

January 14, 2014

You, who have been following my occasional rants during the last five years, know of my war with melanoma, because I have listed – griped - about everyone of my eleven surgeries. Number twelve is coming up tomorrow, and it is to remove melanoma cells from my miniscule brain. It is the part of the brain that controls speech. Considering that I might be out of commission for an extended period, I have two totally uncontroversial subjects I want to comment on – politics and religion.

Both have gone horribly wrong in the greatest country in history. We are far down a slope that gets slipperier as we go farther down. We are lapsing into some combination of socialism/fascism that I don't understand. Two banks that "were too big to fail" each announced over 5 billion dollars in last quarter's earnings this morning. The old saying, "the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer" was just a funny line in my youth, but it's not funny anymore. The government is choosing winners and losers - fascism.

The President stands before the country and tells lie after lie and the bigger the lie, seemingly the bigger cover he gets from the worshiping media. The stock market is booming; I think for two main reasons. One, the Fed is putting billions in the economy, and two, our manufactures have moved offshore. Forty percent of goods that US companies manufacture in China come to the US as imports.

The government's 6.7% unemployment number is announced, and the President tells us that things are getting better, but adds, we still need to do more. I remember when 6% was a real number, and was considered full employment. We have 90,000,000 people who could be in the work force, who aren't. We have almost 50,000,000 on food stamps, and more poverty stricken than when the present administration took office. 65% of African American males have dropped out of the work force, and there is high unemployment among the remaining 35%. Labor in our world is not only competing with offshore labor, but with robots and computers. The stabilizing influence in our society, the middle class, is dying. To say the "war on poverty" failed is an understatement.

Most of you have heard Chris Matthews, and others of his ilk describe the uneducated, southern, Evangelical Christian, conservative, and by now, you know he's talking about me. I'm even into the "guns and Bible" part. Consequently, I am a very simple thinker, but I believe "humpty dumpty" can be put back together. I admit that I don't have the faith to believe we will make the sacrifices to do it.

"The Greatest Generation" saved the world from the twin scourges of Hitler and Tojo, but they failed in raising the "boomers". I told you I have a simple mind. Don't turn off yet. I have more respect for that generation than for any since our founding fathers. It's only in recent years that medical science has started to understand the emotional damage extended combat does to our troops. What our troops saw in WW 11 is indescribable. They came out of the great depression, and the ones who made it back found a land of unparallel economic opportunity. To oversimplify, they started making

up for lost time. Lots of kids lived in two parent homes, but they really didn't have a father. Kids who were born just before the war, or in the early stages, didn't have a father for years, if ever. "Rosy the Riveter" learned to work outside the home, and, and God bless Rosy, we would have been in a heap off hurt without her. But a new term came into use after the war; "latch key kids."

A close friend, who made a fortune in those post war years, was grieving over a son who had gone wrong a few years ago, and he said, "Gene I gave him every economic/educational opportunity, but I didn't spend enough time with him. I was working all the time. If I took him to church, I just dropped him off most of the time." He was lamenting his failure as a father, not his son's. The American family started to disintegrate.

The fifties were boom years. It was a great time for my generation to grow up. But then we started getting into limited wars that I thought were right at the time, but with 20/20 hindsight, I think were mostly wrong. I have read von Clausewitz, and come to the conclusion that limited war is folly.

With the breakup of the family, the church was next. The conscience of the nation started falling apart. Anything goes; if it feels good do it. I am speaking as a guilty party. Many churches are preaching the "feel good Gospel" to draw crowds. They are teaching that all religions are co-equal, and lead to the same Heaven – that is if there is an eternal life. In the Bible, my God said, "He was the only way." All these other so-called gods are dead; Jesus is alive.

We were a nation blessed by God, and we have totally rejected Him. Economic/political solutions will not save us without a spiritual awakening. We have high IQ leadership in government, but there is very little evidence of wisdom. **Wisdom is God given!** Read Proverbs!

