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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
SADLY, WISHFUL
THINKING WON'T
CONQUER MASSIVE
PROBLEMS!



By Stephen L. Bakke  May 26, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

In one 24-hour period I noted several accounts in the Minneapolis StarTribune that expressed a feeling I once had myself, but which has long since been mostly extinguished. Avoiding the real issues, and denying potential solutions is called wishful thinking, and that won't conquer massive problems.

Here's my response:

Sadly, Wishful Thinking Won't Conquer Massive Problems!

A recent letter-writer gave a heartfelt plea to solve the terrorism problem by feeding Somali children, ridding society of racism, sexism, discrimination and persecution of the poor. Another writer rejected military force as a factor in the solution. Rather, we should work with terrorist leaders to find "common ground." Others blamed this horror on U.S. mistreatment of Arabs and Muslims.

Megastar Katy Perry presented her "sure-fire" solution – also well-intended and heartfelt: "No barriers, no borders, we all just need to co-exist.....love on each other." I don't mock her idealism because many of us have had similar ideas at one time or another.

Minneapolis Mayor Hodges showed her own version of wishful thinking as reported in on May 24. Faced with massive problems in her city, she "invoked the metaphor of the seed, breaking apart to make way for new life." I understand leading by inspiration, but this seemed silly. Faced with a possibly broken governance model, she attempted to salve the concern by declaring, "...our shell is cracked. And from that will come the full flower of our potential.....To some, who can only see this moment, it may indeed look like a complete destruction. In reality, it is transformation." Please face reality Mayor Hodges.

When facing massive problems, we need resolve, frankness, and realistic assessment – also tough love, physical discipline, and in some cases of national defense and fighting evil in the world, a willingness to use measured military force. Avoiding real issues and ignoring potential solutions is wishful thinking. Sadly, that won't conquer massive problems.