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Trump's Tariffs—And Other Economic Drivel

I have a lot to say, so I spent a few days trying to sort it out before putting it out there for all to see. I have friends who have been doing well for years—by virtue of solid government jobs and real estate in a never-ending bull market. But now that's over. 1/3 of a friend's whole government department is been laid-off, by email, and real estate has tanked. What's my fear? Not only will Americans lose what is not paid for, but lacking coyote genetics, such that they don't know how to survive, and not having the sense to acquire gold, silver, lead (and a pirate mentality)—soon they will become prey.

Roll of the dice mentality is pervasive. Friends sign contracts to build million dollar homes/housing units. Do they understand how precarious is the economy/dollar? In an economy that might not make it to September, do their contracts have escape clauses?

Others spend \$200K for a boat, motorhome, sports-car, while I view staying in motels as a luxury. It's gotten worse than a decade ago when I was warning those who were flipping homes in SoCal that flipping one at a time might not end in bankruptcy but doing a few might catch you with your pants down. In 1929, relying on credit for one's future—the rich became the poor. The already poor become even more poor

We get let-down by government—no matter which John McCain we elect. Today's fight in Congress concluded with victory for Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill'. A victory that will ring as hollow as W Bush fighter-jetting onto a carrier with: 'Mission Accomplished'.

Addressing the EU, JD Vance, without delineation, referred to *Trump Doctrine*, which doesn't exist. Rather than a thought-through strategy, Trump's doctrine employs ever-changing tactics, made up on the spot, to further Trump's momentary 'plan of the day'.

One tactic serves another. The Iran thing had to be off the table before the budget vote. Hence the reason for the *overwhelming victory* bullshit. It doesn't have to be real.

Since January 20th, jobs numbers are down, GDP is down half a percent, and dollar purchasing power has contracted 10%. Just another administration without overview, refusing to consider the real consequence of big government, a never-ending transfer of wealth to the already wealthy, condemning a nation's youth to poverty—misery.

There is supposed to be a trade agreement in place with Japan by the 9th of July, or Trump threatened 35% tariffs. There is no inflation in the US over Japanese tariffs, as of now, because Japanese auto manufacturers have been paying the costs of tariffs—allowing fools in the US, masquerading as economists, to see no inflation in our future.

Consider the inane rationale behind Trump's tariffs. Japanese car manufacturers were willing to take a \$20B hit (while trade talks continue), to maintain shipment/market share, because they had no other choice. But, losing money on each car doesn't work.

As the trade-talk deadline approaches, US/Japanese teams make no progress, so Trump lashes out at the spoiled Japanese, unwilling to make compromises. *He loves the Japanese* 'but they and others are so spoiled from having ripped us off for 30, 40 years that it's really hard for them to make a deal. You know, it's very hard.' Is there logic/reasoning behind Trump tariffs or is he simply another McCain economic moron?

In a Fox News interview on Sunday, Trump lashed out at Japan over cars: 'So we give Japan no cars. They won't take our cars, right? And yet we take millions and millions of their cars into the United States. It's not fair.' Am I listening to Trump, a democrat talking about *equity* for those who don't see a need or lack ability to compete? Or is Trump simply in denial that consumers will take time to search-out better products?

Japan, through no fault of its own, faces its biggest recession in years, because they will be forced to raise prices, making their autos, though far superior—less competitive.

When tariffs, with no relation to business norms, are enforced, it doesn't end there. Dictated, unjust tariffs then morph from trade wars, into currency wars and capital controls. And finally, in a fully destabilized global economy—divisions became actual wars.

As the days pass I increasingly question Trump's economic acumen/sanity. Even a moron would understand that being unable to pay one's bills cannot be fixed by increased spending. But that's what we have. Trump couldn't end the war in Ukraine on day 1 because he neither understands nor is willing to face factors that caused the war.

Lacking global reality understanding, Trump misses that Netanyahu is a madman, and by necessity (or by design), Trump is then forced to increase the defense budget.

It's more than that: a closer look at Trump's, *Big, Beautiful Bill* sees it as a shout-out to the military industrial complex—moved forward, so to arrive on Trump's desk, July 4th, when Americans will light-off fireworks/parade, for the republic we once were, or in celebration of a rules-based order, regime change menace the US has now become?

Honest debate in Congress would show a 2-facedness in what Trump calls *beautiful*. Debate would recognize *cronyism* as making life almost impossible for average Americans, while continuing perks to the already wealthy. Math disallows adding debt for sake of the military industrial complex, without going after social backstops intended to save American lives. All done to force-feed Americans into Trump's *big beautiful* hell.

But it's not Trump's fault. He has no idea of what his impact will be—globally. Just like the parade tomorrow (Ashland is renowned for its 4th of July), there will be the F-16 flyovers from Klamath Falls, but the parade itself, chock full of military offerings, will likely have no float for the Constitution. Ashland's failing will parallel Trump's failing.

It's difficult to come to terms with Trump being an abject failure in Ukraine, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and a perpetrator for the slaughter of kids in Palestine. But that's because we had hope for Trump. Judging by facts on the ground—hope was all we had.

It's all about power—in the hands of monied interests—power belonging to the US. It's such a simple thing to see, as when Huawei is being prosecuted for breaking US sanctions. What's it going to take for Americans to see this as a power play, a feeble, last ditch grasping to hold onto empire, with Trump in place as the *empire's house boy*?

Take solace in Kentucky—Rand Paul and Thomas Massie voted against the empire.

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