Goldman's interests are tied to China's.

For example, Goldman Sachs under CEO Henry Paulson—just before Paulson, personally worth an estimated \$700 million, became Secretary of the U.S. Treasury—was "allowed" to buy 5.75% of the biggest bank of China.

During one of Paulson's 70 trips to China, one would assume. But see how clever? China "allowed" Goldman Sachs and Henry Paulson to further tie themselves to Chinese interests.

Subsequently—consequently—during the Federal Reserve's record week in October 2008, more than 70% of U.S. taxpayer-funded bailout money went to foreigners.

Taxpayer money. Your money and your grandchildren's money.

You might also be interested to know that Henry Paulson recently founded The Henry Paulson Institute to promote U.S.-China relations.

If you're thinking about moving your American business and dollars to China, a second opinion can't hurt. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, now of Kissinger Associates, Inc., specializes in such work.

Call him. Call both Henrys.

Ask them how they sleep at night.

Then ask what they plan to do when the people who trusted them finally wake up.

214.

Are you willing to bet your family on any of the current candidates?

December 14, 2011

Are you willing to bet your family on any of the current candidates?

Because that's what we do when we vote.

(And when we don't vote.)

We place our well-being—our lives, our fortunes, our children—in the hands of so-called "representatives."

But how often do we really know what these "representatives" represent?

How often do we even care?

Strange how we're willing to trust them with so much, these public entertainers we find so worthy of our ridicule and distrust.

Strange how painful and insecure our lives have become.

Strange how we still haven't put two and two together.

Attached, for obvious reasons:

"Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement"

215.

Census shows 1 in 2 people are poor or low-income—USA TODAY

December 15, 2011

From today's *USA TODAY* :

“Census shows 1 in 2 people are poor or low-income”

www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2011-12-15/poor-census-low-income/51944034/1

Also from the U.S. Census Bureau:

In October, the U.S. imported a record \$37.8 billion in products from China.

(Don't even THINK of saying, "Chinese products are all we can afford.")

And this from the U.S. Department of Labor:

Chicago has a higher unemployment rate than Youngstown, Ohio.

This probably sounds incredible to people who've visited both cities. But places like Chicago offer so many distractions, so many ways to pretend your job and possessions are safe,

We don't see what we don't *want* to see.

Can we afford to live like this?

Can we afford politicians who live like this?

Vote as if your life depended on it. If it doesn't now, it will soon enough.

216.

Putty In The Wrong Hands

December 16, 2011

I recently attended a performance of live music before a sophisticated crowd in a U.S. industrial city known for its interest in politics. The musicians played a composition of mine—instrumental, no lyrics or politics—which was well-received by an attentive audience. The engaging emcee announced that the talented composer was in our midst—pointing to me—and, you might like to know, a candidate for President of the United States with a lot of smart and wonderful ideas.

Not one person showed any interest. None whatsoever. Not one hand-clap, not one question, not one look, gesture, sound, or rotten cabbage.

Today a personal friend e-mailed, "What we really need is to all get p***ed off!"

My pilgrimage though the Industrial Heartland has me wondering the same. There's a lot of knowledge out here, but not much stomach for any kind of fight—as if the children of the people who built this country have simply been down for too long.

I got to thinking about the disconnect between what America is and what we think America is.

Which got me thinking about the many hundreds of U.S. military bases around the globe.

Which got me thinking about who, also, is on the receiving end of all the money being redistributed away from the working and middle classes.

Which got me thinking about the war industry and how it thrives by [ticking] people off.

Which got me thinking—once again—that what little anger we have left is being misdirected.

Have you ever read *War Is A Racket*?

www.archive.org/details/WarIsARacket

In the early 1930s, long before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Marine Corps General S.D. Butler, recipient of two Medals of Honor, warned that U.S. bankers and profiteers were gearing up for war with Japan:

- Back in 1904, when Russia and Japan fought, we kicked out our old friends the Russians and backed Japan. Then our very generous international bankers were financing Japan. Now the trend is to poison us against the Japanese. What does the "open door" policy to China mean to us? We would be all stirred up to hate Japan and go to war—a war that might well cost us tens of billions of dollars, hundreds of thousands of lives of Americans, and many more hundreds of thousands of physically maimed and mentally unbalanced men. Of course, for this loss, there would be a compensating profit—fortunes would be made. By a few. Yes, they are getting ready for another war.

Last month, the Hoover Institution of Stanford University published *Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath*—many years after the author's death.

www.hooverpress.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1470

If you ever suspected that Pearl Harbor and U.S. involvement in the so-called "good war" WWII might have been provoked and premeditated, our former President's memoirs might leave you convinced.

In President Hoover's then-careful words, "this continuous putting pins in rattlesnakes finally got this country bit."

After you've read Hoover's book, or at least the better reviews, take another look at my speech on defense.

There's plenty to be ticked off about, and we should be ticked off—enough to finally do something about it.

But let's be ticked off at the right people.

When we're ticked off at each other, we're putty in the wrong peoples' hands.

We must stand together.

217.

No Politics or Economics, Just Good American Instrumental Music (new video)

December 19, 2011

New 60-second video, #9:

Frogwater performs "Tributary Waltz"

Performing: Frogwater www.frogwater.us

Sitting in: Lil' Rev www.lilrev.com

Video recorded before a live audience at Alterra Coffee, Grafton WI, December 18, 2011

"Tributary Waltz" composed by Robert Hall, Music By Robert Hall (ASCAP)

Yep, that's me.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a real-live-person President who understands the economy and can do real-live-person things?

I even write my own speeches.

Don't you think "Tributary Waltz" sounds better than "Hail To The Chief"?

If you want to hear more, it will be on Frogwater's next CD.

"Tributary Waltz"

Not "Hail to the Chief"

Happy Holidays!

218.

I'm Not Rich But I'm Still Patriotic

December 22, 2011

"You're running for President? You must be rich."

No, I'm not, and this is a good thing. Not that being rich is a bad thing. I want everyone—everyone—to make more money. (Legally.) But we can't afford politicians who are financially insulated from real life. Politicians need to feel what the People feel.

I also hear that we need more "business thinking" in government. I disagree. We already have too much. The goals and values of a business are usually uncomplicated: Profit. Now substitute the word "politician"

for "business." See what I mean? That our politicians are funded by multinational corporations only makes things worse. Government needs to consider a much broader range of goals and values—so that all citizens and domestic corporations can profit.

And be happy. In the land of the free and the home of the brave.

First bravery. Then freedom.

I thought about postulating a sequence like

Truer > Braver > Smarter > Freer > Happier

But I decided it wouldn't be worth the fuss right now. Most days I'm interested in discussing the natures of intelligence and happiness. Today, I'd rather discuss my suspicion of flattering politicians who tell us we're the best (kindest, smartest, hardest-working, most-resilient, etc.) people on the planet.

For the record, I will say that "stupidity" must somehow be connected to one's actions, so we can't possibly be the smartest—not on this planet, anyway.

I've probably just broken some kind of taboo. No matter. If our children are not somehow the "best," does this diminish our love for them? Would we deprive our child in favor of a "better" child from another family?

Of course not. No sooner than any sane, intelligent person would deprive his country—or his economy—in favor of another.

I'll leave you with this:

“The purpose of education is happiness, which is largely determined by our ability to know when we’re being lied to.”

219.

Politicians do bad things because they are bad people.

December 22, 2011

Washington insider Mike Lofgren explores one aspect of this article's subtitle: "Are Our Rulers Stupid, or Do They Think We're Stupid?" I especially liked the last few paragraphs.

“Propagandizing for Perpetual War”

www.counterpunch.org/2011/12/20/propagandizing-for-perpetual-war

220.

Peace on Earth

December 25, 2011

Instead of something made in China, I thought you'd like your own copy of *War Is A Racket*.

It's only 14 pages long. If enough people read it, they could change the world.

Peace.

Attached PDF: *War Is A Racket* by 2-time Medal of Honor winner Major General Smedley Darlington Butler

View or Download: www.archive.org/details/WarIsARacket

221.

Do you have any good campaign ideas? I could use some good campaign ideas.

December 26, 2011

Seems I'm the guy everyone would vote for if they knew about.

Frustrating, especially when we've no time to waste.

And the bleaker the future, the bigger the lies, the deeper the demoralization, the bleaker the future. . . .

Until "they" have us exactly where they want us.

"They" can mean almost anyone or anything. Long term, we all lose if this country—one of humanity's better ideas—is relegated to the pages of history. Two thousand years from now, scholars might analyze our decline and fall without ever really understanding our peculiar form of mass suicide.

I won't claim to understand it, either, but I think it must have something to do with our race against boredom.

I will say that if I were a young American, I would feel pretty cheated.

We can do better. We owe it to everyone and everything we're supposed to stand for.

So, our task is to delight our fellow citizens in the rediscovered knowledge that our choices are not limited to mass suicide and/or lessers of evils. But how?

This is not so obvious. For example, I can't agree to interviews when the media won't agree not to try to hamper my efforts.

The money folks who sponsor our media and political parties are sponsoring an \$8-billion reality show called "Campaign 2012."

Follow the money trail.

To the media, people like me are, at best, temporary entertainment for a bored audience.

Hmmm. Maybe it's me who's easily entertained. I can think of a lot of things more boring than trying to stay alive.

I'll bet you can, too. If you have any ideas for getting the word out, please let me or your favorite candidate know.

Thanks!

222.

“What can the average person do?”—a frequent question

December 28, 2011

"What can the average person do?"

Everything.

To solve our problems, we "average people" can do the opposite of what we did to create our problems in the first place.

It was only a matter of time before

- Buying foreign products
- Making uninformed—childish—voting decisions

caught up with us. Now we're suffering the consequences.

And we don't seem to care that our children will suffer even worse.

What can the average person do?

Everything.

What *should* the average person do?

Something.

Do *something*, for God's sake.

Do something.

223.

Wackiest Campaign Idea So Far

December 28, 2011

Wackiest campaign idea so far:

A reality show in which the People choose their own First Lady for a bachelor President: me.

Interesting. But I'll have to think about it some more.

She'd have to be American-made.

And very patriotic.

224.

“Corrupt, Lazy And Stinking Rich”

December 29, 2011

Ask not what your country can do for you:

“You Won't Believe How Corrupt, Lazy And Stinking Rich Our Congress Critters Have Become”

<http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/you-wont-believe-these-statistics-which-show-how-corrupt-lazy-and-stinking-rich-our-congress-critters-have-become>

Some lowlights from the article:

- 250 members of Congress are millionaires.
- The collective net worth of all members of Congress increased by 25 percent between 2008 and 2010.
- After adjusting for inflation, between 1984 and 2009 the median net worth of members of Congress rose from \$280,000 to \$725,000 while the median net worth of all Americans declined over the same time period.
- Those who won U.S. Senate seats during the last election spent an average of nearly \$10 million on their campaigns.
- When it comes to federal elections, the candidate who raises the most money wins about 90 percent of the time.
- More than 5 billion dollars were spent on political campaigns in 2008, and it is being projected that 8 billion dollars will be spent on political campaigns in 2012.
- According to the latest polls, the approval rating for Congress is sitting at about 12 percent.
- On September 16, 2008 Henry Paulson and Ben Bernanke held "closed-door meetings" with members of Congress to warn that the financial system was about to collapse, but instead of racing to save the financial system, many Congressmen raced to save their stock portfolios.

Ask what you can do for your country:

225.

[DttG e-mail]

January 1, 2012

I've attached a PDF transcript of my Presidential candidacy speech.

Why?

So the ideas continue to circulate and grow.

Might sound a bit pompous, but . . .

I've been told my speech ranks among the best in U.S. history. At the very least, it's better than anything we've heard from the "official" candidates—or their sponsors, or their speechwriters.

(Don't you sometimes wonder what George Washington would think about today's politicians?)

But this isn't about me or my candidacy, nor has it ever been.

This is about doing things right.

For our sake.

And for the sake of our children.

Feel free to send copies of my speech to your favorite candidates.

And their sponsors. And their speechwriters.

And everyone else you know.

"Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement"

U.S. Library of Congress Registration Number TXu001759527, June 10, 2011

226.

And now a word from Napoleon Dynamite:

January 4, 2012

I've attached an MP3 you might find useful.

You can save it to your desktop.

Play it as often as you need to.

Keep it handy.

This is an election year.

Attached MP3: Napoleon Dynamite saying "*Idiot!*" as only Napoleon Dynamite can.

227.

Plutocrats on the move. Beware the Top 1%

January 5, 2012

Our politicians and media are owned by the same multinationals. Is there any hope left for the American citizen?

Months ago, I predicted the Republicans would take a dive:

". . . the big money party that finances our nominal 'two'-party system has found its guy in Barack Obama. Expect a long parade of Republican candidates incapable of unseating the President. The big money people have never had it better, and the GOP has been ordered to stand down."

I also said the top 1% would play "the bad guys":

"The campaign financiers, a tiny minority of the world's population, willingly don black hats to steer the majority of American voters to candidates hand-picked by the campaign financiers."

Today, the media seem eager to prove me right—and to keep the money flowing.

An estimated \$8 billion will be spent on the 2012 campaigns. Expect the media to hype, fan the flames, and hype some more. They'll milk the campaigns for all they're worth.

Here's the scheme of the day—or so I believe:

Barack Obama—Wall Street lapdog, obedient servant of defense contractors and offshore producers—gets a populist makeover and runs against the designated "Wall Street/Top 1% favorite" Mitt Romney. Romney

can't win, so the real Wall Street/Top 1% favorite Barack Obama stays in office for another four years. Even if everything goes haywire and the Republicans manage to unseat Obama, the Republican winner would be a guy like Romney, so Wall Street and the Top 1% still win.

And the rest of the country loses.

Wall Street and the Top 1% will probably never trust their fate to the democratic process.

Now, if these Republicans had any sense, they would abandon their free trade agenda, divorce the multinationals, and reform themselves in economic nationalism.

But then, where would they get the big campaign money?

In any case, it's hard to blame the Democrats for having so much fun with the Republican primaries.

But after all the partisanship, the wedge issues, the refusal to come together as Americans—

After all the greed and childishness have taken their final toll—

Who will be left to blame?

228.

“The Myth of Japan's Failure”—and lessons to be learned

January 6, 2012

Eamonn Fingleton has so effectively debunked the conventional wisdom of Japan's "lost decades," nobody will debate him in public. If you're not familiar with Eamonn Fingleton's work, you don't know how much fun you've been missing. Please see his website www.fingleton.net and this article from *The New York Times Sunday Review*:

“The Myth of Japan's Failure”

www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/opinion/sunday/the-true-story-of-japans-economic-success.html

At the risk of doing Mr. Fingleton an injustice by quoting him out of context, I'll connect this e-mail to my usual topics by quoting Mr. Fingleton out of context:

- A striking instance of how the ["fallen giant" Japan] story has influenced American perceptions appears in "The Next 100 Years," by the consultant George Friedman. In a chapter headed “China 2020: Paper Tiger,” Mr. Friedman argues that, just as Japan “failed” in the 1990s, China will soon

have its comeuppance. Talk of this sort powerfully fosters complacency and confusion in Washington in the face of a United States-China trade relationship that is already arguably the most destructive in world history and certainly the most unbalanced.

Would that we could turn back time and replace Larry Summers with Eamonn Fingleton.

Of course, we'd need a completely different kind of President.

P.S. Another by retired Congressional staffer Mike Lofgren:

“Have the Super-Rich Seceded from the United States?”

www.counterpunch.org/2012/01/05/have-the-super-rich-seceded-from-the-united-states

229.

As if you needed another reason to hate politicians: January 7, 2012

As if you needed another reason to hate politicians:

“Obama to businesses: Bring jobs home”

www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/07/us-obama-us-jobs-idUSTRE80608B20120107

What a cold-blooded, despicable hypocrite.

The guy knows what's right, and he'll say it to get votes, but once elected he does exactly the opposite. It worked so well in 2008, Barack Obama and his multinational campaign investors are up to the same tricks in 2012.

