

Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of March 26, 2009

(written on 3/21/2009)

On Being Respectful

The ancient Romans held to a belief that the head of each home and the official head of the Roman family-at-large, the emperor or the Caesar, was under the guidance of an abstract or impersonal power which they called genius. Those who resisted the will of a family leader were *infamila* or as we would put it outside the family, i.e., infamous.

Resistance shown to the appointed leader was interpreted as disrespect and even contrary to reason because the unseen powers would, of course, discern what was best for a particular family or nation.

Those who saluted the head of the Romans saying "Hail Caesar!" were deferring to the genius or the power that rested on Caesar. The assumption, purely an assumption, was that Caesar knew what was best because the Roman family had its own genius. Therefore if the armies of Caesar returned victorious from their exploits then his supporters and sycophants could point to that as proof that their leader was blessed by heaven and that the gods were with him.

Obama is no genius, nor does he have a genius, an abstract power guiding him. I predict that his economic policies will fail. Because I am not a Roman, I do not salute him. I am an American, which means that I will give him a chance to prove himself, but if he shows himself inept then I will address him as the president of these United States only out of courtesy. If I meet him I will say "Mr. President" when really I would like to say "Hey, you seem to have lost your way, and your advisors are as dim-sighted as you, especially Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner."

Keeping my Cool

But why should I be so uptight so that I have to swallow my words and not show any disrespect? Because I now know that Milton Friedman was right when he said, "The problem is the government." He might have said that the government doesn't know that it has a problem because the government lives in denial. So it doesn't matter who is at the helm of government. He can be a white or black man. Once he has been given power he has to be watched especially if Congress lets him plan the economy - always a dangerous thing.

Now I do not mean to say that I would not speak my mind to Obama if I should meet him. I only mean to say that I will address him with courtesy. If I met him I would say the following:

Mr. President, you have surrounded yourself with those who believe that unless we embrace Socialism the control of the nation will be surrendered to big business. Well, let me assure you that conservatives know that no one entity should solely be in control of the state - not business,

science, church, or even the state. The state belongs to the people. Just because business is allowed a voice in our affairs, and because some of us do not believe that the purpose of government is the alleviation of want like the Socialists, does not mean that big business has wrested the government from the people.

Now I would say that to Obama because it goes to the heart of the matter. Why does the state exist? Does it exist in order to promote liberty, from which I can take opportunity by the tail and make a life for myself, or does it exist in order to **guarantee** me a life that the state thinks everyone should have? If it is the latter where will this end? And what will happen if the state thinks that it has the right to take what is mine and give it to someone else? Is there no privacy? I would suggest that it takes no genius to see where this will end up.

A blind man could see that Obama's fiscal policies are rooted in the desire to go beyond equal opportunity to equal results. And that if he has to he will take what is yours and give it to someone else in order to accomplish his purpose.

Does Obama Have Genius?

The Obama administration, if you can call it that, has already defaulted. There is a kid in the Oval Office, and we put him there.

No president has ever appeared as inept as Obama in so short a time. Just 60 days into his presidency, we know that Barack Obama would make a good high school senior class president, but that is not the position to which he was recently elected to. Obama is the chosen leader of 300 million Americans, the acknowledged head of the free world.

Obama was elected to a job that he does not understand - the job of fixing the U.S. economy which has a commanding influence on the world's economy. His treasury secretary Geithner is about to unveil a plan that is essentially the same thing that got us into the mess we are in now. I don't see the difference, except that now the mortgages that have gone bad will come under the canopy of insurance so that they can be regulated. Geithner is planning on selling defaulted mortgages, or portions of them, to those who will take a chance on them. Isn't this the same kind of mess?

A Reuters report reads, "The government is planning to set up an entity run by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Treasury will hire outside investment managers to run public-private partnerships to buy up the troubled mortgages, with government capital matching private capital contributions, according to the source."

Now the taxpayer is at the craps table at the federal casino! Where does this end? Don't liberals ever admit their mistakes?

Now it might be different behind closed doors. I am certain that many liberals know that the confidence they once had in Obama has been misplaced. They just won't give conservatives the satisfaction of admitting it. They suspect that his fiscal plan will crash and burn. They now may

realize that they not only elected an activist/politician, but that they chose someone who has reduced the presidency to on-the-job training, and that a man's job has been given to a boy.

Recently this boy reviewed his NCAA picks. Here is a guy that can't assemble an able staff, but he fill out college basketball brackets. The British bitterly complain that when they call Washington on money matters that Geithner, possibly a tax cheat, still does not have his staff in place. Not to mention Obama returning Winston Churchill's bust to England!

Liberals know already that while the Democrats won the White House, they just might lose their place in the sun. It is likely that the mid-term elections will turn things around for the Republicans. You can only be patient so long with a teenager. Eventually we may shout, "The American way or the highway!"

Blacks, who voted 98% in favor of Obama, may be beginning to feel the heat. It is my guess that they now appreciate the way in which Jews have kept their distance from the highest office in the land. Jews know that if things go wrong with the economy that conspiracy theories will multiply like rabbits.

In another time and place none of this would have mattered, but as Thomas Payne stated, "These are the times that try men's souls." The U.S Labor Department reports [3/19/09] that there are 372 metropolitan districts in America, and that from them only one has showed an increase in employment.

Apparently, the economy does not respond to hype. Obama has raised his staff over the waters, but they have not parted. Meanwhile his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says that America will have to pay for much of the rebuilding of Gaza even though we had nothing to do with its destruction. And these are the same people who are complaining about retention bonuses for AIG executives who earned those bonuses, as super-sized as they may be.

Ever yours,

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