

## **From Discord to Unity and Progress in the Resolution of our Crises**

What we have is a haphazard and very disconnected, even dissonant, set of activities as exemplified very well by what has been coming out of not only Congress and the Obama Admin but also in the similar actions in other countries including across the EU and in Asia.

The bulk of various stimulus bills, bail-outs, incentives, new programs, new expenditures - even for those things on which the majority of people, including both "conservatives" and "liberals" might agree with a strong majority, are still very isolated and disconnected as programs, with a huge amount of duplication in the infrastructures, in the local or federal bureaucracies to jumpstart and to manage them, and unfortunately most of these efforts and expenditures are Missing the Point Badly about Productivity, about Long-Term Results and Gains, about Long-Term Systemic (National and International) Continuity.

I will keep this short, for once, and you can take it for granted that there is a longer and more academic paper behind all this, either written and available for the asking, or in progress (in spite of all manner of recent personal adversities and problems that seem to block even the ability to "think straight" these days).

Here is my outline of how both the private sector, including the financial institutes en masse, and the major manufacturers, should be co-funding things with some (not the majority in \$\$ !!!) support, and mainly advocacy, wrinkle-smoothing, arbitration-negotiation, and appropriate federal-level assistance - but not operational management by any means, coming from the government. Here is a much better way to attain re-employment, stable employment, social stability, lower the trends toward global and local conflict including armed conflict and crime, increasing drug use, decreasing health, and our very definite problems with all of our major threats to continuing as a nation and as a global civilization: overpopulation, climate instabilities (natural and human-augmented), radical fundamentalism (all forms of the disease), near-earth object impact threats (asteroids), energy shortages, water and food problems, and general social malaise, depression, ennui, angst, and surrender.

In all of these I see the realistic ability and appropriateness for the USA to take the initiative, the lead, and the management, and to conduct itself in exactly the same spirit in which the USA was founded and led over 200 years ago - not for world domination but for a better world for all, yet not to the detriment of its own people and other nations who believe in the same ideals, principles, practices and lifestyles of freedom, free enterprise, social responsibility, and the pursuit of personal and community happiness.

And thus,

**Seven Unified, Parallel, Immediate-Engagement, Economically-Grounded "Manhattan Projects":**

### **Transportation**

I-Trans - enhancing the use of rail systems for cars and trucks over long inter-city distances, more micro-rail for urban areas, dual traffic patterns for traditional vehicles and for "ultra-light motorized and self-propelled vehicles, and a heavy program to develop massive telecommuting for more and more people to work at home at least half of the time.

The tasks are achievable with present-day technologies and the costs will be less than to piecemeal rebuild improperly conceived roads, highways, and bridges that will not do anything to solve the long-term problems of transportation, commuting, congestion, and multiple forms of pollution.

### **Communications**

Satellite and fiber-based broadband for everywhere and everyone but using "internet kiosk/cafe" networking for large parts of the global population, and an emphasis upon two-way videoconferencing capabilities. Internet access for all, and in every home and school and community center.

The tasks are achievable with today's technologies and the costs of a unified approach are far less than to do it piecemeal.

### **Education**

Massive deployment of existing and easily-completable content in the form of text and video that is organized to instill creativity, innovation, thinking, (both "inside" and "outside" the "box"), and with a strong effort on direct, clear, unabashed Behavior Modification, with explicit economic incentives and benefits, for:

- Personal Health, Hygiene and Self-Care, including Obesity Reduction, Diet, Disease Management
- Self-directive, incentive-based Population Control that includes a strong dose of explicit, content-based teaching of the consequences (with the video media on that universal broadband internet)
- Understanding the basic principles and processes of personal economics and financial management
- Understanding the basic principles and processes of government
- Developing and enhancing self-worth, self-respect, teamwork, community spirit, family and communitarian values
- History, geography and ethno-cultural foundations that are not divisive but unifying, and which span ancient history to present, and that include the futures (a la Futures Gateway as a good example)

The tasks are primarily of developing and mainly digitizing and editing and simply making available existing content. The costs are truly trivial for use to solve many major problems through focused, behavior-inducing, creativity/innovation-cultivating, and self-worth/self-respect enhancing Content.