The Republicans are no different. Both parties feed at the same multinational trough. Neither is interested in bringing jobs home—no more jobs than are needed for re-election.

We are beaten and humiliated by these traitors—yes, traitors—again and again, until we become so demoralized we lose interest in our own country.

Then we teach our children to set their sights even lower.

230.

Televisions Assembled in Detroit USA

January 9, 2012

A big step? A small step?

No matter. It will be a show worth watching—and supporting.

Especially if you don't buy your new TV from Walmart.

“HDTVs: Now Made in America”

www.news10.net/news/watercooler/171887/335/HDTVs-Now-Made-in-America

www.elementelectronics.com

231.

War and War With Iran

January 12, 2012

Yesterday's entry from Ralph Nader:

“Iran: The Neocons Are At It Again”

<http://nader.org/2012/01/11/iran-the-neocons-are-at-it-again>

- Somehow the Iranians, who were invaded in 1980 by a U.S.-backed Saddam Hussein, resulting in a million casualties, and who have not invaded anybody for 250 years, are taking a very long time to build a capability for atomic bomb production, much less the actual weapons.

Essential—and eye-opening—understanding of the military-industrial complex and its deceptions can be found in this free download, guaranteed more useful and interesting than anything on TV this weekend:

“The Pentagon Labyrinth: 10 Short Essays to Help You Through It”

—“From 10 Pentagon Insiders, Retired Military Officers and Specialists With Over 400 Years of Defense Experience”

www.dnipogo.org/labyrinth

- People say the Pentagon does not have a strategy. They are wrong. The Pentagon does have a strategy; it is: "Don't interrupt the money flow, add to it."

For some insight into my own views on war—including war with Iran—please see the chapter on "Defense" in my candidacy speech:

- Most Americans don't know that, since the end of the Second World War, their empire has been in the business of creating enemies—job security for the military-industrial complex that President—General—Eisenhower warned us about.
- Since World War II, Congress has abrogated its legal responsibility to declare war. The power of the Presidency has grown unchecked and unbalanced. Our standing professional army gets its marching orders from the President, who gets his marching orders from his multinational money people, who explain the wars to us regular folks through corporate-sponsored media.
- American citizens—rather, our children—get the bills, the caskets, and the enduring suspicion of the outside world. By design and deceit, the realities of war remain, for too many of us, in the video-game realm of the abstract. Thousands of human lives, millions of productive jobs, and trillions of taxpayer dollars are lost forever as we go about our business, calm in the conventional wisdom that war is good for the economy.
- Members of Congress must be willing to look in a mirror and ask if *they themselves* are worth dying for.
- And what if *their* children are the children dying?

232.

Trade Deficit Deepens

January 13, 2012

Today's Census Bureau report:

“U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, November 2011”

www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/current_press_release/ft900.pdf

shows:

- From October to November, our trade deficit worsened from \$43.3 billion to \$47.8 billion—more than 10% in one month.
- More than 42% of our goods deficit (this includes oil) was with one country: China.

See also www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html:

- In 2010, we set an all-time record deficit with China: \$273,063,200,000.
- In the first 11 months of 2011, we racked up a \$272,321,300,000 deficit with China.

Don't expect the Democrats and Republicans to help. Both parties are funded by the same multinationals that control our media—and, therefore, what we think.

The same multinationals that have quadrupled China's GDP over a decade, while stealing \$ trillions from American taxpayers and their children.

Still, I can't remember any multinationals actually forcing us to buy their products, invest in their securities, or vote for their puppets.

233.

“Fresh voice in the political wilderness”—Tribune-Democrat editorial on Bob Hall

January 15, 2012

“Fresh voice in the political wilderness”

By Chip Minemyer, Editor, *The Tribune-Democrat*, Johnstown, PA

January 15, 2012

Do you believe the U.S. political and economic systems are failing because elected officials are bought and sold and global organizations have too much power?

If you do, then Robert Hall just might be the candidate for you.

Hall, a 55-year-old Illinois native, is running for president of the United States as an independent.

To date, his campaign has been a grass-roots effort primarily through YouTube, Facebook and other social media channels.

A Web search for announced presidential candidates brings up Hall's name - and many others, some offering voices of change in a dense wilderness.

In a telephone interview, Hall said he sees a broken political system that is dominated by big money and outside influences, a system that sends to Washington people who really aren't serving those who put them in office.

And he sees a U.S. economy that is being overtaken by companies in China and elsewhere while our nation's leaders either look the other way or take payoffs to let the takeover happen.

"We have a \$10 trillion consumer-driven economy. The rest of the world is trying to get their hands on it, and we're not doing much to protect it," Hall said.

"I want to let people know that they no longer have to vote for the lessers of evils."

He bemoans experts' predictions that \$7 billion will be spent by people running for office in 2012, even though the offices will pay a fraction of that amount.

Hall points to candidates who accept money from foreign interests and business leaders, or from companies that make their products in other countries.

He said: "Candidates tell them, 'Come here and do enough to get us re-elected and you can have the place.'"

Hall added: "The biggest employer in Saginaw, Mich., is the Chinese army. Are you OK with that?"

And: "American culture is being looted. There is basically one party - money - and both the Republicans and Democrats are part of it. It's run by multinationals."

Politics has always been crooked.

"But in the past, at least the crooks were American crooks."

Is the nation ready for his message?

Hall says signs of unrest such as the tea party and Occupy movements suggest the moment is right for a new direction.

"We are living in strange times," he said. "There's a restlessness on Main Street, U.S.A. It's a powder keg where people are looking for something they can get behind. I really think people are ready to embrace a non-politician."

"I didn't see anybody else doing anything about it," he added. "It's a lot crazier not to run for president than to run for president."

Among his platforms:

* Reducing the trade deficit by convincing American companies to make products at home and also convincing American consumers to support and even invest in companies that employ people in this country.

He said: "Workers and consumers are the same people."

“They don’t realize the damage they do to their own economy by supporting somebody else’s economy.”

* Rebuilding America’s manufacturing base and reviving the country’s trade heritage, while shifting away from “the fictitious economy of Wall Street,” which he says is to blame for the ongoing recession.

* Reducing U.S. dependence on foreign energy, which he says has drained the economy and pulled this country into “unnecessary” wars. He said, “We need truly American oil and alternative energy industries, with U.S. government policies in place to protect them.”

* Eliminating the federal income tax, and reducing the size and influence of the IRS, and replacing income taxes with consumption-based taxes.

* Tightening immigration controls to freeze the drug trade.

* Enacting an extreme campaign finance overhaul to reduce the amount of money spent on elections and, by extension, rein in the control money has over the political system. He said: “Ninety percent of the time, the guy who spends the most money gets elected. Or re-elected.”

The odds are long against Hall even making a dent in the presidential chase.

He’s not rich and he doesn’t have the backing of any major corporations.

Which, he says, is exactly the point.

“I’ve had a lot of people say to me: ‘If people knew about you, they would vote for you,’” he said. “The lefties and the righties and the people in between – they all see that what we’re doing isn’t working.”

“Nobody wants to support the loser,” Hall said. “But if enough people vote for the loser, then the loser becomes the winner. And suddenly, everybody wins.”

Here’s hoping third-party candidates such as Hall find a place on the national stage, and opportunities to at least join the debate – before it’s too late.

“It’s for the country, it’s for the kids, it’s for the principles involved,” he said. “Somebody has to do it the right way.”

<http://tribune-democrat.com/chipminemyer/x2019121176/Chip-Minemyer-Fresh-voice-in-the-political-wilderness>

More Defense Money Does Not Mean More Defense

January 17, 2012

Attached to this e-mail is a book:

“The Pentagon Labyrinth: 10 Short Essays to Help You Through It”

<http://dnipogo.org/labyrinth>

From 10 Pentagon insiders, retired military officers and specialists with over 400 years of defense experience.

I hope you read it and pass it along.

You might also be interested in:

“Defense—Chapter 7 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Candidacy Announcement”

The text and video of which can be found here:

From James Madison in 1822:

“A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

235.

Top Justice Officials Connected to Mortgage Banks

January 21, 2012

“Insight: Top Justice officials connected to mortgage banks”

www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/20/us-usa-holder-mortgage-idUSTRE80J0PH20120120

- "U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Lanny Breuer, head of the Justice Department's criminal division, were partners for years at a Washington law firm that represented a Who's Who of big banks and other companies at the center of alleged foreclosure fraud, a Reuters inquiry shows."

Our government might be corrupt, but it's our choice. We can change it if we want to.

Look at how a handful of people armed with the Internet killed SOPA and PIPA just last week.

Would you say you're "happy" with the current candidates?

Or would you employ a different adjective?

236.

Obama needs men like Clyde and Eamonn in his Cabinet

January 26, 2012

Fascinating clarity and insight from two of my favorite writers. I somehow doubt the New York-Washington axis enjoys hearing from them as much as I do.

Clyde Prestowitz: "Apple makes good products but flawed arguments"

http://prestowitz.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/01/23/apple_makes_good_products_but_flawed_arguments

Eamonn Fingleton: "Japan's Trade Figures: Some Perspective"

www.fingleton.net/japans-trade-figures-some-perspective

An article from Pat Choate would have made this a perfect day.

BTW, I was the guest on a radio show this morning. Great host, great callers. More later. . . .

237.

Important enough, I think, to send twice

January 27, 2012

This article is too important—and interesting, and entertaining—to ignore.

(And Apple's behavior is just too much. Why do we encourage this?)

“Apple makes good products but flawed arguments”

http://prestowitz.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/01/23/apple_makes_good_products_but_flawed_arguments

Some highlights:

- Apple says: "We don't have an obligation to solve America's problems."
- But Steve Jobs and Apple executives once thought *America* had an obligation to solve *Apple's* problems.
- Author Prestowitz, a leading U.S. trade negotiator, was there.
- Almost every Apple product came from a program supported by U.S. government—taxpayer—money.
- Apple products still have a large U.S. government—taxpayer—R&D content.
- Apple currently depends on the U.S. government and military—funded by taxpayers—to defend its property and Asian supply chain.
- Author Prestowitz says Asian manufacturers make Apple products because Asian governments have targeted wealth-creating American industries, not because Asian producers are lower priced, more efficient, or better supplied with engineers.
- "The evolution of these supply chains is not some natural, organic process. Rather it is government guided and supported all along the way. And what is thus built can also be unbuilt or rebuilt."
- The U.S. government could easily support U.S. productivity and create new American wealth. Germany and Japan are both high-wage and -cost societies, and they both trade with China and Asia at a surplus.
- The United States could do the same.

So why don't we?

238.

Just Another Manic Monday

January 30, 2012

People tell me things. I don't know why, exactly, but people—complete strangers, even—have told me things my whole life. Over the past few years, what they've been saying has gotten more dramatic. For example, more and more people are talking suicide. Life is unhappy, they say, and they've lost hope. This is tragic, I think, and reason enough to right our wrongs.

Similarly but less troubling, a lot of older people practically advertise that they're happy to be nearer the end than the beginning. They feel sorry for today's kids and the world they'll have to live in.

Blah, blah, blah. I guess this is what passes for honesty these days.

OK. I'll do what I can to make this country a better place for their children. But there is an "attitude," increasingly common, that bugs me: wealthier older folks who seem oblivious that, had it not been for the brief American experiment in democracy and opportunity, they would have likely spent their entire lives in poverty and peasanthood—that is, if they had lived at all.

It might also be observed that most of us don't care that previous generations cared more about us than we care about our own—our children or our own selves.

Another odd phenomenon I come across is the stubborn zeal with which people will defend their news sources. I think most of them are ridiculous, so I can't defend either Left or Right, but at times like these it's hard not to think about Fox News. I wonder how many Fox fans know that News Corporation's biggest stockholder (behind Australian Rupert Murdoch, age 81, and his 43-year-old Chinese wife) is a Saudi Arabian oil prince, that Barack Obama is the #1 biggest recipient of News Corporation campaign money, or that News Corporation—Fox's parent company, mind you—also owns *The Wall Street Journal*.

I'd like to think that most Americans aren't quite so easy to fool, but then again I'm not ready to bet the farm.

Even sophisticated professionals, people who should know better, make the same mistakes over and over again. (While expecting different results, perhaps?) For example, so many wind up frustrated, confused, and angry every time the U.S. Treasury misses yet another opportunity to label China a currency manipulator. Fact is, the big multinationals that control our government and both of our political parties (and our official candidates) are doing quite well by China's currency manipulation and trade surplus.

It would appear that even sophisticated professionals sometimes need to remind themselves to follow the money trail—and then not trust all of their eggs to one basket.

To be continued. In the meantime, I'll leave you with this:

If you think our two-party system is a scam, you're right. If you think there's nothing you can do about it, you're wrong.

If you think we have any time to waste, you're extra wrong.

239.

You don't really think our problems are going to fix themselves, do you?

January 31, 2012

Folks, I could use a little help here.

Life in America has never been perfect, but the people who actually built this country better understood the differences between politics and entertainment.

(And they didn't demand entertainment like we do.)

Therefore—therefore—we owe them our gratitude, if not our lives.

Their citizenship meant more than criticizing and complaining, more than getting their ignorant butts off the couch once every four years to vote for lessers of evils, then patting themselves on the back for having fulfilled the responsibility of citizenship.

We can learn from them. Again. And we might, if it weren't so easy to submit to the media—media owned and controlled by the same people who own and control our government.

The people busy dismantling our economy and destroying our future are the same people who control our understanding of what they're up to.

They have us convinced we're powerless, so it's only natural we've become passive and apathetic as well.

We trust them. And they have us exactly where they want us. They'll hand us another President, another Congress, that works for them—and lies to us.

But only if we let them. It's our choice. Read your Constitution.

We can do more than simply vote for lesser-of-evil candidates sponsored by big multinational money and hyped by their media.

We can let our fellow citizens know they have other choices.

We can run for office ourselves.

We can encourage others to run for office.

We can learn how to spell "Bob Hall" for a write-in ballot.

There are lots of things we can do.

“We.”

I can't do this on my own and I need your help.

We ALL need your help.

240.

Government Lies About Our Shrinking Economy. Does Anybody Care?

February 1, 2012

Say what you will about former Assistant U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts, his patriotism and courage are never in doubt. Here, he explains—in layman's terms—how your government lies to you about your money and how this affects your well-being.

“**Economics Lesson 1**”

www.paulcraigroberts.org/2012/01/31/economics-lesson-1

241.

8.3% Unemployment?

February 3, 2012

Today's January 2012 unemployment report is the first to use 2010 Census data. Last month's December 2011 report used figures from the 2000 Census.

December's 8.5% and January's 8.3% cannot be compared.

Shadow Government Statistics

www.shadowstats.com

includes the long-term unemployed and discouraged in its calculations, and reports that unemployment has worsened from 22.4% in December to 22.5% in January.

Our economy is not recovering.

You know it. I know it.

Why don't our so-called "leaders" seem to know it?

242.

Taking Action Against Economic Treason

February 4, 2012

American politics—our country, our lives—are being hijacked, in plain view, by a very small handful of very rich people, while the rest of us are sitting still and watching it happen, if not lining up for the slaughter ourselves.

How do we think this story is going to end?

For the record, I think that if any crime should warrant the death penalty, economic treason should top the list. A murderer usually kills one, but financial criminals can by their actions destroy millions of innocent lives, if not an entire nation. They should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Instead, we've been rewarding them with more money and power. No wonder we're in the mess we're in.

From Charles Ferguson, director of the documentary "Inside Job":

“Let Them Eat Task Forces”

www.huffingtonpost.com/charles-ferguson/financial-crimes-unit_b_1254274.html

243.

Donating Money by PayPal, WePay, or Personal Check

February 7, 2012

"Democratic" and "Republican" Super PACs buying our elections should be troubling to all Americans, even the very wealthy. Our politics—our entire society—have become as unsustainable as our economic practices.

Our basic system of tax-deductible contributions to political non-profits has always been unproductive and anti-American. The legal hurdles of fees and registrations in all 50 states are designed to keep outsiders out—with "outsiders" defined as the non-Democrat, non-Republican, non-Wealthy. Are any of these organizations honestly "not-for-profit" or are they formed to avoid taxes and concentrate political power—while paying themselves very well indeed?