Born again Christian was a term found in the third chapter of John, and was used in church, but not widely in general use. President Carter started using it, and it became a term of derision in the media. My wife is a very soft-spoken lady, but I have often heard her ask friends, "if you died tonight, would you go to heaven?" She generally asks people who she believes will not be insulted, and tell her heaven and hell is just a myth. Some Christians answer with an emphatic yes! But many church goers say things like, "I hope so, I've tried to lead a good life, etc." Any answer except an emphatic yes, is the wrong answer. I spent many hours in the Episcopal Church listening to well meaning, but badly informed people trying to convince me that I was redeemed when I was baptized.

After I was redeemed at age 41, I made it a point to be in a church on Sunday – any kind of church – if possible. I was worshipping in a Roman Catholic parish church that is located in the Boston Logan terminal building. The Gospel that day was the third chapter of John, and after the Priest read it, he started his homily by saying, "if you were in Boston last night, and you watched TV, you probably saw Billy Graham, because he

was on three stations simultaneously, and it may be a coincidence that he preached from this chapter.” The chapter is about Nicodemus coming to Jesus under the cover of darkness – the peer pressure was worse than now – to find out how to follow Him. In his own words, our Savior, tells Nicodemus – and us – how to be born again. **If one isn’t born again, one is not a Christian.** “Born again” is the definition. He or she may have been born into a Christian culture, brought up in the church, and even believe there is a God with a Son. But it’s all to no avail, unless he surrenders to that Son and confesses, “I am a sinner, and I need a savior,” and enters into a personal relationship. No amount of good works will substitute. Read the third chapter of John.

I know we literally have thousands of mature men and women in the country who have the intelligence, wisdom, belief system, tough skin, in other words, all the tools to turn this country around. We have the energy; both fossil and human, as well as the know how to recover.

Prophets are generally saying something that people don’t want to hear, and those with a talent for prescience are often scorned. I am running out of time to make my points, but I want to mention two men that I know personally who understand our possible solutions.

The first is an economist named Paul who has been writing a nationally syndicated column for years. (No, his last name isn’t Krugman who may be dumbest smart man with the NY Times.) It’s Dr. Paul Craig Roberts, Georgia Tech, UVA, Cal Berkley, and Oxford. He has been an editor and columnist with the Wall Street Journal, a fellow at the Cato Institute and the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. He drafted the Kemp-Roth Bill while serving as economic counsel to Representative Jack Kemp. He then became Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy in the Reagan administration, where Kemp-Roth became the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. President Reagan and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan credited him with the major role in fashioning economic policy.

He was the darling of conservatives, but then he wandered off the reservation. I don’t know when he first started not adhering to the “party line”, but I first noticed it with his strident opposition to the first Iraq war. Townhall.com and other publications dropped his column. At the time, I thought he must have gone a little crazy, and I stopped looking for his column. He was right, and I was wrong.

He wrote a book with Lawrence Stratton, [The Tyranny of Good Intentions](#) in 2000 which was sent to me by a mutual friend. The book details how government – federal, state, and local – is increasingly controlling every aspect of our lives. You can hardly cut a tree down in your back yard without permission, and if you dare put a bulldozer blade on your undeveloped property without multiple permits, you could wind up with millions in fines and some time in the hoosegow.

There lots of books on this subject now, but it is more interesting to read one that predicted this police state we are in. I am a student of economics. I only took Econ 101

for one quarter, but I made a C-. Paul has the ability to write economics in a style that dunces like yours truly can understand. His latest book is The Failure of Laissez Faire Capitalism. He has some views that I still don't agree with, but I have been wrong so often that I am not going to talk about them, and they don't include economics.

My spiritual leader is Michael Youssef, PhD in anthropology. He is one of the most broadcast/telecast Christian preachers in the world. He lived under Nasser in Egypt, and came out in a miraculous way. He preaches the uncompromising Gospel truth all over the world in 21 languages, and he understands the Muslim threat as well as anyone in the West. He wrote Black Gold and Holy War about thirty years ago, and outlined the plans of the Wahabi sect and Muslim Brotherhood to conquer the world. His warnings fell on deaf ears. The book has been revised several times, and is now listed as Blindsided. All of his books are on Amazon. When The Crosses Are Gone is short and to the point, and it has opened eyes about the war against Christianity in the US.

I wish I had more time to organize this, but if you read it, you can never say, "why didn't Gene tell me about Christ?"