### **Environmental Health, Safety, and Management**

A planetary-wide program that must include the active put-aside-the-bullcrap partnering of the G8 as prime mentors, the G20 as the main leaders and partners, and the rest to be brought into the fold or else penalized economically, and beginning with space-based, near-orbit and low-orbit satellite networks and permanent high-orbit networks for remote sensing and monitoring of land, water, and sky events.

### **Energy**

A unified program to develop in parallel:

- Smart Grids
- Solar Power (earth-based)
- Wind Power
- Tidal Power
- Stop-gap temporary Nuclear Fission plants
- Nuclear Fusion
- Artificial Photosynthesis
- Synthetic liquid fuels (synthetic petrol from algae, other bio, and syn chem sources)
- and most of all, Space-based Solar Power in near-orbit, L5-orbit, and lunar-based with transmission to Earth

and

a plan that is quite similar to the PERMA Plan authored by myself and others in 2003 which effectively creates an international "federal reserve" or "global stock exchange" for global energy; this is free-enterprise based and not a UN or IMF or WorldBank type of entity whatsoever.

and

a strong incentive+penalty push to eliminate the burning of coal for power plants or other uses

The technologies are all present-day or matters of R&D but there is sufficient in present-day technology to get us as a nation and as a planet through to the next levels of greater and more solid sustainability. The costs are lower if done as a unified and incentives-based program or set of programs rather than piecemeal, haphazard, and needlessly duplicative and competitive as they have been conducted and continue to be done.

### **Defense and Security**

A primary focus that is a necessary unifying activity among G8 and G20 for the defense of the planet from the major threats of:

- near-earth objects (asteroid collision deterrence)
- viral and bacterial pandemics
- renegade WMD terrorism
- weather-related and geologically-related cataclysms

and including

a commitment to a Unified Partnering that is not like the oldstyle "alliance-against-a-bloc" model (e.g., NATO, Warsaw Pact, and everything pre-20<sup>th</sup> century) but instead

more like an “alliance-for-common-interests” such as we are seeing in the joint operations in the Arabian Sea against the Somali-based pirates.

Every nation needs a strong defense and the USA must not let down its guard nor must it ever again try to be the “one superpower.” A strong USA military can be coupled with strong military from Russia, Europe, Japan, Canada, and assuming they will behave, China, to form a Confederation of Defense that is not against each other, that enhances cooperation and trust-building and mitigates the risk of conflict among these cooperative nations, and that builds a unified defense against the two major and monstrous threats we face as America and as a World:

- radical fundamentalism and terrorism, from radical Islamic or any other sources
- natural disasters and cataclysms related to climate instabilities, geological events, or space-based events.

### **Home and Community**

This is not just about building houses. A house is not a home, and a cluster of buildings does not a neighborhood or community make. Appropriate to existing and feasible areas of present development, without infringing upon natural and wild lands, without doing more damage to the ecological balance, we can rebuild new neighborhoods and whole towns and cities using cheaper and “greener” materials and systems than we are doing to try to maintain the impractical and self-defeating structures and urbanities of today. The ORBIS community model is suggested as the starting point for planning and prototype construction and testing by virtue of doing.

Some structures and neighborhoods may be more like small towns, others like Soleri-type mega-structures. They can grow up in the midst of our cities, almost all of which have areas that should simply be razed and flattened without fuss and without the endless expense of how real estate has been handled to date. These are times for drastic measures, and one can simply go drive through Detroit, or parts of LA, Houston, Chicago, Baltimore, or many other cities to find sections that are in the dozens and hundreds of acres ready for radical rebuilding.

The focus must be upon creating Community First, then Neighborhoods within communities, then Homes within neighborhoods, and getting totally, totally past, forever past, the nonsense of everyone having a self-contained, replicate-all-the-utilities, manage-everything-yourself, Box.

Construction – composites, masonry, fabrics, and starting in many cases by giving people a Shell that they can then complete and furnish and redesign on their own and with of course a boost to small businesses and the retail economy.

Utilities – Smart Grid from the start, and with inter-unit sharing and recycling of energy and most of all,

Neighborhood Features, Functions, and Supports – this is what we have lost across America especially, and in many other parts of the world. This is a big reason we have so much crime, drug use, depression, and a host of personal and social dis-eases ranging from obesity to family abuse to alcoholism to suicide and down the line of social ills.

Thank you.