I'm not looking for money from people who want the tax deduction. People should contribute because they want to support the candidate and the platform—hopefully, because the candidate and platform are good for the country.

You can make a contribution (let's be legal and call this "a non-tax-deductible payment or gift") using

- **PayPal**—and my campaign e-mail address BobHall2012@Gmail.com
- **WePay**—where the account BobHall2012@Gmail.com can be located with <https://www.wepay.com/donations/BobHall2012>
- **Check**—payable to Robert Hall and mailed to the postal address displayed on my Facebook campaign page: PO Box 59288, Schaumburg, IL, 60159

Please identify yourself clearly. I will accept money only from U.S. citizens. I will not accept money from corporations, organizations, anonymous donors, or non-citizens.

If the rest of our politicians had the same philosophy, I wouldn't have to be President.

Thank you.

244.

(The Great) Eamonn Fingleton Quotes Bob Hall

February 7, 2012

Eamonn Fingleton is one of the world's leading authorities on trade and the global economy. In the current issue of *The American Conservative*—February 2012, Ron Paul on the cover—Mr. Fingleton does not quote Barack Obama or Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich.

Mr. Fingleton quotes me. :-)

From his article, **“We Aren't Number 1”**:

The point was aptly summed up in a conversation I had the other day with Bob Hall, an Illinois native who is running for president as an independent. Sympathetic to issues raised by both the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements, he deplores the loss of America's former infrastructural glory in recent decades. “I was born in Chicago in the 1950s, so of course my heart sank a little when the Sears Tower was demoted,” he said. “The Sears Tower was not just a tall building for me. It symbolized America's leadership of the world. Our human superlatives, if you will. The U.S. had for so long provided the greatest opportunity for the greatest number of people, we never dreamed our country and everything in it wouldn't just keep getting better and better. We were the most optimistic people on earth, eager to try and eager to succeed. Of course, these feed each other, so every time our prestige slips, so does our interest in restoring it.”

Further:

As Bob Hall suggests, America's mood of increasing insecurity feeds on itself. “As our prestige slips, so does our interest in restoring it,” he says.

See also: www.fingleton.net

245.

Bob Hall on Talk Radio

February 7, 2012

In recent weeks, I've twice had the privilege of being a guest on CSC (Common Sense Coalition) Talk Radio. They've scheduled me again for March 22.

You'd like the host, Beth Ann. She's very likeable. Better yet, she really does have a tremendous amount of horse sense, and her station is refreshingly non-commercial.

People have come to know my politics as unpretentious, straightforward, and more "broad spectrum" than partisan, so CSC is a comfortable place for me. Their listeners seem to be fans of Ron Paul, which says something.

My last experience with radio was over 30 years ago, and not nearly so much fun. I was placed in a strange studio—lights off, just me and a microphone—to discuss solar energy with an imaginary audience hidden somewhere in the black walls. (Altogether more weird than ironic.)

Anyway, after a couple of tries on CSC via cellphone, I think your "Real" candidate is beginning to get the hang of this.

(By the way and somewhat related: before you criticize anyone for using a teleprompter, try using one yourself, like I did for the first time when I recorded my candidacy speech. Now, I will be the first to say that teleprompter skill has nothing whatsoever to do with leadership or governance, but it is a skill to be recognized—if ultimately a skill to be feared.)

You can check out CSC Talk Radio here:

www.csctalkradio.com

Many thanks to Beth Ann Schoeneberg and CSC Talk Radio for their interest in America's real economy, and for not caring whether a political candidate has money to spend.

246.

On the current deceptions and the state of our union

February 9, 2012

Tomorrow, our "government" will publish figures showing that in 2011 we set an all-time-record trade deficit with the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China.

Gee whiz, do you think the trade deficit might have something to do with the sorry State of the Union?

(Careful. Former Fed chairman Paul Volcker testified that the trade deficit was responsible for the 2008 financial crisis. Our government thanked Mr. Volcker by arranging for his future silence.)

But our Union could hardly be a sorrier State. We are being lied to, plundered, and lied to some more—to put it mildly. (I'm biting my tongue.) To wit:

Economic growth is negative. Our government recently reported 2.8% for the last quarter of 2011, but take away the involuntary inventory build-up and our growth was 0.8%. Apply any reasonably honest adjustment for inflation, the 0.8% disappears, and we're left with the reality we're all experiencing: a dying USA. Our

government says the inflation rate is ~3%, but our government does not have to buy groceries or meet a budget. ShadowStats.com calculates inflation at 10.7%, but then ShadowStats is not a chamber pot of sleazy incumbents, self-interested bureaucrats, and Wall Street gamblers.

Unemployment is rising, not falling. And, good grief, what bubble-dweller could possibly believe the 8.3% figure our government, media, and gamblers are crowing about? (Even the Congressional Budget Office is projecting 9.2% unemployment for 2013.) Almost everyone I meet—especially the part-time employed and the full-time under-employed— knows the official unemployment figures are deliberately deceptive. Some even remember that the Clinton administration, with the stroke of a pen, actually legislated long-term discouraged workers out of existence in 1994. ShadowStats, of course, still recognizes these unfortunate souls and calculates current unemployment at 22.5%—up from December's 22.4%.

Now, our ever-campaigning President—according to even *The New York Times* in "Another 2012 Campaign for Sale"—"is telling the country that simply getting re-elected is bigger than standing on principle."

Just what the country needs.

And flush with Super PAC money, what better way to ensure re-election than war with Iran? (Even Rick Santorum seems to have this figured out, but Obama will claim the wartime-incumbent's job security. Again, anything to get re-elected.)

Make no mistake about it: we're gearing up for war with Iran, even though national intelligence director James Clapper says that Iran is not—not—making any nuclear weapons.

Is anyone paying attention?

I'm disgusted and out of time—about to lose my free wi-fi when this Wauwatosa WI coffee shop closes for the evening. I'll leave you with a campaign idea:

Everyone in the U.S. who thinks I'd represent them better than Obama, Romney, Gingrich, Santorum, or you-name-it can send me \$10. Ten dollars X 300,000,000 Americans is more than enough to defeat the multinational billionaires and their Super PACs.

Honestly, though, I'd rather 300,000,000 Americans kept their money, studied my ideas, discussed them with friends, and put me in Washington in a way we can all be proud of.

247.

New Record Trade Deficit (Loss): \$295 Billion Dollars to the Giant

February 10, 2012

Here you go:

“Trade in Goods with China”

www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5700.html

2011 Deficit (Loss): \$ 295,456,500,000—a new record.

What does it all mean?

See “College Girl, Economy, Jobs” and “Dollar to the Giant”

The lyrics—now 4 years old—are reprinted below.

Yes, I told you so.

248.

“Why I Still Like Ike”

February 11, 2012

Confucius said, "Only the man of humanity knows how to love people and hate people."

I was contemplating an essay on how much I despise the Democratic and Republican candidates and how people like me are the country's only hope—whether top 1% or bottom 99%—when I came across a useful reminder in *The Huffington Post*.

Young Americans should know that once upon a time—actually, not so very long ago—the average house was smaller than 1,000 sq. ft., one paycheck could support an entire family, and we were by almost every standard much happier than we are today.

Old Americans should remember—and teach young Americans—that this was accomplished through economic productivity: manufacturing. We built things, and thus created prosperity and security.

It is of no small significance that—once upon a time, not so very long ago—our leaders were by almost every standard much better human beings than they are today.

“Why I Still Like Ike”

By William Astore

www.huffingtonpost.com/william-astore/dwight-eisenhower-memorial_b_1270232.html

249.

There but for the Greece. . . .

February 13, 2012

Greece—riots, arson—is practically a war zone. This morning, the multinational bankers and their money markets were giddy over new austerity measures imposed on Greece by the multinational bankers and their money markets.

While Greek children are starving.

Welcome to "the global economy."

Greece would fare better as a sovereign nation, rather than part of a multinational bankers' union. Greece could devalue its drachma and rebuild the Greek economy through tourism and exports; but, alas and stupidly, the Greeks relinquished control of their destiny by joining the EU (and, incidentally, making more room for German exports).

Similarly, the U.S. has sacrificed freedom with every trade agreement and every factory moved offshore. Not only do we lose the tools to create wealth and decent jobs, we lose the tools to repair what little U.S. economy we have left. Stimulus spending now largely bypasses U.S. interests and winds up stimulating offshore manufacturers and foreign economies—multinationals now determining U.S. economic policy and political campaigns.

None of this is rocket science, so the multinational bankers busy consolidating their power are also trying very hard to make their activity appear complicated and beyond the comprehension of mere mortals.

It's time to pay attention.

We—not the Greeks—are the world's biggest debtors. We—not the Greeks—have the world's worst trade deficit. We—not the Greeks—have the higher income inequality.

And seriously, is anyone willing to say American politicians are less corrupt than Greek?

American children—many now starving, most facing futures of diminished opportunity—are routinely sacrificed to multinational bankers and their markets. The U.S. government and media routinely produce phony economic data designed to serve the fictitious economy of Wall Street at the expense of Main Street's real economy, as if the Dow were important and the trade deficit is not.

It is commonly observed that Americans are less interested in politics than are the citizens of older, wiser cultures.

There's a lesson in this, somewhere.

250.

Part One of Two: A Plan For Winning In 2012

February 16, 2012

A write-in Presidential candidate winning just one state in 2012 would change American politics forever.

Forever.

American citizens might still "lose" this election to the global wealthy, their election industry, and their hand-picked Democrats and Republicans.

But we'd win the future.

By simply realizing:

It can be done.

And by watching one state lead forty-nine out of darkness.

Who says this cannot be done?

Exactly who—what kinds of people—say this cannot be done?

251.

Part Two of Two: Taking Democracy To The Next Level

February 18, 2012

The people who run this country and its media think that you and I are idiots who believe everything we're told.

We're told, among other unusual things, that we must vote for a Democrat or a Republican—specifically, *their* Democrat or *their* Republican—or risk wasting our vote on a "spoiler."

It's clear that the people who run this country and its media don't want us to spoil the fun they're having spoiling American life for the rest of us.

Not that these people are incapable of sharing. For example, they don't believe in democracy, but they're willing to share their belief.

They don't want us to believe in democracy, either.

If you and I were to believe in democracy, we might understand the irresponsibility of voting for Democrats and Republicans who are sponsored by the people who run this country and its media.

We might take a longer view of politics. For example, instead of lavishing \$ billions on advertising to buy fifty states for Election Day, then repeating the process every four years, we might make a careful investment in just one state.

The citizens of one state could learn that, in truth and by law, they are not required to vote for Democrats and Republicans who are sponsored by the people who control ballot access and run this country and its media.

The citizens of one state could learn how to write-in, on ballots, the names of good men and women who deserve their trust.

(This is easier, it will likely be discovered, than selecting from a menu of official puppets and reprobates.)

The citizens of one state could show the other forty-nine how it's done—and that, contrary to established pessimism, it *can* be done.

A write-in Presidential candidate winning just one state in 2012 would change American politics forever.

Soon all 50 states would be empowered, inspired, and perhaps even "United." Citizens would know their possibilities and so fear their responsibilities less.

The two-party plutocracy wouldn't know what hit it.

We could do all of this—and more—you and I.

If we believed in democracy.

252.

Comparing Quotes

February 18, 2012

“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

—Steve Biko, 1971

“The oppressor uses the Internet as a tool. The oppressed uses the Internet as a toy.”

—Bob Hall, 2012

253.

Toledo Wakes Up In China

February 19, 2012

The Toledo Blade is currently featuring a three-day report on real estate acquisitions by the People's Republic of China:

“Toledo's China Connection”

www.toledoblade.com/chinaconnection2012

I hope you remember my November 2011 video addressing the same:

“60 Seconds From The Road #5”*

Let's fan the flames. My October 2011 video:

“60 Seconds From The Road #2”

explains, in 60 seconds, how the biggest employer in Saginaw, MI is Chinese-government-owned war contractor AVIC.

In other words: the People's Liberation Army.

This is intolerable.

Maybe now some Michigan newspaper will find the courage to say it.

*Thanks for the interview, Chuck in Toledo!

254.

Authority Figures and Dr. Milgram's Experiment

February 20, 2012

Sometimes, trying to get my head around American self-destruction or Jewish inertia in early Nazi Germany, I think about Stanley Milgram's famous experiment in which a subject would administer electric shocks to another, regardless of the other's pain, simply because the subject was told to do so by an authority figure. Reluctant subjects usually proceeded after being reassured they would not be held responsible.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram_experiment

We, of course, are that subject.

These days, it doesn't seem to matter who the authority figures are. Our electronic devices are full of them. They are famous.

Authority figures give us the go-ahead to abandon our natural responsibilities, which is why we welcome their authority.

Granted, this is a broad statement and there are exceptions—exceptions, for example, that help explain the resurgence of religion in America in recent decades.

But, by and large, our popular authority figures encourage us to work against our own interests, for which we are not held responsible.

No doubt, most of our popular authority figures are well familiar with Dr. Stanley Milgram's experiment.

Which is why we should be, too.

255.

Taxes, Paychecks, Politicians: When Will We Ever Learn?

February 21, 2012

The Democrats and Republicans are conniving for your votes with the same old nonsense about your taxes.

When will we ever learn?

I have advocated the complete elimination of both corporate and personal income tax.

The federal government should get its money from protective tariffs and a progressive consumption tax.

Read your history. Use your head.

More than 150 of our global trading partners have VATs that serve as protective tariffs.

The U.S. has the largest trade deficit in the history of the world.

Our global trading partners have the largest surplus.

From today's news:

“China to increase [VAT] tax rebate to exporters – report”

<http://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/china-increase-tax-rebate-exporters-020159251.html>

- China's export sector is "feeling the punch" from the European debt crisis.
- [A crisis that probably would not exist if Europe hadn't surrendered its wealth-creating factories to China's export sector.]
- Export tax policy, which allows exporters to claim refunds on their domestic VAT payments, is used as a tool to help the export sector.
- At the end of 2008, when China's export machine was slowing in the global financial crisis, China increased tax rebates on nearly one-quarter of its products, including shoes, furniture, and machinery.

Our economy is shrinking. China's has quadrupled in a decade.

PBS is currently airing a 4-hour *American Experience* infomercial for Bill and Hillary Clinton.

When will we ever learn?

256.

WANTED: One U.S. State Willing to Invest in the Future

February 22, 2012

OK, so we all know our government is corrupt, the President is a bald-faced liar, the Republicans are trying to lose, big multinational money and media are calling the shots, the rest of us are on our way down, and the average American citizen has never been so apathetic and just-plain dumb.

But what if all this "going to Hell in a hand basket" is really one heck of an opportunity in disguise?

Has there ever been a better—easier—time to actually DO something about it?

We're in "disarray" because modern Internet communication is fueling democracy but the *demos*—the people—haven't yet learned how to use it for more than entertainment and various other pursuits somehow related to their self-esteem.

In the long run, the people will prevail. In the short run, we *must* prevail.

Several readers have said the ideas proposed in my recent mailings are the best they've heard in a long, long time:

“Part One of Two: A Plan For Winning In 2012”

and, especially:

“Part Two of Two: Taking Democracy To The Next Level”

Now if someone would only say, "MY state! I want MY state to lead MY country and you can count on MY help to make it happen!"

My, my. Now wouldn't that be something?

257.

Greece, Plain & Simple. What's Happening and Why We Should Care.

February 23, 2012

I often describe the current American economy as an orange being squeezed and tossed away. The multinational mega-rich—the same people who finance our two-party/one-pocket politics; the same people who own our stores, banks, and media—see no reason to nurture or replenish the American economy. With no roots or loyalties, they move across the globe, stopping to squeeze the juice out of a nation's economy, then move on.

Tea Partiers and Wall Street Occupiers would do well to remember their common enemies in these recipients of taxpayer bailout money.

