

## ***THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US***

***IN SOMETHING CALLED 'A PSALM OF LIFE' LONG-FELLOW CHARGED US 'TO BE UP AND DOING..AND TO LEARN TO LABOR AND WAIT.' IT IS GOOD THERAPY FOR THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US: A SICK ECONOMY AND AN UNENDING WAR. LIKE ROOSEVELT BEFORE HIM, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND OBAMA HAS MOVED QUICKLY WITH GOVERNMENTAL COLLECTIVISM FOR THE ECONOMY AND A NEW STRATEGY OF TAKING THE WAR TO AL-QAEDA IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN.***

***HISTORY REMINDS OF THE MANY DISCORDANT LESSONS OF COLLECTIVISM: HAYEK'S ROAD TO SERFDOM IN WHICH HE WARNED OF ECONOMIC CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LEAD TO UTOPIA, BUT AS IT DID, TO SOMETHING LIKE FASCISM AND COMMUNISM; MILTON FRIEDMAN WOULD AGREE WITH THIS; OTHERS LIKE BILL BUCKLEY EXPOSED THE INCONGRUITY OF YALE CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS BEING TRUMPED BY THE MANTRA OF AETHEISTIC SOCIALISM AS MAIN INSTRUCTIONAL AGENDA; AND ROOSEVELT DREW FROM SOCIALIST NORMAN THOMAS MUCH OF HIS PHILOSOPHIC AND ECONOMIC THEORY AND APPLIED IT TO THE NEW DEAL. AND WHAT OF OBAMA?***

***IN SOMETHING CALLED,-GREAT SOCIETY II- JAMES C. CARPETTA, FORMER ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET(2001-4) SAID, "DESPITE THE RHETORIC, MOST OF THE NEW SPENDING AND TAX PROVISIONS IN THE OBAMA BUDGET PLAN(INCLUDING THE STIMULUS BILL)WILL HAVE NO BEARING FOR REVERSING THE CURRENT DOWNTURN. FED CHAIRMAN BERNANKE TOLD US THAT GROWTH WILL RETURN ONLY IF TOXIC ASSETS AND FROZEN CREDIT ARE RESOLVED IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR. THAT IS WHAT CAUSED THE PROBLEM IN THE FIRST PLACE."***

***RECENTLY, SECRETARY GEITHNER LAID OUT A SYSTEMIC FINANCIAL PROGRAM AIMING AT THESE TOXIC ASSETS AND FROZEN CREDIT FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BUT ADDED CONTROL FEATURES AS TO OPERATIONS AND***

**COMPENSATION –TAKEOVER, AS IN COLLECTIVISM, WHICH MANY SEE AS DEMONIZING FLEXIBILITY AND INVESTMENT IN THE MARKET. TOGETHER WITH BORROWED MONEY AND THE PRINTING OF NEW MONEY ARE THE STUFF OF HUGE DEBT AND HIGH INFLATION. QUASI-SOCIALISM, PERHAPS?**

**OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE NEW CIVIC AND WAR STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN AIMED AT THE DEFEAT OF AL-QAEDA(AND TALIBAN)INSURGENCY NOW CENTERED IN BORDER SANCTUARIES ALONG THE TWO COUNTRY BORDER. UNDER THE GUISE OF SPECIAL ENVOY RICHARD HOLBROOKE AND GENERAL PETRAEUS ,THERE ARE COMBAT FORCE INCREASES, TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS FOR EACH AND A FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC STIMULUS WITH MIITARY OVERTONES IN PAKISTAN AND CIVIC AID FOR PRESIDENT KARZAI WHOSE CONTROL SEEMS SUSPECT, CORRUPTION ON- GOING AND THE OGRE OF HEROIN OPERATIONS. AN INCREASE IN NATO FORCES IS HOPED FOR.**

**QUERIED RECENTLY BY CHRIS WALLACE, OF FOX NEWS, SECRETARY GATES WAS ASKED ABOUT THE BREAK-DOWN OF SIX-PARTY TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA AND AN IMPENDING MISSILE LAUNCH, THE IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, AND POTENTIAL OF ISRAEL/PALESTINE RELATIONS AND THE DEFINITION OF THE ENEMY, INSURGENTS, TERRORISTS OR WHAT, AND IF THIS IS A NEW ‘SURGE’ FOR AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN? HE WAS AMBIVALENT BUT FORTHRIGHT IN HIS ANSWERS, HOLDING OUT HOPE AND PROGRESS FOR OBAMA’S NEW STRATEGY.**

**THIS OLD SOLDIER WOULD ARGUE FOR A CLOSE SUPERVISION OF THE ECONOMIC COLLECTIVISM AND A REQUIREMENT TO KEEP UP THE GROWING OPPOSITION TO THE MANY FACETS, THE DEBT AND THE CONSEQUENCES. TOO, - KUDOS FOR THE APPARENT RECOGNITION OF THE AFGHAN/PAKISTAN PROBLEM AND NEW STRATEGY... MR. PRESIDENT, AL-QAEDA/TALIBAN REPRESENT TRUE ISLAM WITH NO COMPROMISE. YOU NEED TO DEFINE THE ENEMY AS ISLAM; IF THIS STICKS IN YOUR THROAT, GO VISIT WITH ALL MOSLEM NATIONS AND LAY THE CARDS ON THE TABLE.**