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*The Grapes of Wrath—Dying on the Vine*

It's entirely appropriate to be befuddled by what's before our eyes. Why do the August numbers show few home, auto, and major appliance sales, while at the same time home prices are above all-time highs? Why do motorhomes sell for 50% discounts?

Out on the sea—'Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning.' Is this the eerie calm before the storm? Is this a Ray Bradbury tale? *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

Milton Friedman, if I remember correctly, characterized rampant inflation as a overly-hot kettle on a stove, remedied by turning up the heat and putting something heavy on the lid. That kettle, made hot by monetary/fiscal policies that don't work, is false-fixed by printing unlimited counterfeit currency/holding down the lid with wage/price controls.

We are set up for a *red sky in the morning* explosion that could be imminent. Economically ignorant governance, filled to the brim with hubris (devoid of concern for welfare of citizens), and left to its own devices, will inevitable blow the lid off the kettle.

Consider Cuba. For some years after the Castro communist takeover, the island seemingly made gains. It's free health system was lauded. But, as enthusiasm for the revolution waned, birthrates plummeted, leaving a large, aging population. And over time, under relentless US sanctions, Cuba's economy was brought to a standstill.

As a result, each year, 100s/1000s of Cubans risked their lives to get to America, much like the present US where similar numbers risk livelihoods to get out of California and other *blue-state woke* environments where pressure from enforced equity, absurd regulations, and ever-increasing taxation has made it all but impossible to do business.

Cubans presently receive pensions of \$10 a month—the cost of a dozen eggs. Older Cubans literally pass-out and die in the streets from malnutrition. Now, when Cubans are in need of an operation, everything necessary for that surgery has to be provided by friends/family members the US. Items required for surgery do not exist in Cuba.

What's the parallel in the US? We can leave the blue states for the fly-over states, or, get out of cities to rural areas, but living in a 1-man (woman?) despotism, if things don't turn around, it won't matter much where we are—as long arms of tyranny reach out.

Analogous to the boiling kettle on the stove, the US government *uni-party* is responsible for runaway debt/currency printing. The proposed fix: turn up the heat with more subsidies/accelerated printing to calm mass anxiety—just until the November election.

If the left prevails we get wage/price and currency controls. And, somebody has to

be blamed for the economic debacle, but it can't be the very government that instituted unlimited credit/debt. Businesspersons are to be blamed as perennial price gougers.

Because oil is the cause of all our ills, oil companies are heaped-on as price-gougers. But, in that vitriol, it's not mentioned that during a recent decade, oil companies lost money. As they do with climate change, elites construct a convenient history.

Not only oil companies come under attack—it's anyone that charges for a product or a service. It's food producers—farmers who have not been paid fairly for a century. It's those food markets and restaurants—price-gougers that are stealing from Americans.

For 10 terms I was the board president of maybe the fastest growing food cooperative in the nation—during which time sales rose from \$2M a year to between \$25/30M yearly. The compensation for staff (which included profit-sharing and IRA matches), was far above wage average, even for our well-off city. That coop was and is thriving.

Consider a thriving coop as complicit in doing things nefarious to have attained such profitability. It's just not the case. In our small town there are 5 supermarkets to choose from—2 that represent major chains. Each sets prices with small margins for profit, from which they do not deviate. Profitability is dependent on volume—not pricing.

Government's economic blunders stress an economy to where producers are forced to raise prices to maintain profitability. Additionally, onerous government interference results in *California phenomena*, mass business migration to more favorable locations.

However, like rats in a maze, under such federal tactics as wage/price controls, there is nowhere left to run to. Business, especially small business, under price controls, when they can no longer sell a product for more than it costs to produce—quit producing that product. Government, to keep itself afloat, prints more counterfeit currency, with a result of more dollars chasing fewer products—a recipe for uncontrolled inflation.

Why the title for this article? John Steinbeck's defining novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, tells the story of Okies heading west to California—to greener pastures—that turned-out to be no greener. But, anger generated for evil back then is not the same as now.

Creeping socialism under FDR made it difficult for small business. It was difficult enough to get necessities of life. But, even with 25% unemployment, 3/4s of Americans had jobs, and government overreach, lacking 2024, virtual infrastructure, was limited.

Once supporters of the little guy, dems now are everything liberals used to fight against: reckless spending/warmongering/censoring speech/media they don't want seen. This election is sold as saving democracy, but don't you believe it. The republic has gone missing and democracy is dead. This election is over 1 issue—free speech.

Also, the old meme: *You can't wake somebody up who's pretending to be asleep*, is in play. Most Americans, lined-up for government handouts/security, feign being asleep so as not to have to deal with reality. Unfortunately, many of them are actually asleep.

In every respect things are worse than the 30's—the grapes are dying on the vine. Heat turned-up on the kettle has taken our debt that took 95 years from inception of the Fed to print \$800B, to \$9T on the Fed's balance sheet. A trillion being 1000 billion. Under Biden/Harris, 5 trillion was printed. Yet Kamala sees the problem as price gouging?

Unlike the Great Depression, we are not allowed to talk about it. Much worse than that, our lackeys in Europe, Canada, AUS/NZ, without a 1st Amendment, are putting people away for reposting. And these bastards are sitting around in back rooms, planning to extradite Americans to non-Bill of Rights locales for things that they write or say.

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