Mike Whitney has written a clear and pertinent article in today's CounterPunch:

“The Humiliation of Greece”

www.counterpunch.org/2012/02/23/the-humiliation-of-greece

Excerpt:

- The banks lend gobs of money to crooked contractors and venal politicians who line their pockets while buying a bunch of useless military equipment in one big feeding frenzy. Everybody gorges at the public trough; everybody gets fat and happy. How many times have we heard that story before? And -- Oh yeah -- some of the Wall Street heavyweights [for example, Goldman Sachs] also helped the Greek government hide the amount of red ink that was on its books so they could keep this larcenous sharkfest going as long as possible. Now that the bills have come due, the cockroaches have scattered, and working people are left to pick up the tab. Is it any wonder why the victims of this baldfaced ripoff have taken to the streets and set Athens ablaze rather than accept their fate lying down?

258.

Does this dress make me look fat?

February 28, 2012

"Does this dress make me look fat?"

American pop culture frequently tells us to tell others what they want to hear. Of course, there are times that call for truth. Most physicians, for example, don't have the legal or moral option of lying to their patients; and most patients don't want to be lied to about things that concern their quality of life.

So much depends on our politicians—much more, in the big picture, than depends on our physicians. So why do we encourage our politicians to flatter and deceive us? Why do we reward their dishonesty with power and public office?

Most American adults are themselves so irresponsible and childish, they're neglecting the real children who need and deserve some mature guidance and protection.

Honesty, too. Kids can handle it. They become damaged when their natural honesty is denatured by childish, abusive, or otherwise-damaged adults.

Then, apparently, they grow into adults most comfortable with crooks and liars for authority figures.

As a voting democracy, we deserve the government we get, but our children do not.

Let's help them become adult citizens who act in their children's best interests.

259.

Twelve-year-old student Hannah interviews a Presidential candidate

February 28, 2012

“My Interview with Presidential Candidate Bob Hall”

Question 1: If you are elected President, what are you going to do for the United States of America?

Answer 1: “I’m going to put the U.S. back to work focusing on wealth creation and economic independence. The children of this country will need jobs and a place to call home.”

Question 2: What are you going to do about the economic crisis?

Answer 2: “Instead of fighting over the last piece of pie, we are going to have to bake a new one. If we reindustrialize and manufacture our own goods, we can create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need.”

Question 3: What are your thoughts about the death penalty? Do you think it’s cruel or unfair?

Answer 3: “I have a responsibility to serve the American people and do what they see as fitting and proper.”

Question 4: Do you think taxes should be lower or higher in this economy? Why is that?

Answer 4: “I think taxes should be lower but government income should be higher. We can accomplish this by replacing our current system of taxing income with a tax on consumption.”

Question 5: Are you a Democrat, Republican, or are you independent?

Answer 5: “I am highly independent.”

Question 6: Do you have anything else you would like to say?

Answer 6: “I’m really doing this for people your age. I want you to have the same opportunities that I had when I was young. So go home and tell your parents that if a society works, it works for the long term, for everybody’s children.”

Thank you and good luck on your walk across the U.S.

*Reporter’s Note: He was dressed in a gray sweatshirt, jeans, and gym shoes—all made in the United States.

Thank you, Hannah!

260.

Since when does “foreign policy” mean the same as “war”?

March 1, 2012

War with Iran is a bad idea.

Why do we equate "foreign policy" with "war"?

Instead of fighting with Middle Eastern nations, we could be selling them things.

Instead of sending American children to kill and die, we could be sending American-made goods to make both sides happy.

Oil producers like Iran have a lot of money. They consider Chinese-made goods inferior and don't like to buy them.

Our economy could boom—in a good and sustainable way.

The Muslim world would be a valuable ally against the People's Republic of China.

This, I respectfully submit, is real foreign policy.

For more, please see my speech on the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex:

“Defense—Chapter 7 of 8, Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement”

261.

Another Obama Fleecing

Friday, March 2, 2012

Really, folks? Is this how we're going out? With a whimper? Lying down for the sorriest bunch of plutocrats and politicians the self-described "free" world has ever suffered?

Good grief, is whatever Rush Limbaugh said this week really more important than the real economy and our real future?

The real economy is on a death march and we're dancing to a fictitious economy and its 13,000 Dow.

By the way, about Limbaugh: I've never admired his work. I think it's offensive and divisive. But I'll say this about the man's honesty: I've heard Limbaugh describe himself as a public entertainer—which is more than I can say for Barack Obama.

On that note, I think you'll be entertained, enlightened, and enraged by this article from Mike Whitney, who is fast becoming one of my favorite reporters.

“The Foreclosure-to-Rental Boondoggle: Another Obama Fleecing”

www.counterpunch.org/2012/03/02/the-foreclosure-to-rental-boondoggle

- The reason that housing prices have dipped only 33.6 percent in the United States, instead of 60 percent as they have in Ireland, is because the big banks have been keeping inventory off the market. If the millions of homes that are presently headed for foreclosure were suddenly dumped onto the market, prices would plunge and the biggest banks in the country would be declared insolvent. That's why the banks have slowed the flow of foreclosures.
- Meanwhile, 2.8 million borrowers haven't made a payment in over a year.
- New home buyers are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars more than they would if the banks were not manipulating inventory.
- It would take a 57% - 68% drop in housing prices to eliminate housing overhang. If you bought a house in 2005 for \$400,000, that house would currently be worth \$128,000 -- a big enough loss to poke holes in anyone's retirement plans.
- Obama's new foreclosure-to-rental program, which is largely shrouded in secrecy, is being hyped as a common-sense way to stabilize the housing market and to "lower monthly payments so responsible borrowers can stay in their homes." In truth, Obama is just helping the banks slash their mountainous inventory so they can avoid bankruptcy.
- So far, 2500 Fannie Mae-owned properties have been sold to private investors. But 85% of the units are already being rented, and almost 60% of the units are on term leases.
- The fact that the properties already have renters means that the investors will be raking in sizable returns from Day 1. That's not the way the program was sold to the public. The American people have been hoodwinked again.
- Everything Obama said about the program was a lie. This isn't a foreclosure-to-rental program; it's a property-dump proffered to financial insiders who are getting cheap government financing to fatten the bottom line.
- John Q. Public is completely excluded from this massive transfer of real wealth to private equity, hedge funds and other deep-pocket Obama campaign contributors. That's to be expected. But what's the so-called "confidentiality agreement" all about? Does Obama really think he can shower his dodgy friends with hundreds of billions of dollars in dirt-cheap property and keep the whole matter under wraps?

262.

Study: Psychopathy in the Financial Services Industry

Monday, March 5, 2012

Have fun with this one:

"The Shocking Statistic About Psychopaths on Wall Street"

www.businessinsider.com/wall-street-psychopaths-2012-2

- Studies conducted by Canadian forensic psychologist Robert Hare indicate that about 1 percent of the general population can be categorized as psychopathic, but the prevalence rate in the financial services industry is 10 percent.
- Financial psychopaths generally lack empathy and interest in what other people feel or think. At the same time, they display an abundance of charm, charisma, intelligence, credentials, an unparalleled capacity for lying, fabrication, and manipulation, and a drive for thrill seeking.

Still, I have to wonder who's crazier: the financial psychopaths or us "normal" folks who give them our money—and votes?

263.

David Stockman

March 5, 2012

Worth watching:

“Crony Capitalism”

<http://billmoyers.com/episode/crony-capitalism>

- “Bill Moyers and former White House budget director David Stockman on how politics and high finance have turned our economy into a members-only private club.”

Worth reading:

“David Stockman economy Q&A: Economic disaster in the works”

www.usatoday.com/money/economy/story/2012-03-03/david-stockman-says-economic-disaster-lurks/53339644/1

264.

“We are the biggest problem in the Middle East.”

March 6, 2012

For the record, I don't think the Middle East is a good place to spend young American lives and money we don't have. Neither do I consider this unavoidable. But if we allow Middle Eastern antagonists to continue milking the U.S. taxpayer, the antagonists have less incentive to settle their differences. We need to butt out and let them grow up. Trust this. All Middle Easterners are human beings. Most human beings—no matter what they say—would rather live than die.

Here's an interesting point of view from Chris Hedges, former Middle East bureau chief at *The New York Times*. Hedges lived in Jerusalem for two years, in the Middle East for seven.

“AIPAC Works for the 1 Percent”

www.truthdig.com/report/item/aipac_works_for_the_1_percent_20120304

With apologies to Mr. Hedges, I offer the following bullet points with hope they encourage you to read his entire transcript.

- One of the greatest purveyors of the demented ideology of violence for the sake of violence, the flagrant disregard for the rule of domestic and international law, is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC.
- AIPAC does not speak for Jews or for Israel. It is a mouthpiece for right-wing ideologues whose loyalty is to corporate elites and defense contractors.
- We are the biggest problem in the Middle East. We legitimize the Mahmoud Ahmadinejads, suicide bombers, and radical jihadists.
- I do not remember Iran orchestrating a coup in the United States to replace an elected government with a brutal dictator who for decades persecuted, assassinated, and imprisoned democracy activists.
- I do not remember Iran arming and funding a neighboring state to wage war against our country.
- Iran never shot down one of our passenger jets, as did the USS Vincennes—nicknamed Robocruiser by the crews of other American vessels—when in June 1988 it fired missiles at an Airbus filled with Iranian civilians, killing everyone on board.
- Iran is not sponsoring terrorist strikes within the United States, as our intelligence services and the Israeli intelligence services currently do in Iran. We have not seen five of our top nuclear scientists since 2007 murdered on American soil. The attacks in Iran include suicide bombings, kidnappings, beheadings, sabotage, and “targeted assassinations” of government officials and other Iranian leaders.
- What would we do if the situation were reversed? How would we react if Iran carried out similar acts of terrorism against us?
- We are, and have long been, the primary engine for radicalism in the Middle East. The louder the Israelis and their idiot allies in Washington call for the bombing of Iran to thwart its nuclear ambitions, the happier are the morally bankrupt clerics who are ordering the beating and murder of demonstrators.
- Iran signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pakistan, India, and Israel did not and developed nuclear weapons programs in secret. Israel now has an estimated 400 to 600 nuclear weapons.
- Iran knows that if Iraq, like North Korea, had had a bomb they would have never suffered American invasion and occupation.

- Reality never seems to impinge on the neoconservative doctrine of permanent war.
- Yitzhak Rabin hated these neoconservatives and referred to them as "scumbags."
- AIPAC is one of an array of powerful and well-funded neoconservative institutions that worship force and drive our relations with the rest of the world. These neoconservatives choose an enemy and then our compliant class of journalists, specialists, military analysts, columnists, and television commentators line up to serve as giddy cheerleaders for war.
- The abject fawning of our political elite, including Barack Obama, before AIPAC and its bank account is yet another window into the moral bankruptcy of our political class.
- Since our elites have no vision it is up to us.
- We are called to embrace and defend life with intensity and passion if we are to survive as a species, if we are to save our planet from the ravages of corporate greed and the specter of endless and futile war.

265.

Why won't Obama do more on gas prices?

March 7, 2012

Ralph Nader has written a new article, "Obama Can Do More on Oil Prices," linked below.

While reading, please keep in mind that "speculation" is gambling and "speculators" are gamblers.

No new wealth is created by gambling. Losers and winners are created by gambling. Gambling merely transfers already-existing wealth from losers to winners. This is what Wall Street does: it transfers wealth—power and control—largely from the middle class (in the bottom 99%) to the financial aristocracy (in the top 1%).

Higher gasoline prices serve the same redistributive purpose.

It's the craziest thing when you stop to think about it. As a people, a nation, we were once quite wealthy. Then we surrendered our tools of wealth creation—our factories—to live off the wealth originally created by those factories. Then we drew on the credit originally established by those factories.

Wall Street and Washington were there to show us the way, every step.

When you hear the word "markets," try substituting the words "financial elites." Financial elites determine our prices and their profits. Financial elites are the people telling us to put our faith in the . . . "markets."

The recent 13,000 Dow is significant, if at all, as evidence of wealth transfer, not wealth creation. Further, the fictitious economy of Wall Street—if we take it as seriously as we're instructed to—diverts our attention from the real manufacturing-and-production economy of Main Street.

Ralph Nader cleverly wonders why Obama doesn't do something about gas prices. The answer is simple: he doesn't want to. He'd rather help his well-heeled cronies and campaign contributors concentrate their wealth and power—at the expense of the American middle class and its offspring.

Other folks wonder why Wall Street criminals, well-known perpetrators of widespread damage, are not being arrested, prosecuted, and hanged. I suspect the answer is again fairly simple.

The money trail between Wall Street and Washington is clear, and Washington doesn't want to be hanged.

See:

<http://nader.org/2012/03/06/obama-can-do-more-on-oil-prices>

266.

“Is Barack Obama a Fit Role Model for Black Youth?”

March 8, 2012

I thought you might appreciate this essay from Paul Street and "the seriously anti-racist left."

Do I agree with every point? No. But he makes some good ones and the bad ones can be lively and thought provoking.

“Is Barack Obama a Fit Role Model for Black Youth?”

www.counterpunch.org/2012/03/08/is-barack-obama-a-fit-role-model-for-black-youth

267.

Trade Deficits, Unemployment, and Other Bombs

March 10, 2012

President John F. Kennedy said the things he feared most were nuclear war and trade deficits.

January 2012 Trade:

- Total goods and services deficit: \$52.6 billion—up from \$50.4 billion in December 2011, and the highest since October 2008.
- Goods-only deficit with China: \$26 billion—up from \$23.1 billion in December 2011.

February 2012 Unemployment:

- According to the U.S. Department of Labor: 8.3%—unchanged from 8.3% in January.
- According to Gallup: 9.1%—up from 8.6% in January.
- According to Shadow Government Statistics: 22.4%—down from 22.5% in January.
- SGS includes the long-term unemployed and discouraged.
- No method includes the under-employed.

I wonder: if President Kennedy could have foreseen what we've become, what else might he have feared?

268.

“There’s nothing we can do about it.”

March 11, 2012

“There’s nothing we can do about it.”

People say it for a variety of reasons, often personal. In most cases, the truth is just the opposite.

While the Nay-Sayers are busy considering themselves more intelligent than the rest of us, they might also consider:

Politicians are in office because we voted for them.

Yes, our voting is manipulated by moneyed interests.

But the moneyed interests get their money from us. We buy what they sell: goods, services, and BS.

(I wonder how many Nay-Sayers realize they've become unwitting servants of the top 1%?)

We vote with our votes. We vote with our money. We have only ourselves to blame for what we've elected.

We can undo the damage we've done.

One small request:

Nay-Sayers, if you must enfeeble, discourage, suppress, and disenfranchise—please pick on people your own age.

To destroy a child's opportunities is unforgivable.

269.

Everything that Nixon did to me is now legal

March 13, 2012

“Everything that Richard Nixon did to me, for which he faced impeachment and prosecution, which led to his resignation, is now legal under the Patriot Act, the FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] amendment act, the National Defense Authorization Act.”

—Daniel Ellsberg

You can read the rest of the Chris Hedges article here:

“Supreme Court Likely to Endorse Obama's War on Whistle-Blowers”

www.truthdig.com/report/item/supreme_court_set_to_endorse_obamas_war_on_whistleblowers_20120312

From the first paragraph:

- Totalitarian systems disempower an unsuspecting population by gradually making legal what was once illegal. They incrementally corrupt and distort law to exclusively serve the goals of the inner sanctums of power and strip protection from the citizen. Law soon becomes the primary tool to advance the crimes of the elite and punish those who tell the truth. The state saturates the airwaves

with official propaganda to replace news. Fear, and finally terror, creates an intellectual and moral void.

“Fear-fallen children couldn't say no. . . .”

—Dollar to the Giant

270.

Get rid of these frauds, get on with our lives

March 13, 2012

That e-mail about Nixon got me thinking: we haven't really held anyone to account since Watergate—a piddling affair by today's standards. Funny how a criminal President didn't seem quite so piddling back then. Come to think of it, neither did trade deficits.

