

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of March 17, 2011

Socialism and the Churches: A Bronx Autobiography

Part Two

I have made some good decisions in life and some that I regret. Who among us cannot say that?

One good decision was to leave the South Bronx. The Bronx still has the lowest per capita income in United States.

The best way to determine the per capita income of any one nation is to take the GDP (Gross Domestic Product or what a nation manufactures) and divide it by how many people live in that nation. The GDP per capita income in America for 2008 was \$46,841 because the GDP for the same year was \$14,265 trillion. This made us tenth in the world. In the 2010 book *Presmetrics: What the facts tell us about how presidents measure up on issues we care about*, Mike Kimel, Michael E. Kannell, and Nigel Holmes tell us that the only countries that beat our GDP are oil rich countries like Qatar and Kuwait which have small populations. So even during a recession our nation of 300 million made a very respectable showing. To the chagrin of all leftists, American Capitalism has left blessings in its wake.

Departing the Bronx was not only a good decision from the standpoint of economics.

I served my country and also saw the land that folk singer Woody Guthrie sang about - "This land is your land . . ." Little did I know at the time that Guthrie had some ideas about land that I would have found startling.

Lauren Weiner in her article "Where Have All the Lefties Gone?" tells us that Guthrie had knee-jerk reaction to Irving Berlin's song *God Bless America* (maybe because it mentioned God); so he picked up his guitar. Some of his original verses of this famous song "denounced property rights." The shadow of the Kremlin must have fallen over that original manuscript because in the Soviet Union, you could own your house but not the land on which it stood. Would you be surprised to discover that Guthrie using a *non de plume* wrote for that old Communist rag sheet the *Daily Worker* which you could find lying around my invalid father's apartment?

Thank You God!

Now I mean to tell you that I have been blessed. Something I learned in the Bronx has come in handy. I know how to tell the good guys from the bad. In the Bronx the bad guys went around bullying everyone else.

The bad guys in politics are those who do the same thing, and who believe in the central planning of the economy. These guys may not have bent noses and cauliflower ears (Is Pelosi's nose bent?) but they apply just as much muscle when strong arming-banks. It is axiomatic; the government cannot take control of any part of the economy without at the same time limiting the freedom of its peoples.

President George W. Bush (Bush 43) was a bad guy. He liked to throw his weight around, bullying banks, insurance companies, the military, the CIA, the Iraqi people, and you and me. 43 even belongs to a network of bullies that he hooked up with at Yale University which went under the name of Skull and Bones or the Brotherhood of Death. These guys, elitists every one, are prepared to bully the whole world in order to fashion for themselves a New World Order. Bush's father is also a member for life of Skull and Bones as was his father before him. As a matter of fact President George H. W. Bush (41) used the phrase "New World Order" in one of his speeches so many times that on hearing it I began to believe that he was preparing us for the near future.

President Barack Obama is a bully, too, but he adds a special twist. He is so full of himself that he has rushed in where angels fear to tread. At least Bush 43 didn't mess with God. At this very moment Obama is trying to regulate what military chaplains can or cannot say about homosexuality. If he has his way, and if my sources are accurate, chaplains will not be able to criticize homosexual behavior as sinful. Now if I were Obama I would be careful; I have seen more than one bully receive just retribution.

There is only one way to handle a bully. I learned how in the Bronx. You have to stand up to him. So here goes -

"President Obama don't play the fool, you are trespassing on the Lord's turf. You have said that you are a Christian, but your actions are incompatible with Christian beliefs. Chaplains who resist what you are attempting to do will have God on their side. That will place you on a decline, one that may prove to be your undoing."

Britannia

How truly blessed I am became apparent when I chose to study abroad. In Great Britain the government had taken over the economy. The solution to every problem facing British business was to cede all or a portion of that industry to the powers that be.

The country that gave us Adam Smith, author of *Wealth of Nations*, stood by and watched while the Socialist Labor Party, which swept in after the Second World War, placed industry in a hammer lock. Socialists got concessions that unions in America could only dream of obtaining.

