

PROSPECT OF WWII DISTURBING ENOUGH WITHOUT THE POLITICIANS

September 23, 2003

With The world in the seeming turmoil, it is politics that has found fertile ground. The end result is politics, and politicians have suddenly become a morass that is both tragic and laughable. I have some random thoughts on the subject.

Since 9/11 my thoughts have been focused on foreign policy and somewhat less intense with domestic issues.

Some pundits believe we are in World War III. They may very well be right. Millions of people willing to sacrifice their very lives to supplant our culture and way of life with their own have to be taken seriously. The present situation bears no resemblance to Vietnam as some imply. They are here and their presence was well proven.

If in truth we are in World War III, I am very apprehensive about those who will have to pilot us through it. They will necessarily be politicians and they have been aptly described for centuries by greater minds than most of us. The following are some conclusions they arrived at for both politicians and their craft.

You cannot go back much further than Pericles (430 B.C.). Just because one does not take an interest in politics does not mean politicians will not take an interest in you.

Frederic Bastiat, 19th century philosopher economist described the state as the great fiction by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of everyone else.

Roman historian Tacitus opined that a corrupt society has many laws.

From H.L. Mencken we learn a good politician is quite as unthinkable as an honest burglar.

In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant: Charles deGaulle

Humorist Art Buchwald asked have you ever seen a candidate talking to a rich person on television?

James Reston stated all politics are based on the indifference of the majority.

The standard of intellect in politics is so low that men of moderate mental capacity have to stoop in order to reach it, Hilaire Belloc.

George Bernard Shaw sums up much of the basis for today's political philosophy. A government, which robs Peter to pay Paul, can always depend on the support of Paul.

Ronald Reagan said government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. He also said talk is cheap, except when Congress does it. The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one and no responsibility at the other.

Winston Churchill was the most savvy of them all. He contended that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

Harry Truman is credited with a remark that fits many in today's quest for public office. Men often mistake notoriety for fame, and would rather be remembered for their vices and follies than not to be noticed at all.

Thomas Jefferson's observation that the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground. How true, happening every day in every way.

There is more truth than poetry in the musing of all of the above well-known people. They do nothing to relieve my apprehension since they apply to politicians on both sides of the aisle.

It's extremely troubling to me that we are fast becoming a nation ruled by judges and not the dictates of the Constitution. Or more succinctly stated by Alexander Hamilton in a contest between the laws passed by Congress and the Constitution; "The Constitution ought to be preferred to the statute, the intention of the people to the intention of their agents."