

The day I met Obama:

I had just finished reading his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, and was impressed by the breadth of subjects it covered; also that he had apparently written it himself without a ghost writer. Overall he seemed to me someone who might actually try to do the 'right things' for the country and for its people, and be good for the world... The book, however, contained only a single paragraph on the importance of maintaining the earth environment.

So, a little over six years ago I went to see then U.S. Senator Obama speak about the Iraq War. This was before he had announced he would run for president, but the rumblings had begun. When he spoke, he was highly articulate, charismatic, and obviously intelligent. He reiterated his opposition to the war, and asserted that the 'mission' in Afghanistan had been virtually abandoned because of the shift to Iraq... I wanted to get a better idea of who Barack Obama was, although my main purpose was to ask this potential leader what I felt was a very fundamental question for the 21st Century.

There were about 1500 people at this event; and after his talk he took a few questions. I was one of about ten people who stood up with a question. He called on four of us, and gave rather long answers before leaving the podium. As he was answering those four questions I got the feeling that all four might have been orchestrated by his team before the event. Disappointed by that sense, but still determined; I took my written question with me to the front of the room where he was signing copies of his book for a group of star-struck ladies.

It was somewhat awkward as I stood close by, waiting for him to finish the autographs, as his 'aide' eyed me with medium intensity. During this several minute wait I experienced the kind of sensations and strange realizations that stay with many of us forever, like I was outside, looking in: 'It immediately seemed strange to me, for someone involved in governance to be surrounded by the autograph seekers; they were infatuated with him. I felt a cold shiver shoot up my spine, as if 'angels and demons' were present at the same time. A very gifted and accomplished man, yet a sense that he was already ordained by the purveyors of political power. There was a subtle undercurrent between us; he freaked me out a little, and I freaked him out a little; us being somehow so alike and so different.'

When the young ladies had been satiated he looked at me with what I interpreted as, "What do you want?" I think I said, "I have a question I'd like to ask you," holding the half sheet of paper in my hand. He said, "Give it to my aide and I'll look at it;" which I did promptly. As they both started to walk away, I implored him to, "Please read it. It will only take twenty seconds. It's about national sustainable policy." He replied, "My aide has it..."

Over the years I've sent him a few letters, emails, and faxes trying to persuade him and other 'leaders' to consider a different approach to Economics and Global Cooperation. My thoughts regarding sustainable and regenerative possibilities are not unique, are constantly evolving; and have been free for the taking since early 2006.

On the half sheet of paper, I believe it read:

I teach physics, and have conducted independent research regarding the Impact on the Environment due to Human Expansion and Economics. After twenty years, I've concluded that there are only two real problems that 'we', the people, need to solve. All other issues including war, terrorism, corruption, poverty, disease, etc... will continue to escalate until we face, head-on: Sustainability and Human Population levels.

My questions are 1: Does this make any sense to you? - and 2: If someone like me had an outline for national sustainable policy, how could we get it to someone like you?

Sincerely,

Jordan Macarus
(Website, email and phone number)

I know to some that may have sounded simplistic, or idealistic. Six years later, I think many more people agree that it is unrealistic to expect reality to get better through the perpetual avoidance of it...

And, regardless if Barack Obama ever read any of my stuff or not, it appears that none of the principle policy makers, in this and most countries across the world, have taken these messages to heart. (Though I'm sure millions of 'regular' people have arrived at similar conclusions) And it appears those conclusions were, and are, somewhere close to the truth of it here on Earth. - We need a simple focus. - I think if we can 'get over ourselves', we can restructure our economies to create opportunities for a dignified existence for everyone willing to 'dig in' and work for it. Conservation-based Economics could change everything; give us hope and the chance to work together on something important.

Once again; "Now is a Good Time to Begin.": Regenerative Economics, Cooperative Problem Solving Experiments, and a Vigorous Cooperation could replace our dinosaur, corruption and consumption-based Economy, our two-sided atrophy, and Global Competition, respectively...

We Are Not Leaderless:

I have said very little here about President Obama. I appreciate his efforts and some of the things he's accomplished. - I don't think I could have made the climb he has made, nor endured the contention... - Although like many, I am disappointed with the lack of progress in addressing 'fundamental issues'. - I do believe he has worked much harder than his predecessor, whose tenure is still incomprehensible. And since the beginning of the 2008 general election there has not been a viable alternative, in my opinion. Also, Congress, as a whole, appears to have wasted more than every penny we, the people, have paid them. The rest of the world has been in awe of our political ineptitude.

I think we should accept as facts, that: “The US Constitution established a framework for good government. If the members of that government choose to work together for the public good, this nation could attempt amazing cooperative measures to address unemployment, social and ecological degradation, climate change and natural disasters, etc... However, our government appears to have opted for the avoidance of 'reality'. - If they have a plan to do otherwise, they have not informed the public.”

Having said all that, I would still love to see The President of The United States, along with other nation's leaders and international leaders of industry sit down with a group of people such as those listed below; for the purpose of discussing how to 'monetize'¹, or 'finance' Regenerative Economics. – In my opinion, this would not require a global currency. It would require that the participants be honest with themselves, and with each other. We humans have had a lot of time; all the way through the twentieth century to see where we could get while being less than honest. – And we see where that has gotten us...

A Leader List:

This is the beginning of a new list of people and organizations that are actively involved in regenerative philosophies and practices. Some are charismatic, some are soft spoken; but I believe these people (and millions of others) are courageous, intelligent and among the real leaders we all need to partner with if we hope to turn our collective negative energy and ignorance into the positive energy we need to survive ourselves in the 21st Century.

(Anything in quotes is my opinion as of 4-16-13):

Jeremy Grantham: “An inspiration; Jeremy Grantham is one of the very few Big-Finance Guys I'm aware of , who understands the connection between the 'real economy' and the ecological fabric; and who is trying to do something about it. He, consciously and pragmatically, manages a multi-billion dollar mutual fund. – If more big-finance guys understand our earth-based realities, and want to help, the world can change very quickly.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/12/jeremy-grantham-environmental-philanthropist-interview>

Allan Savory: “Biologist who realized we've had it backwards regarding what causes desertification of the land; who now is involved in reversing the desertification on four continents. – This is helping to restore the ecological fabric, and can slow, and possibly reverse the human contributions to climate change. – Fantastic! – This approach of reintroducing herds and mimicking nature should be used wherever possible to regenerate and conserve the soil, the water and...”

http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_27277.cfm

Tim Macartney: Embercombe Non-Hierarchical Structure. - “A Zen master, and leader in cooperative management approaches: Deeply understands the connected nature of 'The Everything', true sustainability, and that nothing good can be accomplished by blaming someone else.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEssxCsIItw>

Jacque Fresco: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnkCww2ZeVs>

“Pioneer in Regenerative and 'free' thinking. He is an International Treasure. At 97 years young, we may not have him around much longer, so we should listen to what he is saying now, and what he has articulated for decades. Jacque created The Venus Project which has working models of ergonomic cities that emphasize hydroponics, growing green plants on the ground and vertically. A genius, who seems like a really wonderful person; perhaps on the level of Einstein... He was a major inspiration for Peter Joseph's brilliant movie, and the Zeitgeist Movement.” - <http://www.thezeitgeistmovement.com/>

William McDonough: “A visionary architect and designer. (Who also possesses an eloquent vocabulary and a wry sense of humor..) If we can shift towards a Regenerative Economy, his designs, along with those of Jacque Fresco and other innovators are great places to start.”

http://www.ted.com/talks/william_mcdonough_on_cradle_to_cradle_design.html

Lester Brown: The Earth Policy Institute. –“Lester has done virtually all the math already. He has continually updated what the current costs of attempting to 'save the world' are, and how much less those are than the costs of not trying... His book, Plan B 4.0 (Mobilizing to Save Civilization) is akin to the bible for global sustainability.”

<http://www.earth-policy.org/books/pb4>

David JC Mackay: “Any math that Lester didn't cover, David Mackay may have put forth in his straight-forward, 'common sense' book, Sustainable Energy without the Hot Air. – Brilliant and Essential.” <http://www.withouthotair.com/>

Joel Salatin: "The quintessential 21st Century 'Omnivorous' Farmer. Joel has addressed just about everything we need to know about regenerative farming for sustenance, health and a 'collaboration' between food producers and consumers.. - Down to Earth. and practices what he teaches. Fantastic!"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIbXU5iR2P4>

<http://www.polyfacefarms.com/>

Bill Gates: You may have heard of him... “He made his fortune because he was very smart, shrewd, and in the right place at the right time. Now, as a philanthropist he is trying to help people across the world in the most efficient ways he can find. – If Mr. Gates gains an understanding of the connection between restoring the ecological fabric and structuring a 21st Century Economy, he might become a prominent advocate for Regenerative Economics, and Global Cooperation.” <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>

Warren Buffet: You may have heard of him as well... - “A true leader among pragmatic, wealthy philanthropists. – Warren seems like a well grounded, all-around nice guy. Like Bill Gates, if Mr. Buffet gains an understanding of the connection between restoring the ecological fabric and structuring a 21st Century Economy, he could help bring more 'conscious' billionaires to the conversation of 'real' solutions. – Conscious Billionaires could help 'monetize' small and large-scale Regenerative Economies; and kick this thing into gear” <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50139345n>

David Stockman: “Like Allan Savory, Stockman was humble, smart and courageous enough to admit and learn from his mistakes, as well as many of the flawed assumptions of his profession. - He is one of the only Professional Economists who is telling the truth. He is freaking his peers out; essentially telling them that ignoring reality will only make it worse. I love his honesty and his sense of humor. He is kicking at the door of the virtual-reality glass house. <http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-april-8-2013/exclusive---david-stockman-extended-interview-pt--1> and: (*audio only, but thorough...) <http://tunein.com/topic/?topicId=46034944>

David doesn't offer many solutions.- I think that is up to the rest of us. - 'We' should follow up his revelations by discussing how we can reinvent Economics to make it work for the 21st Century.” (Perhaps reference Open Letter to Economists (<http://jki.jordanmacarus.com/pdfs/Open-letter-to-Economists.pdf>))

And millions of others, including:

Soil Conservationists, Water Conservationists, Gardeners, