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*California—The Golden State Has Lost It's Luster*

John Steinbeck in his "Grapes of Wrath" saw the Joad family leave the Oklahoma Dust Bowl for the 'pastures of plenty'—thought to be California. Now that tale is retold in song by "The Flatlanders", Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely, and Butch Hancock: "Now I'm leaving California for the Dust Bowl—They took it all, there's nowhere else to go—The pastures of plenty are burning by the sea—And I'm just a homeland refugee".

What's happened to the hope of a nation that at one time centered around California? In 1950, at the onset of the great migration, California's population was less than 10 million. 70 years later there were more than 40 million Californians. A problem, for sure, but many nations have thrived with greater population density than California.

Leaving no doubt as to how I view the problem, I'll name it—Gavin Newsom. Though not the only problem, he represents an out-of-touch-ness that is now California. Recently, his opposition attempted to recall him—a stupid move in a state that voted 2 to 1 for Joe Biden. That failed recall solidified support for his policies as well as himself, pumping-up his ego with sufficient hubris to make a run for president this next election.

The problem with Newsom (along with his support base), is that he is an ideologue, on the bandwagon to eliminate 'carbon emissions'—as did each of his recent predecessors. Jerry Brown set similar mandates, followed up by 'Arnold the Terminator'. Goals that were never met, that instead resulted in increased energy costs for workers.

Without getting too far into it, does anyone really know if humans have altered global climate? I don't, but after having experienced 'Covid madness', I am not impressed by large numbers of 'bought and sold' scientists', signing on, or affirming 'climate change'.

The 'climate changers' had best be right because their actions (as did Covid lockdowns/'vaccines'), are fraught with potential catastrophe, likely greater than 'carbon emissions'. With 'global warming' morphed into 'climate change', either being difficult to prove, the consequences for idiotic policies of carbon reduction are clearly provable.

The ideology behind carbon reduction involves actions such as Dutch farmers disallowed nitrogen-based fertilizers, dictated to kill-off herds, and banned from 'fossil fuels'.

For 'fossil fuels' there is no viable alternative. Still the ideologues say there is—electricity. The switch to electricity is now an 'imperative'—no matter the cost. The consequence for Californians has energy consumers paying 29% more for fuel than the US national average, with another 3 cent gas tax added just this week.

Ideological climate-leadership fails to calculate the effect of this madness on the working poor. Apples for apples, electricity is 4X as expensive as NG, and electrical rates in California, 2008 to 2021, have increased 5X as fast as the national average. Also, mandating all vehicles to EV in California will draw another 25% from an already beleaguered grid. Besides, mandating electricity steps backwards to the use of coal.

The problem with 'true believers' (with unshakeable beliefs in place), is an immunity from 'thinking things through', and consistently wreaking utter destruction. California has become the poster child. Here's the analogy: most everyone knows the dollar is going to collapse in terms of purchasing power—the only thing debatable is when. As with the dollar, California has likely already failed—with results still to come. 100s of 1000s of 'homeland refugees' (rich/poor), have and are leaving the state, begging the question: when does California collapse? Meanwhile California adds to its regulations.

And though you wouldn't think so, the Golden State is the poorest state in the union. More than a third of Californians live in or near poverty. Los Angeles, its biggest city, has one of the largest poverty rates for large US cities. With known woes for the poor, the Air Resources Board banned the sale of any internal combustion engines, by 2035.

Along with \$6.50 gasoline (1/3 more than the US average), natural gas appliances/heaters in new homes and businesses are disallowed—more regressive taxes for wage earners. And, as of 2020, single-family homes and multi-family buildings, up to 3 stories high, must have solar panels on the roofs—though a 2019 University of Chicago study finds renewable-energy mandates cause prices to go up, not down.

California residents are paying 60% more for electricity than the US national average—but the ideologues don't care about that. Only political 'sacred cows' are protected (not real ones)—whether or not evidence justifying the established narrative exists.

As the lies increase and are exposed, at the same time, places like California and Germany (its energy ideology promising to destroy manufacturing and possibly cause starvation next winter), become acts of desperation. It didn't quite dawn on me, after listening, twice, to Andy Schectman identify the simile of gold making a new high, as being coincidental with the blowup of nickel, back in March. But, when I pulled up a chart of 'off the chart' paper derivatives required "to defend against gold and silver going higher" (Bill Holter's words)—it all made sense and came clear for me.

As a macro guy, I sometimes get lost in the complexity of individual disciplines, but when I finally connect the dots into common denominators, the light comes on.

Today that light is shining on 'desperation'. With available Russian oil supply dramatically reduced, rather than change energy policy, Biden is in the Mideast, begging. Meanwhile neocons at home in DC, weigh nuclear war options against a UKR 'liberal world order' defeat—which will be magnitudes greater than the Middle East or Vietnam.

The end of dollar supremacy is nigh. Control of the gold price will soon be impossible as nations line-up to join the BRICS. With the addition of Saudi Arabia, most of the oil-producers will be in the BRICS, trading/settling their accounts, outside of the dollar.

Within the US, lawsuits abound against Biden Administration officials for allegedly colluding with social media giants to suppress freedom of speech on topics such as the origins of COVID-19, the efficacy of masks, 'vaccine mandates', and election integrity.

I'm thinking about a 1963, B&W Texas Panhandle film, *Hud*, where disease causes a man's herd to be put down by the feds—but with compassion. Assured he's saving the planet, Newsom inflicts cold-blooded policies that cause death—without remorse.