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A Fact—Pie In The Sky—Or Just Plain BS?

I awoke this morning at a Loves Truck Stop, Pasco, Washington, a beautiful state that I deplore. Here, a person is not allowed to defend themselves (if you carry a gun it needs be unloaded). Washington also ranks high—as a state that despises the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. Here an Antifa miscreant can hit you upside the head with a bicycle chain—hours later on bail be out walking. Here, BLM are not arrested.

But something hopeful. From a line of toilet stalls, 2 truckers were singing along with Toby Keith—*I'm Not The Man I Once Was*. Then minutes later, a guy who lives in a \$500 SUV—that breaks down everywhere. His trailer pad rent in Long Beach, Washington got raised from \$500/to/\$1200—a reminder, the US is not the place it once was.

What that tells us is there is nothing Powell/Trump can do—too late to cut—too late to raise. Instead, we are in hopeless stagflation, with deflation/inflation fighting it out. Trump's tariffs will bring 10% inflation, yearly, leaving the only viable safe haven—gold.

Regarding my thesis: you can't understand economics without being schooled in politics—the opposite is also true, I want to comment on positions taken in both fields, weighing whether a position is backed-up with facts, pie in the sky—or is plain bullshit.

Two old friends took me to task over my views on Russia's Crimea referendum/Special Military Operation (SMO), invasion into Ukraine. The SMO wasn't a war, but a shot across NATO's bow. For NATO weaponizing and Ukraine's repression/slaughter of Russian-speakers in Donbas, Russia demanded an EU/US/Russia security agreement.

Russia wanted neither territory nor dead Ukrainians. For any who researched, even mildly, this is proxy war, on behalf of US/NATO. Russia was to be broken up, its geologic wealth divvied-up by cronies. To that end, the US would give anything—but blood.

Ukraine and Russia initialed a peace treaty (2022), until asshole BRITS/US coerced Zelensky to offer up his nation and his young—to be slaughtered for the US Empire.

If you don't understand that Russia was compelled to conduct a referendum in Crimea (overseen by much of the world/supported by 90% of Crimea), turn off CNN and do some homework. If you think more Russians have been killed than Ukrainians, you are being duped. Not long ago it was 8/1—now its closer to 15/1 Ukrainians for 1 Russian. The Ukrainian war had nothing to do with the Ukrainian people. Polling done, just previous to the Russian invasion, found few Ukrainians willing to fight for UKR, against the Russians. These are facts, which Americans have traded for—plain bullshit.

What about Trump's tariffs—actually sanctions? They are a misunderstood tax on Americans. Forget the bullshit about all the dollars coming back to the US. Global manufacturing cannot do business with illegal sanctions that change from day to day. All nations were sanctioned on day 1, now raised for nations buying Russian oil/supporting a Palestinian state. Forced coercion—nothing to do with governance. Plain BS.

If you feel inclined to call Putin a thug, go back and listen to 1st term Trump gloating about stealing Venezuela's oil. Then ask yourself who it is

that's a thug? Plain BS.

How about Scott Bessent (Trump), projecting tariffs so high as to pay down the deficit, creating an economic climate where we grow our way out of the debt? C'mon, we aren't growing our way out of anything. In actuality, Trump's spending, to take on China, suggests insanity and a hastening economic collapse of the US. It's plain BS. Pam Bondi (Justice), with oligarch Trump, has sidelined lawsuits against hundreds of corporations accused of cornering markets in attempts to create monopolies. Think back on the inauguration. Bezos/Zuck, cozying-up/sharing Trump's lap. Plain BS.

Many of us wanted/want to hold out hope for Trump—some more than others. In that group I find Andy Schectman (CEO Miles Franklin Precious Metals), harboring an opinion that Trump re-valuing gold and using repatriated wealth, just might get our economy back on track. Andy is deserving of respect. He has mine—I probably spend a few hours a week listening to him. But, as for this particular thesis—more pie in the sky.

Michelle Makori, the head of Miles Franklin Media, in a recent podcast with Andy said the US has the largest gold reserves. Michelle, even if the US had 8200 tons (bet you a coffee they don't), China (in actuality), has much more than that. Adding to that, Trump's economic policies (across the board), are making things worse. Sorry, pie in the sky. That said, Andy's recent interview on *little by little*, with Ravi Farver—superb!

Some things that are facts: JD Vance says globalization failed because nations didn't remain subservient manufacturers for the US—foreigners began to innovate. Not long ago Japan/Michigan controlled a large part of solar manufacturing—now China controls 98%. JD echoes words of his patron Peter Thiel, 'competition is for losers'. It's BS.

Interest-rate cuts, besides undermining the US economy in the long run, are for banks—they don't necessarily translate to the consumer. Nobody is

looking out for you.

Only \$7B of \$350B, stolen Russian FOREX, are held in the US. The rest resides mainly in countries looking forward to using them to sustain their own bad economies. It would serve Trump, dealing with Russia, to have those funds transferred to the US.

Las Vegas is a barometer of how well the US is viewed by global vacationers—this summer it's a vacation nightmare—I'll offer thoughts—next article). China has become a destination—39 countries travel visa free. China is even more safe than Japan—many leave bikes unlocked and keys in the ignition. Try that along the Las Vegas Strip.

Some other facts that self-identify as BS in our world. Zelensky is the 2nd-most trusted person online. It used to be that the average 1st-time home buyer was 30 years old—now it's 56. And a fact I can't prove: Covid lockdowns were more successful than elites even hoped for. Now, a further dumbing down of America is found in AI overdrive.

A first-time fact: Americans, negative on Pharma, outweigh those neutral and positive.

It's not easy to glean the facts, but it's an imperative. What keeps persons from admitting they're wrong? Does ego/hubris keep them in that place? It does, but ego when stripped down to the fundamentals reduces and offers up a person with low-self worth.

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