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Exclusively inclusive: *All Noise on the Western Front*

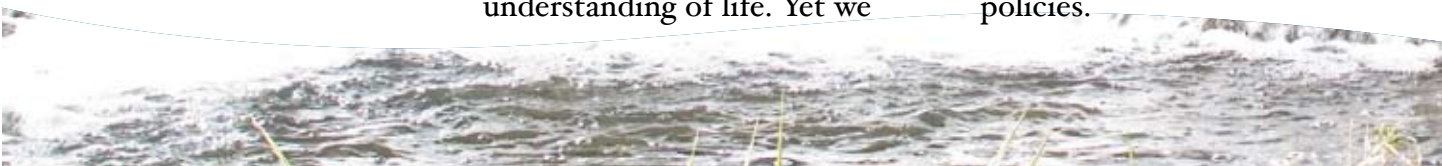
As I was listening to some of the discussions of our current financial crisis, one of the commentators began listing some of the impressive creations of literature that came out of financial hardships, wars, and similar stupendous change events. One of the books mentioned was “All Quiet on the Western Front” chronicling the events that brought about the end of WWI, the war to end all wars.

Shortly thereafter I was treated to both far right and far left pundits interrupting each other with pedantic talking points, none of them showing any civility to each other or to the host. Since this financial catastrophe finds its roots in the material crusades of Western Culture, I mused that what we were all hearing was “All Noise on the Western Front.”

Human beings are unique in all of God’s creation, in that we have some cognitive understanding of life. Yet we

have developed or fallen to such a desperate condition that we have become completely hostile to others who do not share our appreciation of dead stuff in the way we suppose is the proper way that stuff and money should be acquired. The noise is deafening, almost like artillery attacks, but we have completely missed the fact that we all share a tremendous transcendent gift and that is life itself.

The talk for the last few months is that we have to save the financial system. The current Administration’s conscience is that somehow, someday, throwing enough money at the problem, we hope, we can fix it. There is one truth in all of this; we are throwing money at the problem, definitely not wealth. Eventually wealth will again surface and money will again become worthwhile, but the way things look now, there needs to be a significant change in attitude and policies.



Tuesday Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said he hoped that the recession would end this year. This hope gave the stock market hope and it regained much of what it lost last Friday. Later that evening President Obama gave a similar speech to a joint session of Congress. Today and following we will find out if those words, just words, will change the perception of economic realities. It seems from my perspective that he is intent on growing government with little understanding on how to pay for it.

We can't take our stuff with us. Yet through all this financial noise we have never asked three important questions.

The first is stuff the prime goal of human life?

Is there another worldview that can provide important human civility?

Finally, do we really have the where with all to act as our own messiah?

Last week we looked at fear as the prime motivator for human actions. By that we mean when faced with a series of choices we almost always choose the one that says the future is modeled by the past and the present, because they are always known quantities. Essentially this means we lack the imagination to quantify all the alternatives. Hence history repeats itself again and again.

FDR made famous the quotation "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself." That is pretty slick politics, but is also logically circular reasoning. We truly fear the unknown, because as much as we would like it not to be true, we do not control the future. But there are some things we can do which will make the future much worse, such as taking the easy course, because it is politically expedient.

On January 14th in "Walls of fear" we used the term "noise and toys." What has transpired since that date is essentially a bunch of noise, generating a gargantuan bunch of money, so that we can maintain our affluence to buy a bunch of toys we really have little or no use for. Especially when we put this into the big picture of the wonder of life itself.

Think for a minute of all the things you really want to do in life. Many or most of those are quality of life issues, like travel, doing fun things, meeting and knowing interesting people, it is a long list. Granted there is a certain need for material to be able to make these events happen, but most of the time the things are very subservient to the doing itself. If we eliminated a lot of the drive for a lot, we would have the time to do a lot we now only consider in our dreams.

The problem is that the current world financial system could not and cannot function in such a world for a number of reasons. Primarily with stuff subservient to life, it is difficult to know how many iPods and iPhones to build. More to the point is there is not an endless, increasing demand, for inflating high value things. Two principle examples are houses and automobiles. Businesses now in the most serious trouble all deal with the building and finances to buy houses and cars.