Obviously, we need to wake up and turn this ship around. If we do it soon, we can do it peacefully.

“Obama invites a lobbyist into the White House”

by Dana Milbank of *The Washington Post*

www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1489770

- Obama makes a joke of the reform he promised.
- Steve Ricchetti's lobbying clients have included Fannie Mae, General Motors, the American Hospital Association, Eli Lilly, the American Bankers Association, AT&T, Reed Elsevier, Pfizer, Sanofi-Aventis, Siemens, Sirius XM, Amgen, Boston Scientific, America's Health Insurance Plans, eBay, and Dow Chemical.
- He got around the White House ban on lobbyists by de-registering as a lobbyist while remaining president of his lobbying firm.
- Obama once disapproved of Ricchetti's activities. His campaign in 2007 criticized Hillary Clinton for having Ricchetti as one of her top fundraisers. The Obama campaign later criticized Clinton for requesting an earmark sought by a Ricchetti client. [GM.]
- Obama's campaign has hired Broderick Johnson, who was a lobbyist for Microsoft, Comcast, and TransCanada, the company seeking to build the Keystone XL pipeline.
- The Obama administration has granted waivers to people Obama sought, such as former Raytheon lobbyist William Lynn, who got a top job at the Pentagon.
- The Obama administration refused to grant a waiver to Tom Malinowski, who was disqualified because he had lobbied for torture victims as an official with Human Rights Watch.

Related:

“What if democracy is just an illusion? In the US, the dominant political discourse consists of ideas put forth by the ruling class.”

by John Stoehr, editor of *New Haven Advocate* and a lecturer at Yale

www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/03/2012311123627435712.html

- If you have a lot of money and own a lot of property, then you have the power to propagandise your worldview and you have incentive to avoid appearing as if you're propagandising your worldview.
- The ruling class happens to make a lot of money from a free market.
- In theory, *Citizens United* [suggestion: we should be including *Buckley v. Valeo* in our discussions] is an egalitarian ruling. Any citizen can spend any amount of money to promote or attack any issue they want. But we don't live in an egalitarian society. As Gore Vidal has said, America is a very good place to live if you have money and property. Not so much if you don't.
- According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Super PACs have raised more than \$130 million in 2012 and spent almost \$75 million on attack advertisements carried over broadcast, cable, and radio. Of that total amount, 25 per cent comes from just five people.
- What if the U.S. is an oligarchy of billionaire capitalists? What if "democracy" is yet more intellectual cover, another one of those illusions, for the exploitation of American workers?

Let the record show I am not a Marxist—or Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or any other kind of political ideologue. But I do love the ideas of freedom, democracy, and opportunity. I do not consider them "illusions."

Freedom, democracy, and opportunity are well within the reach of responsible citizens.

271.

ILA, AFL-CIO Presents "Best Friend of American Worker" Award to Communist Chinese

March 14, 2012

File under "You Just Can't Make This Stuff Up":

“Chinese premier granted ‘Best Friend of American Worker’ award”

news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-03/03/c_131444197.htm

- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao was granted here Friday the "Best Friend of American Worker" award in appreciation of China's strong support for the growth of jobs for American workers.
- William McNamara, vice-president of the ILA—American International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO—said his association was honored to give the award to Premier Wen to thank China for its great contributions to creating more job opportunities for American workers.

COSCO Container Lines confirms the story on their website: www.cosco-usa.com/news/news13.htm

There is no mention of it on the ILA website or Facebook page.

The Center for Union Facts reports that in 2010, William McNamara was salaried at \$132,147. He didn't make it into his union's top 10, where the salaries range from \$191,058 - \$479,829.

“Ulterior plans in the giant's hands, steel cages hit our shores in a flood. / And all we received for a moment of greed was paid for with our children's blood.”—Dollar to the Giant

Apparently, the ILA loves those steel cages—certainly more than they care about our country and its labor force.

272.

Men of Integrity?

March 15, 2012

Don't you sometimes wonder if there are any Men—"male human beings with integrity"—left in public life? But where's the incentive when a lack of integrity is so frequently considered a sign of intelligence? For the life of me, I can't figure out what's "intelligent" about Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. (I'm not picking on Democratic Presidents; it's just that Reagan and W were never packaged as intellectual giants and the Clinton/Obama administration is in so many ways a continuum.) Both Clinton and Obama are lawyers ("men specifically educated to discover legal excuses for dishonest, dishonorable and anti-social acts," according to Mencken) and self-absorbed liars (is it even possible to be more shameless?) engaged in the betrayal of the American middle class and its real economy through financialization and free trade. If "intelligence" is judged by its actions, what's so brilliant about these two?

Does anyone remember that the 1996 Clinton/Gore campaign received \$ millions from the People's Republic of China? No, of course not, because we were distracted by Monica Lewinsky. But take a good look at what's happened to the relative positions of the U.S. and China since then. When I think of what Clinton did for China-and to the U.S.—I sometimes wonder if he was being blackmailed. Now, Obama's policies are pretty much the same, and we're even easier to distract.

But about my first sentence and "public life": I'm not giving up on the human race. I know—we all know—plenty of Men and Women with integrity. They just stay out of public life. Hopefully, this will change soon.

With no worries about the authors' integrity, I will now submit the following articles for your consideration:

“Americans Pay Wall St. \$20B for Bad Swaps”

www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-13/americans-clueless-paying-wall-street-20-billion-for-bad-swaps.html

This is a good article about the enormous and largely unrecognized problem of interest rate swaps, which account for more than 80% of the total market in derivatives. I confess I enjoyed reading some of the comments about public officials:

- They think they know what they're doing and they screw up.
- No one wants to say out loud they're unsophisticated.
- They are amateurs who get noisy political movements looking to subsidize teams, then they get sold a bill of goods.

“Perils of the Global Economy”

<http://nader.org/2012/03/15/perils-of-the-global-economy>

Nader's essay is useful and easy to read. He also does not spare the politicians:

- The intellectually impoverished Presidential and Congressional campaigns never propose ways to extricate our country from the straitjackets of global speculators. The two-party political tyranny—Republican and Democratic—is too busy kneeling before the check-writers of imperious corporatists to stand up for the people whose votes they strive to secure. As U.S. citizens struggle, Wall Street and Washington worry about Greece.

I still say a lot of our troubles could have been avoided with one good song. Where are the well-known recording artists of integrity?

273.

Say it ain't so, WaPo!

March 16, 2012

Are you sitting down?

<http://chinawatch.WashingtonPost.com>

It appears to be *The Washington Post*, but it's really *China Daily*.

What a headline: "Chinese Working to Reconstruct America"

And that tiny print: "A Paid Supplement to The Washington Post"

You guessed it: *The Washington Post*—of all American newspapers—accepts Chinese Communist Party money and publishes Chinese Communist Party propaganda.

If the word "Communist" offends you, please understand that it offends me, too—possibly even more. If you can come up with a better word—as long as it's honest—I'm all ears.

274.

TARP Watchdog: “Don't Believe Hype About \$25B Mortgage Settlement”

March 17, 2012

Vigilance, then freedom.

“Barofsky: Don't Believe Hype About \$25B Mortgage Settlement”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=24i-luznGZs

“It’s a change to our system of property rights based on political power.”

Neil Barofsky was Special U.S. Treasury Department Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program until his resignation in 2011.

Some quotable quotes:

- “These banks are continuing to commit document fraud.”
- “It’s a change to our system of property rights based on political power.”
- “[The government] is surrendering to the banks and just accepting that a certain amount of fraud, that will profit the banks and punish homeowners, is just totally acceptable.”
- “There’s been a policy choice by the administration—and by the Bush administration; I mean, it's not just the Obama administration that was doing this—to just allow property rights to be determined solely by political power and your position in the capital markets.”

275.

Nine Articles, Six Authors, Twice the Nutrition of Television

March 19, 2012

Special Report from *The American Prospect*:

“Pacific Illusions: The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is Supposed To Revive The U.S. Export Economy And Counter Chinese Influence. It Does Neither.”

www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/americanprospect/201204specialreport/#/0

I particularly appreciated "The Pacific Pivot" by Clyde Prestowitz—easy reading at the following URL:

<http://prospect.org/article/pacific-pivot>

276.

Do not resist. It is useless to resist.

March 20, 2012

Sometimes I think about old science fiction movies with Martians telling the captured Earthlings:

“Do not resist. It is useless to resist.”

Multinational corporations—such as found on Wall Street, in control of American politics and media, including science fiction movies—have a lot of us convinced that America's decline is inevitable—and useless to resist.

Nonsense. Our problem is our government, not some immutable laws of nature, physics, or "market forces."

Two wits:

“The Japanese Electronics Industry: A Rebuttal”

- Japan's current account surplus – the widest and most meaningful measure of its trade – zoomed more than three-fold between 1989 (the last year of the 1980s boom) and 2010 (the year before the earthquake). In the same period, America's current account *deficit* ballooned more than five-fold.

“Trading Jobs for Military Bases”

http://blogs.hbr.org/cs/2012/03/trading_jobs_for_military_base.html

- "For as long as I can remember, there has never been a military base, a U.N. vote, or a smooth state visit for which Washington was not prepared to make a trade concession or sacrifice a U.S. industry. As a young Foreign Service officer on my first assignment in the Netherlands, I was told that my job was to promote Dutch exports to America."

277.

My Platform in Brief

March 22, 2012

Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Platform in Brief

Manufacturing: America's historical wealth was created by manufacturing. The U.S. must re-industrialize for opportunity, jobs, and national security. A nation's standard of living must be supported by a standard of productivity.

Trade: "Free trade" exists only in academic theory and globalist propaganda. The U.S. can no longer afford to be cheated in global trade. Our country must stop trading at a loss.

China: A determined adversary, the People's Republic of China—clever, cruel, unscrupulous—does not share our language, history, or values.

Consumer Responsibility: Workers and consumers are the same people. In the long run, every American benefits by understanding and supporting the American economy.

Energy: U.S. energy policy is practically non-existent, controlled by a multinational oil industry through lobbyists, media, and campaign finance. The U.S. needs truly American oil and alternative energy industries, with U.S. government policies in place to protect them.

Personal Income Tax: Eliminate the personal income tax. It is obsolete and counterproductive. A progressive tax on consumption can reduce our individual tax burden and increase government revenue.

Corporate Income Tax: Eliminate the corporate income tax. In truth, no corporation has ever paid income tax. When a corporation is taxed, it passes this expense along to you and me in the form of higher prices on goods and services. Corporations are, in this sense, government-mandated tax collectors. When a politician advocates higher corporate income taxes, he or she is really advocating higher personal taxes in disguise.

Immigration: Mexico is a bigger threat to the United States than the Middle East has ever been. Still, most Mexican illegals would prefer to live at home in Mexico if given the reasonable opportunity. Stabilizing Mexican society and developing Mexico's economy—and deporting Mexican illegals to a better Mexico—is a matter of survival and national security for the U.S. and Mexico both. We must be alert to China's presence and heavy investment in our next-door neighbor. Overall, U.S. immigration policy must first protect the U.S. economy and U.S. citizens.

Drugs: Legalize. After a trillion dollars and hundreds of thousands of lives, the U.S. has lost its so-called "War on Drugs"—a war on our children's future and a cash cow for politicians and special interests, notably the security and defense industries and enormous bureaucracies.

Defense: More defense spending does not mean more defense. Since the end of World War II, the American empire has been in the business of creating enemies—job security for the military-industrial complex that President—General—Eisenhower warned us about. We should have listened to him. We should reinstate the draft, tend to our own true business, and stop sacrificing our children's lives and futures to profiteers.

Campaign Finance: Why would anyone spend a billion dollars for a job that pays four hundred thousand? Our current system is one of bribery—and by multinationals with no loyalties to the United States. I will not accept contributions from corporations, organizations, anonymous donors, or non-citizens.

Democrats and Republicans: Both parties now feed at the same trough. Both parties now represent the same multinational moneyed interests.

Religion: I hope to always have more spiritual questions than answers. You deserve no less. We do better when our heads of state consider the possibility that all religions are correct.

Foreign Policy: Please see all of the above and remember that "foreign policy" is not synonymous with "war." Foreign policy is a way of being in the world.

For more details:

“Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement”

To help support my platform and candidacy:

“Donating Money by PayPal, WePay, or Personal Check”

278.

Three Subjects, No Waiting

Friday, March 23, 2012

This morning on *Common Sense Coalition Talk Radio*:

“Bob Hall: It's Useless To Resist”

Yesterday in *The Plain Dealer*:

“More than 1 million manufacturing jobs could be created in U.S. if Americans bought more U.S.-made goods, economist says”

www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2012/03/more_than_1_million_manufactur.html

- Americans spending just \$100 billion on U.S. goods instead of foreign goods would create 1,250,000 million manufacturing jobs in the United States.
- While the campaign has included debate about all sorts of topics, the central issue should be which Presidential candidate has a plan to reduce the trade deficit in a realistic and sustainable way.

Today in The Associated Press:

“Fact Check: More US drilling didn't drop gas price”

www.pabusinesscentral.com/fact-check-more-us-drilling-didnt-drop-gas-price

- A statistical analysis of 36 years of monthly, inflation-adjusted gasoline prices and U.S. domestic oil production by The Associated Press shows no statistical correlation between how much oil comes out of U.S. wells and the price at the pump.
- If more domestic oil drilling worked as politicians say, you'd now be paying about \$2 a gallon for gasoline.

From Chapter 3 of my candidacy speech:

“The quick answer might be more drilling and production here in the United States. But remember: the oil business is a global business, run by multinational corporations that extract oil from the U.S. and sell it on a world market.”

More here, from a Presidential candidate with a plan to reduce the trade deficit in a realistic and sustainable way:

279.

The U.S. Election Industry Is Having A Good Time—But At What Cost?

March 23, 2012

As you know, the U.S. has an "election industry"—in business to milk the campaigns for all they're worth. An estimated \$7 billion, give or take, will be spent on 2012.

Also worth considering is the simple human/animal reality that the media are having fun. That they're having a good time at our expense doesn't seem to matter. They're all employed, many at high salaries. In the short run, the security of their jobs increases with the bad news they deliver and the destruction they encourage.

(Much like our government.)

In the long run, irresponsible media—indeed, the entire election industry—will find themselves as unemployed as the country they bled and betrayed.

The article prompting today's e-mailing:

“Ode to the Road”

www.truthdig.com/report/item/ode_to_the_road_20120323

- We in the mainstream media harbor a dirty little secret: Most of us are rooting for Rick Santorum. It's nothing personal, although Santorum is a reasonably appealing guy. And it's not ideological; most of us aren't yearning for Bible-based social conservatism to become the law of the land. It's worse than that. We're just hoping to see the gaudy spectacle of this primary campaign continue as long as possible.
- Right-wingers and other fools believe that the "mainstream" media are devoted to electing lefties to public office so we can turn the United States into Sweden. In fact, all the mainstreamers, professionally, don't give a tinker's damn about who wins this election or that. What we want is the campaign to go on forever; the option is going home, usually to Washington, and taking care of that leaky roof.
- If you were to ask any reporter if there's anything they'd rather be doing, the answer would be a resounding no . . . it's a lot of fun.
- If the candidate you cover wins it all, you are probably going to be a White House correspondent.

280.

Decline in productive employment. A Congressional candidate with a plan.

