

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of May 13, 2010

May 13, 2010

David Cameron

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

10 Downing Street

London SW1A 2AA

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your recent showing at the polls. All my conservative friends in St. Louis, Missouri, and beyond, hope that this is a portent of the future for both of our countries. Be assured you have friends and admirers in America. We are simply delighted.

The Anglo-Saxon respect for personal liberty accompanied by its traditional desire to pursue fiscal soundness was very much in evidence in the recent election. Once more Great Britain has pointed the way for the rest of us. I am therefore pleased to have to address this letter of encouragement to 10 Downing Street. This will be your finest hour.

Of course you may be overwhelmed at the prospect of sitting where once Winston Churchill sat, who faced and talked down a formidable enemy, but I would have you to know that you are where you should be. This time the enemies the Brits are confronting are the maddening fiscal policies of Socialists who if left to pursue their goals will introduce the world to hardships as yet unknown. Peoples already lifted from grinding poverty through the medium of free enterprise will be forced to return to the feudal ages.

As I see it you must hold on to and continue to defend free enterprise. Wasn't free enterprise Britain's gift to the world? The Prussians when having to contend with free enterprise referred to it as "English!" And so, then stand by it as if it were the Union Jack. **If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."** [George Orwell]

Both of our countries as one of your own party has said are dancing by the edge of an abyss. The fiscal policies of Socialists, which have held sway for so long, have brought us to the brink of ruin. What is happening in Greece at this time not only could happen in both of our nations, but is likely to happen. However, more and more people are admitting that our makeshift wings have brought us too close to the sun. Our place is in a real world, not an imaginary, utopian world existing somewhere above the ether level where bill collectors never pay a call. We simply cannot spend money we do not have nor will ever have. Socialism will always be eschatology because it cannot live up to its promises.

Isn't it strange, while Socialism is imploding all over the world, America is now thinking of becoming another statistic by adopting its tenets? Please, sir, come and speak to our Congress and put some sense into its members. We need a revival of good old Yankee common sense. If we have to import it from Britain, all good and well, just as long as we commit to it.

No doubt those on the left will suggest that our two countries tax our way out of our predicament as if to say that the money we earn belongs to the government and not to us. I am reminded therefore of that man whom the Americans think is the father of modern conservatives Edmund Burke who formerly was required reading in American schools. He said, **“Taxing is an easy business. Any projector can contrive new impositions, any bungler can add to the old . . . They defend their errors as if they were defending their inheritance.”**

Prime Minister Cameron, I have a favor to ask of you, one that you could comply with easily enough. When you come to the United States, presumably to meet with President Barack Obama in July, I want you to give him a gift. By all accounts Obama has a retarded understanding of personal liberty and free enterprise. Then why not give him Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*? This is right and proper. One American scholar has drawn up a chart proving that after Smith published his monumental work in 1776, a dramatic upturn in the standard of living for the average American took place. You would agree with me I am certain that this was no coincidence.

Smith's great work, which the founding fathers of America quoted from liberally, would suggest that he could have easily been made an honorary member of Congress. The vote would have been unanimous. Smith appealed to the founders because he put into words what everyone of sound political mind knows is true: liberty and prosperity go hand in hand.

Little else is requisite to carry a state to the highest degree of opulence from the lowest barbarism, but peace, easy taxes, and a tolerable administration of justice; all the rest being brought about by the natural course of things. All governments which thwart this natural course which force things into another channel or which endeavor to arrest the progress of society at a particular point, are unnatural, and to support themselves are obliged to be oppressive and tyrannical. [Adam Smith]

God bless you, your family, and the British people, who when I attended college in the United Kingdom were as hospitable to me as Nestor was to Telemachus,

Rev. Stephen Cakouros

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