Wherever Socialism enters, liberty will exit. Freedoms once regarded as sacred by the Brits were immediately compromised. A planned economy of necessity must interrupt freedom. For

example, in the name of efficiency a number of different agencies could enter your home without a warrant. Before the arrival of Socialism, Sir Edward Coke's statement, "For a man's house is his castle and each man's home is his safest refuge." would have made such an invasion impossible.

Empty Pews

While I was in the United Kingdom I wanted to determine why most churches were empty. The churches in Britain were like a university lecture hall during spring break. Buildings that could seat a thousand had congregations of thirty or less on Sunday morning.

My first thought was that it was due to the rise of Higher Criticism, or what scholars call the Wellhausen theory. The Wellhausen School of Germany had created the impression throughout Europe that the Holy Bible was not all that it was cracked up to be and that it had more or less been thrown together. And as we know, so goes the Bible, so goes the churches.

However, troubling as the Wellhausen theory was for Christendom, I came to the conclusion that it had little or nothing to do with empty pews. So, why were they collecting dust week after week? The Socialists had outsmarted the Christians. A plan as devious and diabolical as any in history was met with great success. Jesus said that the children of this generation, that is the children of the world, are wiser than the children of light. In Britain the children of light were caught unfortified.

In particular, the left-eyed World Missionary Conference held its first meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1910 with great fanfare. Its purpose was in fact the complete evangelization of the world. The Left became interested because it knew that it could ride the church's coattails to world domination. Interest was piqued also on the left also because they realize that Christianity and collectivism must at some point clash. Certainly Christians believe that it is harder for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven, but they do not deny him a place in the scheme of things, nor do they believe that he has no right to own what he owns free and clear of the government.

Christians know that private property/personal wealth is one of the rights of man.

Over time the people of the Left were able to infiltrate what began in Edinburgh so that the emphasis fell on ecumenicity and coming together, and not on evangelism. Eventually the World Council of Churches came into being [1937] which was left of center.

We may go further. Organizations such as the Left Book Club (financed by the Communist publisher Victor Gollancz) with its numerous discussion groups meeting around Britain, was able to convince the British that "religion" in the words of Lenin is "the opiate of the people." I met many workers in Great Britain who sang Lenin's refrain.

The Left flavored this by insinuating that the people who go to church are all hypocrites, and that they are characterized by narrowness of soul. Hollywood ably assisted in the 1941 film *How Green Is Your Valley* about a Welsh mining village. It is a classic example of how Hollywood can influence people to believe that church people, with very few exceptions, are narrow and hateful. The antagonists are people who attend church. I met a many everyday people in Britain who gave me the impression that they held Christians in contempt.

Britain's church attendance has declined in a nation that at one time sent out more missionaries than any other, in part because groups like the Fabian Society (headed up by Communists like George Bernard Shaw) were able to convince people that a just society is one in which economic equality has been realized. They also taught the masses that the church was dubious because it taught its followers that nurturing the spiritual is of more importance than the equality of earthly conditions.

The Cure

Much time has passed since I was a student preacher in Great Britain but not much has changed. The Left still believes like my father that the government exists in order to give us things; and that if the churches don't conform, they should be eliminated. I can still remember my father's spirited rants against churches and clerics who in his opinion were altogether a bad lot, and if not bad then useless. They had to be useless because there is no hereafter.

Christianity rests on the notion that another life follows this one, Socialism on the notion that this is the only life we will ever know because the physical cosmos contains the sum of reality.

There is a remedy for Socialism - open and read your Bible!

Live as I did where the majority of the citizens believe that the government is your nanny, and you will soon discover that our system is better by far. And should you think that a national health system like the one Obama wants is desirable, a one-payer system, you would only have to use the one-payer system that the Brits are stuck with (where it takes two years to get a hip replacement and dentists are as rare as centaurs) and you will be cured of the disease that goads you into leaning on the government.

No matter who (either Thomas Jefferson or Barry Goldwater) first spoke these words, "Any government that is big enough to give you what you want is big enough to take it away." is still steadfastly true.

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

oldlineconservative.com