March 25, 2012

Stunning graphic from “Worse Than The Great Depression”*

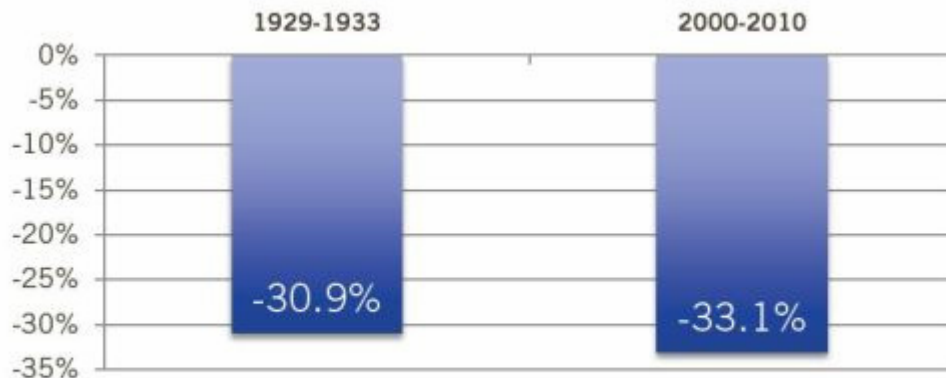


Figure 4: Percent Change in Manufacturing Employment During the Great Depression and the 2000's¹⁷

Change in Manufacturing—that is to say, "Economically Productive"—Employment, The Great Depression vs. The 2000s:

1929 - 1933: -30.9%

2000 - 2010: -33.1%

Thanks to Dave Anderson for the tip.

“Dave Anderson For Congress”

can be found here:

www.daveandersonforcongress.com

Dave is one of the good ones. Every American citizen should know about him. Every Coloradoan must.

*www2.itif.org/2012-american-manufacturing-decline.pdf

281.

Three silly questions with the same answer

March 26, 2012

Fuel: In the early 1970s, my summer jobs included driving a fork lift that ran on natural gas—indoors. The police cars in my hometown also ran on natural gas. Engines burned clean and required very little maintenance. Our country has more natural gas than we know what to do with. To compete with the energy value and current price of natural gas, oil would have to sell for less than twenty dollars per barrel.

Why don't our engines burn natural gas?

Health Care: Our biggest healthcare problem is that the healthcare industry screws its customers, but almost nobody will say this in public. On the contrary, just about every healthcare proposal is based on the same principle: that healthcare-related profits and salaries are sacrosanct. Get rid of the lobbyists and our healthcare problems would be easy to solve—for example, by expanding Medicare coverage or by increasing industry competition.

Why is our healthcare debate so unconcerned with health care?

War: Historically, countries have fought for profit: to the victors, the spoils. Nowadays, wars cost us money—crippling amounts of money, whether we win or lose. What's changed? The "combatants," so to speak. Rarely, anymore, does one country fight to take another country's property. Now, the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex—the War Industry—fights to take money from taxpayers. America is now constantly engaged in war. Whether America wins or loses does not matter. The wars are "won"—and perpetuated—by the multinational War Industry's defeat of the U.S. taxpayer.

Who dreams up this stuff?

One answer to all three questions: "Special interests." Nothing will change until we start voting for independent candidates with no ties to big money.

282.

Monsters We Created Are Joining Forces

March 28, 2012

“Sinopec, Aramco Sign Saudi Refinery Deal, Plan Plant in China”

www.businessweek.com/news/2012-01-16/sinopec-aramco-sign-saudi-refinery-deal-plan-plant-in-china.html

I found this disturbing for a number of reasons:

- Sinopec (China) and Aramco (Saudi Arabia) are both government owned.
- For almost 50 years, "Aramco" meant "Arabian American Oil Company."
- Americans built the Saudi kingdom's oil industry and the modern communist Chinese economy.
- We created these state-owned monsters that are joining forces.
- The U.S. has been getting away with the worst trade deficits in the history of the world because the US\$ is the world's reserve currency.
- Basically, other countries still take our money not because it's the safest, but because it's easy to exchange for things they need, like oil.
- It might be argued that the US\$ reserve currency status was rescued—after the expense of the Vietnam War forced us in 1971 to abandon the gold standard—by Saudi Arabia's 1973 agreement to accept only US\$ in payment for oil. The rest of OPEC followed in 1975.
- Since then, we have abused our reserve currency privileges. Many of our global competitors have been clamoring to unseat and replace the US\$.
- Saudi Arabia now sells more oil to China than to the United States.
- Now what?

Losing reserve status means the US\$ would "decline"—or worse—in value, and we could no longer trade at our now-customary deficits.

I'm not advocating a return to the gold standard. Actually, there's not enough mined gold in the world to support the dollars in circulation. But a gold standard is not necessary. What is necessary is *trust*. Users of American dollars need to feel that the American economy can be trusted: that it's productive, solvent, and that our banks are responsible.

This can be accomplished with a real economy and real regulation—not by Wall Street gamblers and a government they buy and sell.

We need to produce. We need to build things, grow things, and utilize our natural resources—right here in the United States, not in places like Saudi Arabia and China.

We need to support our own economy by purchasing our own goods—not stuff from places like Saudi Arabia and China.

Google "American-made goods." Don't shop at Walmart—not unless you're prepared to work there.

283.

Please support me on Americans Elect—soon, please!

March 28, 2012

I am now an official AmericansElect.org draft candidate:

“Americans Elect 2012: Bob Hall”

www.americansselect.org/profile-candidate/406591/draft-status

Draft Leader Will Cooper writes:

“Bob is running for president and is a committed, intelligent, capable alternative to the choices that Americans have from among the professional political class.”

Note than I am a *draft* candidate, rallying support. I have not yet agreed to an Americans Elect candidacy. I still have some questions about the organization and its funding.

BUT: I am the kind of candidate they say they're looking for. Americans Elect is doing a good job accessing the ballots and I believe they can win in November.

It's worth a shot. With so much at stake, and so few reasonable options, *anything* is worth a shot!

You can sign up to register your support at:

<https://secure.americansselect.org/signup>

Feel free to support as many candidates as you like, but don't forget me!

IF YOU HAVE A WEBSITE OR BLOG, please consider embedding this banner:



The code can be found here:

www.americansselect.org/profile-candidate/406591/draft-status

Thank you!

284.

He warned us about 9/11. Now he's warning us about China.

March 29, 2012

On 5 July 2001, Richard A. Clarke—veteran spy and security advisor to Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush—warned the FAA, Coast Guard, FBI, Secret Service, and INS: "Something really spectacular is going to happen here, and it's going to happen soon."

On 24 March 2004, at the 9/11 hearings, Clarke apologized to the victims' families: "Your government failed you, those entrusted with protecting you failed you, and I failed you."

In the current issue of *Smithsonian*, Clarke issues a more powerful warning about China. This time, let's listen up and try to avoid any need for apologies.

“Richard Clarke on Who Was Behind the Stuxnet Attack: America's longtime counterterrorism czar warns that cyberwars have already begun—and that we might be losing”

www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Richard-Clarke-on-Who-Was-Behind-the-Stuxnet-Attack.html

- We are being failed again. We are defenseless against a cyberattack that could bring down our nation's entire electronic infrastructure, including the power grid, banking and telecommunications, and military command.
- The chips, routers, and hardware we import from Chinese and other foreign suppliers might contain logic bombs, trapdoors, and Trojan horses, all ready to be activated on command so we won't know what hit us—or what's already hitting us.
- Clarke: "I'm about to say something that people think is an exaggeration, but I think the evidence is pretty strong. Every major company in the United States has already been penetrated by China."
- Clarke: "I think if you're on the receiving end of the covert action, it's an act of war."
- Clarke: "My greatest fear is that, rather than having a cyber-Pearl Harbor event, we will instead have this death of a thousand cuts. Where we lose our competitiveness by having all of our research and development stolen by the Chinese. And we never really see the single event that makes us do something about it. That it's always just below our pain threshold. That company after company in the United States spends millions, hundreds of millions, in some cases billions of dollars on R&D and that information goes free to China."

- Clarke: “I think we’re living in the world of non-response. Where you know that there’s a problem, but you don’t do anything about it.”

Do something about it. You will feel better and your grandchildren will not go hungry. Nor will they be forced to labor in Chinese prison factories.

Do something about it.

285.

A Word About “Health Care”

March 30, 2012

“... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

The land of the free and the home of the brave is paralyzed by fear. Our public figures pretend to have the stomach for fighting, but they fight for leftover scraps from our productive years.

We're so worried about money, we're not thinking clearly. Instead of bickering over the last piece of pie, we should be baking a new one. The recipe has not been lost. It's been globalized away.

In my candidacy speech, I said:

“We can begin with a simple change of perspective. Do we balance the federal budget by cutting expenses or raising taxes? Either way, someone gets hurt. The two-party system depends on it. But Congress has another option, one that might even teach our children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge. Congress has the power to adopt a national industrial policy that could create enough new wealth to pay for everything our people need. Everything. For generations to come. Congress has this power.”

If Congress would represent the People, instead of its sponsors, Congress could enrich the People, instead of its sponsors.

We could easily become wealthy enough to afford first-rate health care. Or, we could easily create a government wealthy enough to provide first-rate health care.

All while lowering taxes. Eliminating corporate and personal income taxes in favor of a progressive tax on consumption is essential policy—essential policy, I should add, that flies in the face of everything the oppressors have taught us about ourselves.

It's time to start thinking outside the box—and stop barking up the wrong tree.

Come on, folks. Let's teach our American children some creativity and courage in the face of a challenge.

While we're at it, a little sacred Honor wouldn't hurt.

286.

Chinese Propaganda Thrives in U.S.—Official Testimony

March 30, 2012

Utterly fascinating and lively reading—believe it or not—in the form of an official testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, 28 March 2012:

<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/112/HHRG-112-FA17-WState-AutryG-20120328.pdf>

I'm calling it:

“Greg Autry on the co-option of the U.S. media, academic, business and political elite by the Chinese under the influence of the Communist Party’s Central Propaganda Department”

I hope the following bullet points from Greg's conclusion will encourage you to read the transcript:

- The Chinese Communist Party views Americans and their leaders as naïve, short sighted and easily coopted.
- China is very actively involved in manipulating the American media to promote the Communist Party agenda, while actively constraining reciprocal American access to their media.
- China has carefully targeted our schools, universities and multinational corporations as agents for Chinese propaganda.
- Former and current US government officials have been uncomfortably financially intertwined with Chinese state owned business leading to a real question of their ability to speak or act objectively in regards to China.
- American political leaders, business leaders, and pundits are increasingly out of touch with the reality of Chinese propaganda and with mainstream American views on Communist China.

“No suspicion of war, through the open door, manifest of Mao Tse-Tung.”

—Dollar to the Giant

287.

Meet Dave Anderson: A Colorado Candidate Helping ALL Americans

March 31, 2012

Feeling discouraged, maybe even cynical? Take a look at this short video:

“Meet Dave Anderson”

www.daveandersonforcongress.com/meet-dave-video

Dave Anderson is not a professional politician. He's a citizen who understands the sacrifice and responsibility—and important details—that built our country.

Brave? Of course. But if Dave is anything like me, he also fears. Fears for his children's future. Fears that if he doesn't do it, nobody else will.

He is not wrong.

We can't all be Dave Anderson, nor should we try. We'll do better as our unique selves—no less—trying harder to meet our common responsibilities.

For additional inspiration, open a history book. Try to understand—feel—the sacrifices our predecessors had to make just to survive, much less provide us with the freedom and comfort we take for granted.

The world is full of non-Americans—more than 6 billion of them—just dying to teach us a lesson about taking things for granted.

If you're not willing to lift a finger for your own country, you might wind up dying for one of theirs.

288.

What if Confucius said something wise on April Fools' Day?

April 1, 2012

The correct response to the following four statements is

“April Fool”:

1. The Republican Party is not trying to produce a guaranteed loser with no chance of winning in November.
2. Barack Obama has not disappointed and/or betrayed the citizens who voted for him.
3. Our two-party system and media are not controlled by people making enormous amounts of money with an Obama Administration.
4. There's nothing you or I can do about it.

Does anyone remember when foolishness was openly celebrated but once a year?

Some 2,500 years ago, Confucius said:

“The superior man is broadminded but not partisan; the inferior man is partisan but not broadminded.”

Maybe he said it on April 1 and nobody took him seriously.

289.

Regarding Your Life: Inside Information From Two Insiders

April 2, 2012

Today's double whammy from the inside out:

1:

Professor C. William Kauffman, rocket scientist and weapons expert, was interviewed on CSC Talk Radio this morning. You can download the MP3 here:

www.csctalkradio.com/tracks/040212.mp3

Dr. Kauffman provides a jaw-dropping insider's account of his experience with Russia, China, and American "corruption" (to put it mildly) in an interview CSC calls **“Chinese Influence & Theft In American Universities.”**

Please note that Professor Kauffman is retired. He is completely free to speak his mind. And he does.

2:

From today's *New York Times*, an article worth reading despite the possibility of a hidden agenda:

“China Sees U.S. as Competitor and Declining Power, Insider Says”

www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/world/asia/chinese-insider-offers-rare-glimpse-of-us-china-frictions.html

Quote:

“The senior leadership of the Chinese government increasingly views the competition between the United States and China as a zero-sum game, with China the likely long-range winner if the American economy and domestic political system continue to stumble.”

Got that?

290.

If setting myself on fire would get this country's attention, I'd do it tomorrow.

April 3, 2012

I swear, this country needs an intervention.

Have you ever tried to communicate with an addict? Then you know something about "denial."

I swear, if setting myself on fire would get this country's attention, I'd do it tomorrow.

Forget that. I'd do it today.

Sound crazy? Are you sure? Even when you consider what's really at stake? When you think about your children? When you're trying to find words for the sacrifices your ancestors made for you?

Now tell me who's crazy.

We are so severely in denial, we hardly notice anything anymore.

Tibetans are literally setting themselves on fire and beaten by Chinese police as they burn.

And who cares?

Something neighboring Tibetans know—something you *should* know—about those polite, smiling, People's Republic of China guys who manufacture so much of our stuff:

So far, in their very short history, they've killed 60 - 80 million of their own people.

Their own people. Think about it. Think they plan to treat your kids any better?

Anyone who knows anything about the People's Republic of China would do anything to avoid submitting to Chinese control.

Yet our so-called "leaders" in American government and business can't submit quickly enough.

These people have to be stopped—all of them, beginning with our so-called "leaders."

As I said in my candidacy speech:

"The fundamental requirement of a statesman is the ability to recognize the difference between a friend and an enemy."

No denying it: this country needs an intervention.

Also worth considering, from today's *New York Times*:

"How China Steals Our Secrets"

www.nytimes.com/2012/04/03/opinion/how-china-steals-our-secrets.html

- "The greatest transfer of wealth in history."
- Some officials fear that standing up to China might trigger disruptive attacks on America's vulnerable computer-controlled infrastructure.
- Washington is effectively fulfilling China's research requirements while helping to put Americans out of work.
- If Congress will not act to protect America's companies from Chinese cyberthreats, President Obama must.

But President Obama will not—nor will any candidate accepting money, directly or indirectly, from multinational interests.

291.

It's High Time We Spoil Their Election

April 6, 2012

Interview with James Kenneth Galbraith:

“Finance As Wealth Transfer Mechanism”

www.nakedcapitalism.com/2012/04/finance-as-wealth-transfer-mechanism-an-interview-with-james-galbraith.html

- Over the past 40 years, changes in inequality have had a common source: the world financial system.
- Finance is a redistributive mechanism.
- When you look at income inequality, it's clear that the major driver is the movement of the stock market.
- Galbraith: "I've often said it's actually redundant to measure income inequality in the US. You can watch it go by on cable TV, on the stock ticker."
- The financial sector controls those parts of the government that set policy for finance.
- Banks are leading funders for presidential campaigns.
- Leading personnel in the Treasury and other financial agencies come from the banks, and if they do a good job—from the banks' point of view—they can be confident that a lucrative position awaits them, back at the banks, later on.
- Galbraith was on the staff of the House Banking Committee in the second half of the 1970s. The Committee has since doubled in size. Why?
- The House uses the committee as a fund-raising magnet, especially for Members who might be vulnerable. Once they have a spot on the banking committee, their money problems go away.
- They can hold practically any position on other issues that may be convenient, liberal or conservative, and the banks don't care—just so long as the Members are friendly to banks. This is also a strategy for locking down Congress.
- Actual staffing of the government is controlled by bankers. People come in from the banks and go back to the banks.
- Robert Rubin's protégés took a very large share of the top policy positions on economics and finance in the Obama administration—from Larry Summers on down.
- [Rubin and Summers—free traders and globalists—were but two of Bill Clinton's assaults on the American middle class and productive economy.]
- Peter Orszag, Rubinite and first director of OMB under Obama, took a well-paid position at Citigroup upon leaving the White House.
- In the US and in Europe, the grip of "see-no-evil economics" remains very strong. Our two continents have actually less open debate, and fewer political options, than is now the case in South America.

