

 **DR. THOMAS SOWELL,
A WISE MAN INDEED!
– ECONOMIST,
EDUCATOR,
AUTHOR**

**(A consistent and persistent influence
on my politics, my thought process,
and my approach to evaluating public
policy issues!)**

Stephen L. Bakke  **January 7, 2013**



In the last few months I have noticed many more readers of my “stuff” becoming interested in the once somewhat obscure economist, Thomas Sowell. And very recently I have received emails of quotes from Dr. Sowell that remind me of **a modern day Will Rogers**. Everything he says or writes is generally “right on,” but his regularly distributed “random thoughts” and “snippets of wisdom” show him at his very best! Some of those “snippets” that several of you have sent me are part of this report which is not about my comments but is **ALL ABOUT THOMAS SOWELL!**

First, some brief background information Dr. Thomas Sowell is 82 years old and in the prime of his career. He is currently the Rose and Milton Friedman Senior Fellow at The Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He advocates conservative and libertarian perspectives and solutions and was a protégé to the late (great!) Milton Friedman. Sowell is originally from North Carolina and grew up in Harlem, New York. He dropped out of high school and didn’t finish his education until after serving as a Marine in Korea. After studying at Harvard and Columbia Universities, he completed his formal education with a PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1968. He has served on the faculties of Howard University, Rutgers, Cornell, Brandeis, Amherst and UCLA. **He is a truly remarkable individual! Get to know all about what he stands for!!! I think he is an American Treasure!**

Now, just pay attention for a few minutes as I run through some of his “snippets of wisdom” and “random thoughts.”



If you have always believed that everyone should play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards, that would have gotten you labeled a radical 60 years ago, a liberal 30 years ago and a racist today.



At least half of our society’s troubles come from know-it-alls, in a world where nobody knows even 10 percent of all.



Some people think that if life is not fair, then the answer is to turn more of the nation's resources over to politicians – who will, of course, then spend these resources in ways that increase the politicians' chances of getting reelected.



If I were rich, I would have a plaque made up, and sent to every judge in America, bearing a statement made by Adam Smith more than two and a half centuries ago: "Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent."



Some people are wondering what took so long for the negotiations about the "fiscal cliff." Maybe both sides were waiting for supplies. Democrats may have been waiting for more cans to kick down the road. Republicans may have been waiting for more white flags to hold up in surrender.



If you have been voting for politicians who promise to give you goodies at someone else's expense, then you have no right to complain when they take your money and give it to someone else, including themselves.



It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.



Many people say, "War should be a last resort." Of course it should be a last resort. So should heart surgery, divorce and many other things. But that does not mean that we should just continue to hope against hope indefinitely that things will work out, somehow, until catastrophe suddenly overtakes us.



It is amazing that people who think we cannot afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, and medication somehow think that we can afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, medication and a government bureaucracy to administer it.



I think this man (Obama) really does believe he can change the world, and people like that are infinitely more dangerous than mere crooked politicians.



Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it.



If someone wrote a novel about a man who was raised from childhood to resent the successful and despise the basic values of America – and who then went on to become President of the United States – that novel would be considered too unbelievable, even for a work of fiction. Yet that is what has happened in real life.



When Barack Obama refused to agree to a requested meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – the leader of a country publicly and repeatedly threatened with

annihilation by Iran's leaders, as the Iranians move toward creating nuclear bombs – I thought of a line from the old movie classic "Citizen Kane": "Charlie wasn't cruel. He just did cruel things."



Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good.



There are people calling for the banning of assault weapons who could not define an "assault weapon" if their life depended on it. Yet the ignorant expect others to take them seriously.



One of the consequences of such notions as "entitlements" is that people who have contributed nothing to society feel that society owes them something, apparently just for being nice enough to grace us with their presence.



I have never understood why it is "greed" to want to keep the money you've earned, but not "greed" to want to take somebody else's money.

And one last tongue-in-cheek "parting shot" to usher in the new year:

The beginning of a new year is often a time to look forward and look back. The way the future looks, I prefer to look back – and depend on my advanced age to spare me from having to deal with too much of the future. – Dr. Thomas Sowell, January 1, 2013