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QUOTES FOR THE DAY:

“History calls those men the greatest who have ennobled themselves by working for the common good; experience acclaims as the happiest, the man who has made the greatest number of people happy.” AND

“Communism is the riddle of history solved, and it knows itself to be the solution.” Karl Marx.

74 YEARS- RUSSIA GAVE IT A CHANCE:

A Gallup poll late last year reported that Socialism is now as popular as Capitalism among people aged 18 to 39 in the U.S.A.

A slippery slope, indeed, as one doesn't need to go much further to fall into the arms of Marx

and the abject failure of Communism in the USSR over 74 years.

We live in a country where so many are uninformed or misinformed that 15% think Judge Judy sits on the Supreme Court.

We are drifting in the direction of Marxism, but how many even know what that means-myself included? A bit of research required: "Society's classes are the cause of struggle and therefore society should have no classes – replace private ownership with co-operative ownership." And, "Capitalism can only thrive on the exploitation of the working class."

So, here we are today; pandemic, riots, economy in tatters and huge inequalities in opportunities and standards of living.

I recall, back in the late 70s, working for one of the major NY banks as a vice president, making about 10% of what the president of the bank was paid. OK, he had other compensation as well, but there was some semblance of proper comparison. Today that same president is making \$15 to \$25 Million a year and that same VP, maybe \$150,000. Those are examples

at the high end. What about the non official staff and the other hundreds of thousands who make these huge institutions work? They have been mired in a net sum zero compensation environment for many years, not even keeping up with inflation.

It's definitely a wake up call for America to recognize that changes have to be made, but each job has its own economic value. That is, it's not sufficient to say Wilbur needs more money- no, Wilbur needs to be better educated so that he deserves better compensation and therein lies the conundrum. How many times have I hammered on this point? Our educational system, especially in the major cities, is a disaster. There are tens of thousands of jobs that have to be filled by immigrants because we don't have U.S. citizens capable of doing the work.

The concept of free college tuition for everyone is just bogus. CCNY, at one point, and I don't know if it is still the case, had to take anyone from the NYC school system with a high school degree - didn't have to keep them, but with high school degrees that frequently

reflected ninth grade math achievement levels and tenth grade English proficiency, it was a huge drain on what had been a premier learning institution.

The country doesn't need college for all; the opportunity for all, yes. But, we need more craftsmen, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and the technical schools to train them. As many of our readers know from paying their bills, these folks can make a very handsome living.

The dangerous situation we are seeing is that many in our country are deeply unhappy with their economic circumstances. One of the things that helped defeat Mitt Romney in his bid for the presidency was his supposedly off the record comment that 47% of Americans paid no taxes. While a true statement, it was an inconvenient truth that blew away his shot at the White House.

With all this unhappiness in America today over "inequality" what to do about it? I keep blowing the same horn- education, education, education. But, to improve what is offered to

the student, and to have it make a difference, will take a generation. What happens for the next fifteen to twenty years? Sorry, I just don't have a clue, but, in my mind, neither socialism nor communism are the answers.

I have several relatives who are Danes – the happiest people on the planet according to many surveys. Here's the deal with Denmark, you can't have what is essentially a Socialist country that welcomes immigrants. It is a very tough route to gain residency in Denmark because everyone in the country is taken care of and that is expensive. But who pays for it? None other than each and every citizen. What does that mean? In exchange for giving the government 50+% of your income you get an outstanding education and health care and, if you find yourself on hard times, a very generous support program. You would be amazed at how flat the compensation curve is – no plastic surgeons making \$5 million per year. Oh, and you want to purchase, what in Denmark would be considered a luxury, a VW-Jetta, that will set you back \$70,000 to \$75,000. The huge difference between there

and here is the tax, which goes to support life in Utopia.

You can do that in a country of 5.8MM people you can't do it in the U.S.

What got me off on this tangent was an article in the NY Times on August 15th, "A Marxist's View on Race and Class Expose a Rift Among Socialists." Knowing full well that our universities are home to many of these folks, this article brought into focus that Marxist views are becoming more main-stream.

Adolph Reed, a black professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, helped organize poor black people and anti-war soldiers in the late 1960s and became a leading Socialist scholar at a trio of top universities. Quoting from the article, "Along the way he acquired the conviction, controversial today, that the left is too focused on race and not enough on class. Lasting victories were achieved he thought when working class and poor people of all races fought shoulder to shoulder for their rights."

In May an invitation was extended to Dr. Reed to speak before the NY chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA).

Dr. Reed is not known for pulling his punches, having once skewered President Obama as a “man of vacuous to repressive neo-liberal politics.” The professor’s speech was going to argue that, “ the left’s intense focus on the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on black people undermined multiracial organizing.”

On learning of his topic, the Socialists of Color Caucus and the Afrosocialists went ballistic. Members asked, “How could we invite a man to speak who downplays racism in a time of plague and protest? To let him talk ‘would be reactionary, class reductionist and, at best, tone deaf.’”

As a result of the furor, the DSA withdrew the invitation and Michael Powell, author of the article observed, “It was a striking moment as perhaps the nation’s most powerful Socialist organization rejected a Black Marxist professor’s talk because of his views on race.”

The article goes on to note that Dr. Reed and his supporters, “readily accept the brute reality of America’s racial history and of racism’s toll. They argue, however, that the problems bedeviling America – such as wealth inequality, police brutality and mass incarceration – affect black and brown Americans, but also large numbers of working class and poor white Americans.” Of his critics, Dr. Reed says, “Some on the left have a militant objection to thinking analytically.”

Mr. Powell, the writer, goes on to say that, “Professor Reed is an intellectual duelist who especially enjoys lancing liberals he sees as too cozy with corporate interests. He wrote that President Bill Clinton and his liberal followers showed a ‘willingness to sacrifice the poor, and to tout it as tough-minded compassion’ and described former Vice President, Joseph Biden, as a man whose, ‘tender mercies have been reserved for the banking and credit card industries.’”

According to Mr. Powell, Professor Reed and his compatriots believe, “The left too often ensnares itself in battles over racial symbols,

from statues to language, rather than keeping its eye on fundamental economic change.”

I am reminded of President George H.W. Bush when communism crumbled in Russia. He didn't gloat, jump or shout, but handled the situation with great diplomacy and style; perhaps mindful that vast areas of our major cities were not examples to be pointed to in the celebration of Capitalism winning out over Communism.

That Socialism now has equal standing with Capitalism in the minds of 18 to 39 year olds in America is a road map to America's future unless dramatic changes occur. Ultimately, all of us have a say at the polling booths, but it's Congress that has to enact the programs/legislation to move the country in a new direction. How likely is that?

Less than a year ago Scott Norland captained a nationwide poll on behalf of "MoneyWise" magazine ranking 27 businesses/professions from Most Trust Worthy to Least Trust Worthy. I won't go through the entire list, but the following is informative:

**At number 1- Most trust worthy - Nurses;
Doctors at #3; Police officers, #9; Clergy, #11;
Judges, #14; College teachers, #15; Nursing
Home operators, #18; News paper reporters,
23; Car salesmen, #25; Lobbyists, #26;
Members of Congress, #27.**

AMERICA - WE HAVE A PROBLEM

Your faithful scribe,

PB