The financial sector is "making" enormous amounts of money with Barack Obama. They want to keep it going for another 4 years—at least.

(Please note: they are not "making" money in the sense that they're creating new wealth. They're grabbing *existing* wealth—wealth originally created by economically productive work like manufacturing and farming—and they're transferring it to themselves with our willfully ignorant compliance. They would love to keep this going for another 4 years—at least.)

Their same financial class also controls the Republican Party, which is why the GOP is guaranteed to produce a guaranteed loser.

(In many ways, the mega-wealthy are quite averse to risk.)

I think it's high time we "spoil" an election.

Who's with me?

292.

8.2% Lies, 22.2% Statistics

April 6, 2012

“Lies, damned lies, and statistics”—not necessarily in this order:

March 2012 Unemployment:

U.S. Department of Labor: 8.2%. Only 120,000 new jobs were created, so why the headline improvement from last month's 8.3%? Largely because 133,000 unemployed people gave up looking for work, thus changing their official status to "Not In Labor Force."

U.S. Department of Labor: 14.5%. This more-accurate "U-6" figure is one you have to dig for, but still does not include the long-term unemployed and discouraged. These people were officially legislated out of existence by the Clinton Administration in 1994.

Shadow Government Statistics: 22.2%. This figure includes the long-term unemployed and discouraged.

Blast from the Past:

The average unemployment rate in 2000 was 4.0%.

293.

Is freedom really such a burden?

April 7, 2012

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Inevitable? Not.

We're in the struggle of our lives—because it's a struggle of our own making.

Middle-class Americans are working hard to establish a society of aristocrats and peasants.

A free and democratic people, we're doing it with our votes.

We vote for candidates who are sponsored by the privileged classes. Once in office, they write laws to benefit the privileged classes.

Their laws are seldom designed to create new wealth—not here in the United States, anyway.

Their laws are frequently designed to transfer existing wealth to the privileged classes, consolidating power in their emerging aristocracy.

It's all perfectly legal, of course.

A free and democratic people, we also spend our money to achieve our ends.

We enrich the privileged classes by purchasing their goods and services.

Their laws discourage reinvestment in the United States and its developing peasantry, so the privileged classes invest elsewhere.

We peasants, too, invest elsewhere by purchasing the goods and services our privileged classes produce elsewhere.

Talk about your self-destruction!

If freedom is such a burden, why have human societies historically—and repeatedly—sacrificed so much for it?

294.

“Being an Agent of Change”—refreshing Carne Ross interview

April 8, 2012

Refreshing interview:

“Carne Ross on Being an Agent of Change”

<http://billmoyers.com/segment/carne-ross-on-being-agents-of-change>

Former British diplomat Carne Ross proposes a new form of politics, fired by our own convictions, taking action directly to address our political concerns.

From the interview:

- [While in government,] I'd write these very, very compellingly written, convincing speeches, explaining how we would do it. And we weren't. We were wrong. I was wrong. These were—these speeches were written in a vacuum. They were just claims. They weren't actually proof of output.
- Having worked in government foreign policy, but also in international institutions like the U.N., I simply don't believe that these mechanisms are competent to solve our problems.
- Government is fundamentally detached from the reality that it is trying to manage. It cannot manage and predict highly complex events. I saw this in the invasion of Afghanistan, which I was involved in, and of Iraq, where we make these assumptions about the rest of the world which are grossly simplistic.
- I do think that sense of amorality and irresponsibility in government, of detachment from the consequences of your decisions, is a real problem.
- At least I can say, "Well, I was part of it, therefore I am responsible." I've not been sent to court or pay a fine or anything for it. But at least I can say, "I was directly involved."
- In my view, all hierarchy is humiliating to both the leader and the led. But I think you can design institutions, including banks, that are fundamentally democratic.
- We are the most powerful agents of change. But we have to take the initiative back ourselves. We actually have to do things rather than voting for others to do them.
- I'm very struck in Occupy. It's very ordinary people. It's not kind of extremists or radicals. And the pretty common feeling is that government is not the answer. There are some who feel that we need to press government for better legislation. But there's an awful lot of people who feel that that is just impossible, given the way that Washington has been co-opted by special interests.
- It's basically implausible to expect good legislation to come from Washington.
- [Gandhi's salt march] was the perfect political protest, because not only did it draw attention to this great injustice, but it actually physically embodied the change that needed to happen, which was ordinary people making salt. And it was immensely powerful.
- [Barack Obama] wasn't actually calling for mass action to create political change. He was calling for mass action to get him elected, which are two fundamentally different things.
- We're not a system. Actually, we're just a bunch of individuals. And we comprise reality. Therefore, why don't we realize that and say, "Crikey, well, I can start from changing something. I can change my own reality. I can inspire those around me." And thus, we can actually begin to change the whole system.

Carne Ross is author of *The Leaderless Revolution: How Ordinary People Will Take Power and Change Politics in the 21st Century*

295.

Foreign Spies on Campus; Eternal Vigilance and Freedom

April 9, 2012

Recently, I asked:

“If freedom is such a burden, why have human societies historically—and repeatedly—sacrificed so much for it?”

The word is “repeatedly.” When we're born free, we take it for granted. When we take it for granted, it's taken away. Our lives eventually become so painful and so pointless, we'll do anything to regain our freedom.

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance”—or so supposedly said Thomas Jefferson.

Freedom is not a burden. Eternal vigilance, however—this can be a burden.

Considering the alternatives, though, it's a light one.

“U.S. Colleges Infected by Foreign Spies: FBI”

www.businessweek.com/news/2012-04-08/american-universities-infected-by-foreign-spies-detected-by-fbi

- As schools become more global, they become increasingly vulnerable to theft of research conducted for the government and industry.
- Placing academics at U.S. research institutions under the guise of legitimate research offers access to developing U.S. technologies and cutting-edge research in such areas as information systems, lasers, aeronautics, and underwater robots.
- Attempts by countries in East Asia, including China, to obtain classified or proprietary information by “academic solicitation,” such as requests to review academic papers or study with professors, jumped eightfold in 2010 from a year earlier.
- Foreigners on temporary visas made up 46% of science and engineering graduate students at Georgia Institute of Technology and Michigan State and 41% at MIT in 2009.
- China sent 76,830 graduate students to U.S. universities in 2010 - 2011, more than any other country and up almost 16% from the prior year.
- Unlike its counterparts in other countries, which rely on their own operatives, China’s intelligence service deploys a freelance network including students, researchers, and false-front companies.
- “If it wanted to steal a beach, Russia would send a forklift. China would send a thousand people who would pick up a grain of sand at a time.”
- China also has more than 3,000 front companies in the U.S. for the sole purpose of acquiring our technology.
- Over the years, American universities have enabled China to leapfrog into the cutting edge of military capability on the way to superpower status.

“Slippery giant. History wise. Put down his guns, put on a friendly disguise. We closed our eyes. . . .”

—Dollar to the Giant

296.

Too divided and distracted to notice your new neighbors?

April 9, 2012

From a conversation* between the Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a U.S. delegate to China:

Q: Is the long-term goal of the Communist Party of China still world Communism?

A: Yes, of course, that is the reason we exist. However, the road to Communism may take well over a hundred years and the transition doesn't have to be violent.

From Saturday's *New York Times* :

“U.S. Alert as China's Cash Buys Inroads in Caribbean”

www.nytimes.com/2012/04/08/world/americas/us-alert-as-chinas-cash-buys-inroads-in-caribbean.html

“The U.S. is almost making itself irrelevant to the region. You don’t leave your flank exposed.”—former diplomat

- A new \$35-million stadium opened in the Bahamas a few weeks ago—gift from the Chinese government.
- Dominica has a grammar school, a renovated hospital, and a sports stadium; Antigua and Barbuda a power plant, a cricket stadium, and a new school; Trinidad and Tobago a prime minister's residence—all courtesy of the People's Republic of China.
- China announced it would lend \$6.3 billion to Caribbean governments, adding considerably to the hundreds of millions of dollars in loans, grants, and other forms of economic assistance it has channeled there in the past decade.
- Planting a flag so close to the United States has generated intense vetting—and some raised eyebrows—among diplomats, economists, and investors.
- [Still, *NYT* manages to write:] "Most analysts do not see a security threat, noting that the Chinese are not building bases or forging any military ties that could invoke fears of another Cuban missile crisis."

Let's not forget China's heavy investment and presence in Mexico.

*See "China Said This. You Should Know This." and "Unrestricted Warfare"

297.

Your Gut Feelings About Unemployment

April 10, 2012

Since October 2009:

Civilian Employment-to-Population, October 2009 vs. March 2012:

58.5% vs. 58.5%

Utterly unchanged at 58.5%, our working-age population with a job, yet we're told the unemployment rate has decreased.

Civilian Unemployment Rate, October 2009 vs. March 2012:

10.0% vs. 8.2%

Quite a dramatic improvement. Somehow, though, these numbers don't "feel" like what we're actually experiencing. Behold the power of political deception:

Not In Labor Force, October 2009 vs. March 2012:

82,728,000 vs. 87,897,000

"Not In Labor Force" is what our government calls long-term unemployed Americans who have given up in discouragement/despair/disgust.

In other words: they don't count.

Data courtesy of FRED, the St. Louis Federal Reserve.

298.

Obama's So-Called “Socialism”

April 11, 2012

If my campaign had a nickel for every time I've heard our President called a socialist. . . .

Sometimes I'll ask for an example. The answer is usually "ObamaCare."

More nonsense. Our new "healthcare" legislation was written to transfer the public's money to private corporations connected to the healthcare industry. Where's the "socialism" in this?

Mr. Obama is a corporatist—servant of multinational corporations busy dismantling the U.S. economy, sending our jobs offshore, transferring our wealth from a dying middle class to the Top 1%, and making honest healthcare reform impossible.

Sometimes I'll ask people to help me understand the differences between Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Romney. Just today, someone said, "Obama is black."

Strange. I see him as rich, white, and Wall Street.

Take a look at these alarming numbers:

Table 1. Real Income Growth by Groups, 1993-2010

	Average Income Real Growth	Top 1% Incomes Real Growth	Bottom 99% Incomes Real Growth	Fraction of total growth (or loss) captured by top 1%
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Full period 1993-2010	13.8%	58.0%	6.4%	52%
Clinton Expansion 1993-2000	31.5%	98.7%	20.3%	45%
2001 Recession 2000-2002	-11.7%	-30.8%	-6.5%	57%
Bush Expansion 2002-2007	16.1%	61.8%	6.8%	65%
Great Recession 2007-2009	-17.4%	-36.3%	-11.6%	49%
Recovery 2009-2010	2.3%	11.6%	0.2%	93%

Computations based on family market income including realized capital gains (before individual taxes).

Incomes exclude government transfers (such as unemployment insurance and social security) and non-taxable fringe benefits.

Incomes are deflated using the Consumer Price Index.

“Real Income Growth By Groups, 1993 – 2010”

<http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/saez-UStopincomes-2010.pdf>

299.

“Time to get Serious about US Decline”

April 12, 2012

Just so you know I'm not the only person saying it's

“Time to get Serious about US Decline” by William Pfaff

www.williampfaff.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=567

- Take a trip to Europe or the major Asian states, where everything works beautifully.
- Even the American government luxuriates abroad—“What great fun for the little Obama girls!”
- Why is the U.S. declining?
- First, globalization and what it did to destroy the domestic American economy in which ordinary people live.
- Second, mindless oversimplification and ignorance, from collapsing public education.
- The collapse of American public education has origins politically incorrect to identify: the liberation of women.
- [You'll just have to read the article.]
- Mindless oversimplification and ignorance have created a huge credulous audience for political fantasies, enabling the intellectual corruption of political debate and the monetary corruption of political practice.
- The [usual] agents of possible change—Congress, the national and state parties, broadcasting, and recently the judiciary—are now intellectually, and by personal and institutional interest, committed to the existing system.
- We're facing China, which owns more than we like to think, manufactures or processes most of what we buy, purchases the raw materials of the world, and wants to build aircraft carriers—which, since Japan's carriers were all sunk, has been something we believed only the U.S. could do.
- Shaken by this new Asia, the Obama government has responded by sending the Marines to Australia, where we can be sure their presence will give China's strategists pause. ;-)
- The matter of America's decline is serious for what it means to the character and future of the nation itself, not merely to its rank, reputation, and power in the world.
- We Americans are wasting our traditional values—selling our birthright, as did Esau, for a mess of pottage.

Regarding "political fantasies," Pfaff makes an example of "talk radio and Fox television demagogues." While I don't disagree, I think most of them are bad—left to right—but we're silly to complain. The media are in business to make a buck.

If we expect the media to do our thinking for us, we've no right to complain about the results.

(Setting aside the obvious chicken-and-egg problem. . .)

If globalization and stupidity got us into this mess, the way out of this mess should be equally obvious.

300.

Taxes: 24 Outrageous Facts That Will Blow Your Mind

April 13, 2012

First, in brief, my positions on income tax*:

Personal: Eliminate the personal income tax. It is obsolete and counterproductive. A progressive tax on consumption can reduce our individual tax burden and increase government revenue.

Corporate: Eliminate the corporate income tax. In truth, no corporation has ever paid income tax. When a corporation is taxed, it passes this expense along to you and me in the form of higher prices on goods and services. Corporations are, in this sense, government-mandated tax collectors. When a politician advocates higher corporate income taxes, he or she is really advocating higher personal taxes in disguise.

Next, I thought you'd "enjoy" this from *The Economic Collapse* blog:

"24 Outrageous Facts About Taxes In The United States That Will Blow Your Mind"

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/24-outrageous-facts-about-taxes-in-the-united-states-that-will-blow-your-mind>

*For more details, see "Bob Hall 2012 Presidential Candidacy Announcement"

301.

In every way, we'd all be richer with a poor President

April 15, 2012

Exactly thirty years ago, I was sitting in a cafe in Italy, wearing a custom gabardine suit and drinking Campari with my best gal.

Life was good.

A little more than four years ago, I shut down my business to spend my time and savings raising awareness about our country's economic vulnerability.

Strangely, perhaps, life was even better.

Last night, I flossed and spat another piece of broken tooth—the fourth molar I've lost in four years, the fourth molar I cannot afford to repair. I crawled into my tattered sleeping bag on the floor of yet another borrowed shelter, grateful not to be spending the night in my pickup truck.

I hardly know what to say, except that I heartily recommend it to everyone.

President Obama just filed his 2011 tax return. He and Michelle Obama made \$789,674—down from \$1.7 million in 2010 and \$5.5 million in 2009.

Still, our President is a wealthy man—a very wealthy man.

And, you might know, a very talented performer. I've seen him keep a straight face and claim to represent the American middle class—at the same time!

Certainly, there can be no shortage of talented performers among our wealthy Top 1%—or talented speechwriters, I suspect.

Do you think we're in good hands? Are these wealthy "representatives" of ours capable of representing anything worthwhile?

Do you think they take us seriously? Understand us? Feel what we feel?

I tend to doubt it. Money—especially a little *extra* money—insulates people from the scary stuff.

A *lot* of extra money—which, by the way, I never begrudge an honest man—can insulate us from the good stuff, too, if we're not careful.

Employed Americans, now preoccupied with their own fears, are increasingly disconnected from their less-fortunate brethren. American citizens are turning their backs on one another.

Where's the incentive for wealthy politicians to feel what ordinary citizens feel—and consequently act in the public interest?

Where's the self-sacrifice so essential to public service and to public spirit? It's difficult to imagine any of these Democrats and Republicans voluntarily making any real sacrifices anymore.

(Trading the emotional well-being of one's spouse and children for one's personal ambition does not qualify. This is rather the antithesis of real sacrifice.)

