

🇺🇸 **FROM HOPE ...
TO DESPAIR ... !
AND BACK
TO HOPE
AGAIN!**

**With lots
of stops
along
the way!**

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Whatever! What good would it do? Why bother? Been there, done that! Nobody will listen! Don't waste your time! Is that what you feel like as regards the public policy direction of this wonderful country? It makes me **very sad** that so many like minded people have witnessed the many efforts to transform our country, in a bad way, and many don't see any solution. **It makes me very sad!** Why is there such resignation that "all is lost"?! It brings to mind the old 1969 Peggy Lee recording, "Is that all there is?" Here is the incredibly sad and directionless chorus as written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller:

*Is that all there is?
If that's all there is my friends, then let's keep dancing.
Let's break out the booze and have a ball.
If that's all there is!*

So I talked to my old mentor about this accumulating sadness about what I'm seeing in the attitudes of so many Americans. With his characteristic lack of sympathy Stefano told me:

Hey SB, just take my word for it, today's societal cynicism, malaise, and melancholy are actually (just?) symptoms of collective confusion. Think about it! Why not try to figure out what I'm telling you!? I'm surprised you didn't come up with that yourself! - Stefano Bachovich - obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit - a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything - my primary "go to guy."

Confusion? Cynicism? I wonder why? Is that the reason? Does it add up to what I'm seeing?

I guess people have given up trying to understand what's going on! Is it all just too confusing? I can certainly come up with some inherently confusing messages, comments, and statements to look at:

- Unemployment is a problem, right? Or isn't it. The unemployment rate is down considerably, but the percentage of Americans actually working is at a 36 year low! How can that be? **That's confusing!** Click [HERE](#) for some information about that sharaade!
- Obama has claimed that income inequality is the defining issue of our time. That's not surprising on its surface, but there are also claims that there is no hope for lower and middle classes to improved themselves. While that doesn't disturb me on the surface, after looking into mobility statistics, **I find confusing** the facts surrounding the issue. Almost all legitimate research downplays the impact of inequality on mobility, and while greater

mobility should be a goal, true mobility out of the lowest and highest income quartiles is truly astounding. We are attacking the wrong problem, it seems – **and I'm confused!**

- ObamaCare was represented to provide more health care coverage choices and greater competition for consumers! But that's clearly NOT the case. **That's confusing!** Click [HERE](#) for some information on that!
- ObamaCare was supposed to save the average American family \$2,500 on health care. That was so far off ... the final costs for the average family ARE WAY UP, and projected to go higher. It's not working folks! **This whole subject is terribly confusing!** Click [HERE](#) for many researched articles on the truth about ObamaCare!
- Obama was recently promoting his most recent example “messianic” work on this planet. He is instituting a number of “promise zones” in struggling communities around the country. He enthusiastically pointed out in his speech that for these communities, **light regulation and light taxation will be part of the formula to move them in the direction of prosperity.** OK ... if it's good for those communities, explain to me why it's not good for the country? **That's confusing, don't you think?**
- Obama's most loyal constituency – poor minorities – have been the most devastated during his presidency! Measuring from 2008 the relative “well being” of those groups compared with the balance of the population is shocking! They have lost much ground under Obama! That loyalty remains largely intact (it's gettin' a little shaky but ...)! **I think that would confuse even Obama's other supporters!**
- For many years believers in the conservative interpretation of the 2nd Amendment, pro-life issues, and traditional marriage were accepted as part of one segment of society. Respectfulness and civility was the defining mood – even for their detractors. Now, traditional opinions have been reassigned to a new, carte blanche definition of hatred. **I'm confused about that!**
- The Governor of New York recently stated that extreme conservatives – those related to support for traditional marriage, pro-life, and the 2nd Amendment – have no place in the state of New York. Somehow, that intolerance isn't consistent with the country I grew up in and **I'm finding his statements perplexing and confusing!**
- The most radical opinions about the inevitability of global warming have changed a bit in tone. And much research is floating in which contradicts the most pessimistic and radical projections. But the rhetoric on both sides continues. I thought science was a collaborative process. **This non-cooperation confuses me!** Click [HERE](#) for a list of researched articles about climate change and many related energy issues!
- **I find confusing** the negative tone and statements by Obama's administration about the business community in general, yet we witness rampant incidents of crony capitalism. Obama chooses who wins and loses. Plutocracy has survived and thrives!

There's so much more – but I've probably worn out my welcome here!

Once I followed Stefano's suggestion and got into all the confusion going on, I kinda' got on a role. If I were to go further I would mention confusing aspects of:

- application of presidential executive orders;
- lack of appreciation for our founders vision of a representative republic;

- our political leaders forgetting about the importance of personal responsibility and accountability;
- the rising tide of class warfare as an election strategy; proclaiming economic recovery when it's obvious there is none;
- and on and on!

As far as we, the citizens, are concerned, I'm also confused about our confusion!

- We want change ... until we get it!
- We want our legislators to do more ... until they do!
- We want politicians to cooperate on leadership and legislation ... until they do!
- We express love for our form of government ... until it works like it's supposed to!
- We want compromise by our politicians, as long as the results are agreeable to us!

The devil's in the details I guess ... isn't it?!

Yes, the truth can be found if we drill down into the details, but in a couple of situations I have tried to point out factually and statistically what I believe to be the truth. But many want no part of "facts" – because they don't trust them and **find the contradiction and spinning terribly confusing!** I agree, but I must continue to rely on data and information, gathered in the right way, interpreted in the most objective fashion, and presented fairly. Many explanations are there, but **the malaise, suspicion, and confusion is so prominent, many Americans just turn away from any such discussions.** This is a real problem!

This all gives me more than confusion! I have much SADNESS!

But wait a minute!

Just maybe ... perhaps ... could this malaise, melancholy and cynicism be a good sign ... in some strange way? HMMMM? Obama and the democrats were elected into power, right? And there were many voters who were mesmerized by Obama and committed enthusiastic supporter ... right?! Many of those "disciples" are those who are now turning their backs on Obama's explanations, as well as my own! Doesn't that mean they are moving in the right direction?

I think Stefano was trying to get me to see that, maybe ... just maybe ... there's light at the end of the tunnel! THERE'S HOPE! RIGHT??

Hey SB, THAT'S NOT A BAD EFFORT (for you anyway!)! You're coming around nicely! Just remember that for someone moving from despair back to hopefulness, **SADNESS IS JUST A STOP ALONG THE WAY!** Trust me, I've been there! – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – my primary "go to guy."

After that encouraging (?) comment from Stefano, another song comes to mind. Remember "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie"? It was written by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin. Here are a few lines:

*The sun'll come out tomorrow
Bet your bottom dollar
that tomorrow there'll be sun
Just thinkin' about tomorrow
Clears away the cobwebs
and the sorrow till' there's none*



I feel better ... don't you?