

neverhadaboss.com
updates on the insane world of money and power

Is Silver Heading Back to An Earlier Use?

Waylon Jennings sang: 'They ought to give me the Wurlitzer Prize, for all the silver I let slide, down the slot, singing those song-sung blues'. The direction silver's heading, it won't be long before a silver quarter gets you three plays on the jukebox. Until then, we're singing those song-sung blues.

I don't hear from friends who write extensively on gold/silver. Maybe they're forgetting that silver will shoot-up when it's hated enough. Maybe the world's buying less commodities, including those in short supply: aluminum and silver? Maybe global turmoil is slowing-down investment in production?

Needing some cash, I rode gold/silver all the way down. Bill Holter asks a question: *if you understand fundamentals and hold gold/silver as security, not as investment, what does price matter?* Got it, but distrusting the dollar—I hold few of them. When I need dollars—I sell *underpriced* metals?

But mine is a first world problem. I'm not having to charge groceries at 18% interest. My Scottish principles, *buy low/live below my means*, accumulated wealth—but misjudging dollar collapse timing, I'm now paying the cost.

63% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. 44% struggle to pay for basic necessities. US household debt is $19.1 trillion, with 40% more Americans taking payday loans and 44% feeling more economically stressed than

a year ago. If you can't pay this week—what will be different next week?

Brazilians pay 62% interest on unsecured debt. Does that make you happy to be an American? US home sales are at post 2008 housing crisis. If you're in business, it's tough. In Russia/Sweden/China, businesses fare better, tax-wise—new buildings write-off in year 1. In the US, it's over 33 years.

Trying to understand economics without political implications is a fool's errand. As in, what you pay at Costco is tied to the Straight of Hormuz. Whether Trump gets sane about Iran will define discretionary spending for Americans. Were he to escalate, that's bankruptcy for America/US citizens.

What consequences of dumbed-down political irrationalaty are apparent in our day-to-day? Today I went to my dentist for a crown. On the way I passed what used to be Motel 8—now a homeless shelter. Waiting for the crown to be made, I walked over to the grounds of the motel. Two problems jumped out: big black trash bags everywhere, and homeless persons, not part of the shelter, had taken up sidewalk positions across the street. Then, what I expected to see—deranged inhabitants talking to themselves.

My state-rep neighbor, a heartfelt democrat, used tax dollars to buy 5 homeless motels. She means well but the underlying problem will persist.

Real estate is stagnant. Sellers, outnumbering buyers, get no offers. Buyers, worried over job security, rising interest and higher mortgage payments—sit on the sidelines. We wonder if it's worth the effort. We can't quit a job because jobs are hard to find. With the economy at risk, we can't qualify/chance buying a new car/home. When everything stops—that's *ennui.* Stifling, dead air ennui—without a breath of favorable winds in the forecast.

There is no joy to be had with democrats having a 6 seat majority in the Senate. It would only make a difference if democrats were the antidote to Trump. One newly-elected democrat senator praises the Ukraine War for

killing Russians he hates, using Ukrainians—not a drop of American blood.

But, there may be promise in Trump's defeat. Europeans (loony-tunes), are sidelined. Not invited to the talks on Ukraine, Lavrov said today that the EU would only be worth talking to if the EU somehow *finds a conscience*—not the Ukraine policy in support of abetting the murder of Russian civilians.

Battle fatigue could produce a desired result. Trump (hopefully free of Netanyahu), forewarned that Iran can decimate US gulf interests, and few Americans support his war of aggression, might lack gumption to push on.

This could be the time to join with Xi and Putin, throw the Europeans under the bus, get some territorial concessions from Russia in exchange for an overarching security arrangement taking in all of Russia and Europe. Trump's smashing defeat, with little effort on his part, could lead to peace in Ukraine. Trump could walk away from 2 wars, with accolades from Xi/Putin, and a peace/security treaty that would get him his Nobel Prize.

Since there was no reason whatsoever to attack Iran, let that go and pick out your wardrobe for the festivities in Stockholm. Everybody's happy, and as a result the Europeans turn on their insipid leaders. Let the heads roll.

Because Trump is not bright, his appointments were steered by those hellbent to undermine whatever good instincts he may have had. As a result, we get the likes of Susie Wiles, Chief of Staff. Wiles controlled all White House policy, in favor of special interests. Was this unbeknownst to Trump?

Susie Wiles (Chief of Staff), who controlled/directed every bad policy associated with Trump, is gone, replaced with Stephen Miller (much more dangerous than Wiles). Miller, so as to avoid neighbors questioning his policies in chalk on the sidewalk in front of his house, sold the house—and relocated to a US military base. Maybe he got the stucco, 2-bedroom next to Bessent who moved to a military base under a rash of Iranian death threats.

Unfortunately, in preparing to write this, I see that Trump is back to talking war, not peace, and a chance Netanyahu stays on. Trump/Miller are moving toward warmonger Rubio as successor, over Vance's objections to Iran war.

As we mature into old age, with an eye on truth, we come to understand that human beings are flawed—beyond imagination. Those persons around Donald Trump (appointed by him), work feverishly to compromise whatever good instincts he might have had (if he had any). Because of the horror that exemplifies Trump's 2nd term, I'm guilty of wondering if he had any good intentions or good instincts—at all? Were lies told for sake of wealth/power?

This won't be rectified by either a republican/democratic congress. Both are bought and sold special interests. Even with a revolution, change needs a strong, intelligent leader with good instincts, who comes with a mandate to take on special interests—in support of the people. Does knowing that this is not going to happen make me angry? It used to, but now I'm sad—wistful.

Our founders were intelligent men with deep distrust of human nature, which they incorporated into a system of government—the best system of government ever envisaged. But you wouldn't know it talking to my neighbors. When I allude to how far away we've come from the Bill of Rights and Constitution, I'm met with fixes such as getting rid of, or packing the Supreme Court. This from neighbors who choose to remain ignorant of the causes for, or any way out from, US-perpetuated—tax-funded, forever wars.

Until anger overtakes me, I'm trading anger for sadness. Maybe it's because I'll be 83 in April—coming to terms with my life. Maybe I've had about enough of reacting. As I advance across this lifetime, utter sadness overtakes what used to be anger. Of the two, sadness seems easier to sit with.

You can request my articles by email, or comment:
erik@neverhadaboss.com. Please forward my articles to friends. Thanks.