In every way, we'd all be richer with a poor President. Material wealth is no reliable indicator of anything but material wealth—examples abound—and we don't need any more leaders with a lifelong habit of following their greed.

A better-adjusted President could and would devote more of his/her energy to our working and middle classes. More industry and agriculture would create more new wealth. As the real economy grew, even the rich would become richer.

Nothing wrong with opportunity for everyone.

My own poverty might be self-imposed, or it might only have begun with such a commitment. In any case, it's authentic, uncomfortable, and utterly necessary.

I could not do what I'm doing without suffering what our people are suffering. My personal experience must reflect the experience of my fellow citizens.

As my country declines, so must I. To do otherwise would render me a useless fraud.

As my country's infrastructure crumbles, so must my personal infrastructure crumble.

When I have the time and money—or if the physical pain becomes intolerable—I'll see a dentist and a doctor.

Right now, there's work to do—work that will not wait—and my country is more important than my comfort.

I think every Presidential candidate should have the same commitment—don't you?

302.

“What would Jesus do? Probably exactly what you are doing.”

April 16, 2012

Thank you for your responses to “In every way, we'd all be richer with a poor President.”

One was disarmingly practical:

“What would Jesus do? Probably exactly what you are doing.”

It reminds me to try, simply try.

Being > Trying > Doing > Being

Seems to be the natural progression.

Maybe I'm missing something, but I don't think it's really all that difficult. In fact, I'd say it's a lot harder *not* to be, try, and do.

In any case, no matter what your beliefs, please let me know when I'm not doing your God's work.

Maybe I'm missing something, but it seems to me that everybody's God's work is pretty much the same—and not really all that difficult.

303.

Bob Hall interview; China and the death of Latin America

April 17, 2012

“Not Just Two Choices”

www.csctalkradio.com/tracks/041712.mp3

- Thanks again to host Beth Ann for her common sense and uncommon insight. She is a rare and refreshing credit to talk radio.

“China and the death of Latin America”

www.marketwatch.com/story/china-and-the-death-of-latin-america-2012-04-14

- “The division of labor among nations is that some specialize in winning and others in losing.”
- China’s policies in Latin America are driven by its industrial base, whose plan is to produce more than its domestic economy can consume, so that China can flood the rest of the world with hard-currency-earning exports.

- In order to accomplish this goal, China must import raw materials. It is the crudest of beggar-thy-neighbor mercantilism.
- Latin America also appears to be a wide-open market for contraband products. Pirated music, CDs, DVDs, and imitations of design clothing and footwear are notable examples.
- China's easy, unconditional access to Latin America's raw materials needs to be carefully reconsidered by both the region's leaders and its citizens.
- Latin American countries are losing foothold in their own regions and are being all but left behind in high-tech trade in the world economy.
- Chinese business practices are famous for ignoring discussions of local labor laws or sourcing locally available products.
- By design, China will not contribute to knowledge-based, value-added innovation and production in Latin America. Investment in extractive industry research and development will be kept in China.

Is Latin America ready for "Dollar to the Giant" en español?

304.

Don't believe what you read on the Internet—or what you hear from me!

April 19, 2012

Of course, I believe the Internet can be useful for democracy. Whether it will, remains to be seen.

(I'd love to know what goes through people's heads when they read the word "democracy.")

If you wanted to manipulate people's thinking, wouldn't you try to manipulate the Internet?

It's so easy. And the Internet is so easy to hack.

Internet users are much more likely to click on already-popular items. The bad guys know this. There is no easier way to damage something than to make it appear unpopular on the Internet.

Just yesterday, I heard from yet another person who "Liked" something on my Facebook page, but the "Like" did not *appear* on my Facebook page, so it cannot encourage others.

I've heard from voters who tried to sign up with Americans Elect to support my draft candidacy. Some were rejected. Others were accepted, but their support votes for me were not. Only a few were successful. There are some extremely well-known Americans Elect candidates whose counters show even fewer votes than mine. Americans Elect, like the Internet, could be good for democracy, but the potential for mischief is unlimited and the downside has no bottom.

Nearly four years ago, "Dollar to the Giant" began its first run on YouTube. It did well, considering, and racked up a little more than 10,000 views in a year—or so said the YouTube view counter. During that year, I watched the view counter go backwards on more than one occasion, while the video got some nasty comments from Shanghai.

Please understand: I would not ask anyone *not* to click—responsibly—to see why something is popular. Lady Gaga can be formidable. But she'll never give you a job or put money in your pocket.

Now about the second part of my subject line:

On Tuesday, on the radio*, I said *The Economist* is owned by News Corporation.

I was wrong.

I got the misinformation from the Internet, but this did not make me less wrong.

I am sorry if my mistake caused you any trouble.

*I've been told it was a good show. You can download the MP3 here:

www.csctalkradio.com/tracks/041712.mp3

305.

Inspiring Quotes from Makers & Writers of American History

April 24, 2012

From legendary American historian Charles Beard:

It is sobering to reflect that one of the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our founding fathers used in the struggle for independence.

From legendary American Theodore Roosevelt:

It is well if a large proportion of the leaders in any republic, in any democracy, are, as a matter of course, drawn from the classes represented in this audience to-day; **but only provided that those classes possess the gifts of sympathy with plain people and of devotion to great ideals.** You and those like you have received special advantages; you have all of you had the opportunity for mental training; many of you have had leisure; most of you have had a chance for enjoyment of life far greater than comes to the majority of your fellows. To you and your kind much has been given, and from you much should be expected. Yet there are certain failings against which it is especially incumbent that both men of trained and cultivated intellect, and men of inherited wealth and position should especially guard themselves, because to these failings they are especially liable; and if yielded to, their- your- chances of useful service are at an end. Let the man of learning, the man of lettered leisure, **beware of that queer and cheap temptation to pose to himself and to others as a cynic, as the man who has outgrown emotions and beliefs, the man to whom good and evil are as one. The poorest way to face life is to face it with a sneer. There are many men who feel a kind of twister pride in cynicism; there are many who confine themselves to criticism of the way others do what they themselves dare not even attempt. There is no more unhealthy being, no man less worthy of respect, than he who either really holds, or feigns to hold, an attitude of sneering disbelief toward all that is great and lofty, whether in achievement or in that noble effort which, even if it fails, comes to second achievement.** A cynical habit of thought and speech, a readiness to criticise work which the critic himself never tries to perform, an intellectual aloofness which will not accept contact with life's realities - all these are marks, not as the possessor would fain to think, of superiority but of weakness. They mark the men unfit to bear their part painfully in the stern strife of living, who seek, in the affection of contempt for the achievements of others, to hide from others and from themselves in their own weakness. The rôle is easy; there is none easier, save only the rôle of the man who sneers alike at both criticism and performance.

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Shame on the man of cultivated taste who permits refinement to develop into fastidiousness that unfits him for doing the rough work of a workaday world. Among the free peoples who govern themselves there is but a small field of usefulness open for the men of cloistered life who shrink from contact with their fellows. Still less room is there for those who deride of slight what is done by those who actually bear the brunt of the day; **nor yet for those others who always profess that they would like to take action, if only the conditions of life were not exactly what they actually are. The man who does nothing cuts the same sordid figure in the pages of history, whether he be a cynic, or fop, or voluptuary.** There is little use for the being whose tepid soul knows nothing of great and generous emotion, of the high pride, the stern belief, the lofty enthusiasm, of the men who quell the storm and ride the thunder. Well for these men if they succeed; well also, though not so well, if they fail, given only that they have nobly ventured, and have put forth all their heart and strength. It is war-worn Hotspur, spent with hard fighting, he of the many errors and valiant end, over whose memory we love to linger, not over the memory of the young lord who "but for the vile guns would have been a valiant soldier."

306.

Idea for a TV reality show. Let me know what you think.

April 25, 2012

An idea for a TV reality show:

We'll follow the lives of several American families.

They can all trace their roots to foreign countries with limited opportunity and freedom. Most people were undereducated. Most of the wealth—and tools of wealth creation—were controlled by a small ruling class. The production and sale of goods—and the land, and the factories—were controlled by a small ruling class.

Our families' ancestors left their countries of origin for America, where they could produce and sell their own goods. They could own factories and land. They could create their own wealth. They could elect their own government and create their own laws to ensure continuing opportunity and freedom—for themselves and for future generations.

Our families' ancestors prospered and built the wealthiest country, with the largest middle class, in all of human history.

Strangely, however, they remained undereducated. Their previous lack of knowledge was replaced by a wealth of misinformation.

A new ruling class emerged. Instead of preying upon existing ignorance, it fostered new ignorance. The goals of the new ruling class were the same as ever: to seize existing wealth and control the tools of wealth creation—including the tools of ignorance creation.

Fast forward to 2012:

We follow the lives of several American families "under the spell," as it were, of the new ruling class. We'll watch and laugh and ridicule as they:

- Actually believe the nonsense disseminated by the ruling class through its media.
- Willingly surrender their government and laws to the ruling class by voting for its representatives.
- Transfer their property to the ruling class through an endlessly entertaining and absurd variety of financial mechanisms.
- Purchase the foreign goods offered them by the ruling class and wonder why their economy isn't as good as it used to be.
- Surrender their tools of wealth creation, thus effecting a permanent transfer of power to the ruling class.

Our narrative will not stray from the tried and true:

- Ignorance
- Greed

- Classical hubris: insolence in prosperity
- Humiliation—lots and lots and lots of humiliation. After all, this is a "reality" show.

Because the ruling class is exploiting the U.S. economy while investing so heavily in the communist dictatorship of the People's Republic of China, "Season Two 2013" of our reality show will be even more exciting as:

- The ruling class discovers its shortsightedness, and its Faustian bargain with China, but it's too late.
- The People's Republic of China has its own agenda and little remaining use for the ruling class.
- The East formalizes its historically unprecedented conquest of the West.
- The ruling class—the western division, that is—finds itself destitute and powerless.
- More specifically: the unfortunate survivors find themselves destitute and powerless.

Note: for our reality show to be realistic, the ruling class's witless capitulation to China cannot possibly benefit our subject American families.

Also, consider a subplot or two. For example, we can look at foreigners who were brought to America against their will and enslaved by the ruling class—in one way or another, in perpetuity, through legal means in which they, too, have become complicit.

So what do you think? Is this all too unrealistic for a reality show?

307.

Today's Unemployment Report Baloney

May 4, 2012

This morning, our ever-helpful government reported an April U-3 unemployment rate of 8.1%—down from 8.2% in March.

<http://bls.gov/home.htm>

Not for nothing is U-3 known as the "headline" rate.

U-6 unemployment—always under-reported—remained unchanged at 14.5%.

Neither U-3 nor U-6 recognizes our long-term unemployed and discouraged, who were legislated out of existence by the Clinton administration in 1994—now filed under "Not In Labor Force."

"Long-term" unemployment is more than one year—particularly interesting now that the average length of unemployment is 39.1 weeks:

<http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/UEMPMEAN>

Shadow Government Statistics includes our long-term unemployed and discouraged in its calculations. According to ShadowStats, April unemployment was 22.3%—up from 22.2% in March.

www.shadowstats.com

I thought you'd like to know. Have a good weekend and please check your inbox on Tuesday.

308.

Fear-Fallen Children

May 7, 2012

Fear-Fallen Children: "Dollar to the Giant" Chronicles & Comments June 2008 to Date notably resisting America's Shift from Wealth Creation to Wealth Transfer and Surrender—by Bob Hall, citizen

Reading this book changed my life.

Feel free to pass it along to as many people as you like—or don't like.

Please pass it along to as many people as you can.

No charge.

Thank you.

DttG e-mail attachment: *Fear-Fallen Children* [PDF]

To request a copy:

309.

The Missing Volcker Testimony

May 10, 2012

Verifying the links in *Fear-Fallen Children*, I was disturbed by the number of articles altered and removed since I originally referenced them. For example, the U.S. House of Representatives deleted former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's simple, powerful testimony of 2/26/09 sometime after I linked it in "EU Crisis & EU Trade Deficit: Not Particular EU Genius." (*Fear-Fallen Children* #208)

In "Trade Deficit Surges, Economy and Jobs Hammered, Washington Clueless" (*Fear-Fallen Children* #139) I wrote: "The current administration of Wall Street insiders managed to silence former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker after he blurted the simple-and-obvious truth."

Mr. Volcker is one Fed Chairman who should not be silenced. I have attached to this e-mail a copy of Paul Volcker's missing 2/26/09 testimony on the 2008 (and ongoing) economic crisis.

You'll see that Volcker addresses the financial markets and players, and I've little doubt this alarmed Wall Street. For now, let's look at what Volcker has to say about our trade deficit. In his own words:

- My first point is to emphasize an essential longer-term reality.
- The present crisis grew out of a serious and unsustainable imbalance in the United States and world economies.
- . . . made possible by a high level of imports, a collapse in personal savings, and large trade and current account deficits.
- China, Japan and other countries were eager to export and willing to acquire and hold trillions of U.S. dollars. . . .
- . . . the strong increase in housing prices [gave] the illusion of wealth creation.
- . . . the first and most fundamental lesson of the crisis is that future policy should be alert to, and take appropriate measures to deal with, persistent and ultimately destabilizing economic imbalances.

Also interested in trade, Wall Street and the Fed-level banks—and the politicians they pay for—are notorious for sending the real American economy offshore and destroying America's middle class. The hidden Washington-Wall Street agenda is one of globalization, though one might argue it is not very well hidden. In "CPA Features Bob Hall Fed Rebuttal, USA TODAY Abandons USA, We Connect Some Old Dots" (*Fear-Fallen Children* #144) I quoted this classic from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas:

"We hear that exports are good because they support U.S. industry but imports are bad because they steal business from domestic producers. Actually, imports are the real fruits of trade because the end goal of economic activity is consumption. Exports represent resources we don't consume at home. This is how we pay for what we buy abroad, and we're better off when we pay as little as possible. Mercantilism, with its mania for exporting, lost favor for good reason."

The Fed's expert advice might be hilarious if it weren't so treasonous. Keep your eyes on these guys. They're not our central bankers—not yours and mine, they're not—and they don't necessarily wish us well.

310.

Do you ever wonder why life in America isn't what it used to be?

May 11, 2012

Do you ever wonder why life in America isn't what it used to be?

A country is an economy. Our economy is dying.

Dying—as in . . . "dying."

We used to be the richest country the world had ever seen—we produced and shipped like no other before—but we haven't enjoyed a trade surplus since 1975.

1975. The U.S. has been losing to foreign competitors since 1975.

(If you were born after 1975, ask your parents to tell you what things were like when America still made them.)

We the (formerly happier, healthier) People have been developing foreign economies and depleting our own for 37 years.

Not only do those foreign economies now control the tools of prosperity,

They tell us what to think—and we think it.

New from the U.S. Census Bureau:

“U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, March 2012”

www.census.gov/foreign-trade/data

- March Deficit: \$51.8 billion—14% more horrific than February.
- Goods Deficit: \$67.6 billion.
- Imports: \$238.6 billion—a new all-time record.
- Goods Imports: \$200.3 billion—another new all-time record.

2012 is on schedule to break some yearly all-time-history-of-the-planet records as well: Trade Deficit and Trade Deficit with a Single Country.

(You know which country.)

My previous message reminded readers that former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker said our current economic pain "was made possible by a high level of imports . . . and large trade and current account deficits."

Yet Mr. Volcker's former employer urges imports:

"The Fruits of Free Trade"

www.dallasfed.org/assets/documents/fed/annual/2002/ar02.pdf

and input from the Chinese Communist Party:

"Fed clears China's first US bank takeover"

www.afp.com/en/node/105982

Meanwhile, the Democrats and Republicans court their multinational sponsors, carefully avoiding any mention of the U.S. trade deficit.

Now, do you still wonder why life in America isn't what it used to be?

Contact Information

E-mail: BobHall2012@Gmail.com

Campaign Page: www.facebook.com/BobHall2012Campaign

To subscribe to “Dollar to the Giant” e-mailings: DollarToTheGiant@Gmail.com

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