In the last half century the useful life of an automobile as increased from about 50,000 to about 200,000 miles. That means driving 10,000 miles a year a car is good for about 20 years. That car new will cost you let us say 25,000. If you kept that car for that lifetime it would cost about 1,250 per year, which would mean a per mile cost of about 0.125. However you can probably buy a 10 year old car of around that original sticker price for about 5,000 with 100,000 miles remaining. That means your can yearly cost comes down to 500 per year and 0.05 per mile. Buying a new car for economic reasons, especially in hard times, makes no economic sense.

The same is pretty much true with real estate, for while real estate historically does not depreciate, it historically has never been a true money making investment. If people realize that the cost and hassle of buying a home for just its home value, it will be a long time before the housing market bottoms.

I personally do not think all this financial noise currently in the works is going to be all that effective. Furthermore as sad as it may seem I don't think that this is the end of it. If you look at it logically all the attempts to save a bankrupt debt system with more debt money is going to fail. That is when you have something to fear if you really think it will work in the first place.

Historically nations have failed when the rulers have debased the monetary system in order to maintain their grasp on political power. The problem is that this power grab fails for the very reason it attempts to maintain the elite power positions.

Civilization, culture and trade need sound money in which everyone can believe. There is nothing that is happening in the United States, or the noise in other countries on the Western Front, that should give one a morsel of optimism that anyone understands what is really happening, or at least has power to quiet the noise by doing something truly valuable. That would be to make everyone's money worth something.

If we continue to beg and cry for sound money however, we miss the true cause of the problem. That is that the true energetics, biological, physical, and human, are all out of synergism with what all the Western Front Noise is trying to do.

Just as water runs down hill from the mountains to the ocean, money is not going to move back to creating wealth just because some people turn on all the fountains in New York, Washington DC, London, Paris, Berlin, Hong Kong, Beijing, or Tokyo. We could demonstrate that if we had the financial resources to do the research, but until that time you will just have to take my word for it, or rely on your common sense.

This is where the noise gets overwhelming, because in a country without civility all that is generated from these fountain programs is increasing noise. The noise deepens our fear and most importantly increases personal isolation. With all the talk about government coming to the rescue of the folks, the cost of working the increasing bureaucracy will cost more time and heartache than most people have the ability or the patience to endure. Hence without a return to civility, which is not a governmental program, you are pretty much on your own dude. That is a fact, a cold, a deep, and foreboding fact.

There is beginning across the country and the world however an understanding about the reality of the present. No one currently alive

has much experience as an adult in what is slowly unfolding. Hence even if we can read our history, the present and the future are much more complex than they were historically. That complexity is a form of diversity, which will eventually rise above the noise and the chaos. As individuals we need, as we stated last week, to move toward that diversely unified civility.

That civility recognizes that human beings are not now and never were consumer or manufacturing units. That means that basically we are aware of our lives, and we want to deepen that experience, whether government or human enterprise recognizes that reality. Governments and enterprise that do not recognize true human humanity are going to fail. They will go down kicking and screaming, and make a whole lot of noise in the process, but they will fail nonetheless.

Religion has been part of all human activity throughout time. The Bible says we are created by God for His glory. That is probably the best definition, but other religions and religious experiences have always sought some form of deity to help with life, both the struggles, but more importantly the wonder of human and all life itself.

Militant Islam exists, for example, to destroy the Great Satan, Western Culture. Obviously they lack the discernment to understand we are really good people doing good things for humanity. Or perhaps it is that we lack the discernment to understand they have a very valid point. Militant Islam is very specifically and radically exclusively exclusive. Hence we who are part of the exclusively inclusive have a much more viable survival quotient.

Loneliness or human isolation plays a bigger role in all of this than we can currently understand. The concept of divide and conquer really is a reality that has caused much of this economic turmoil. It allowed bad people to do bad things and restrained good people from doing good things. That really is not a fault of regulation, that is a fault of lack of civility working through diverse human communities.

The current world situation means that those true communities are again beginning their ascendance. They may be hard to find in all the noise on the Western Front, but as the alternatives become eliminated from the gene pool, the noise

will decrease and we again will find that our greatest hope and aspirations lie by working with each other.

Then and only then will we again hear "All quiet on the Western Front." We will begin there next week.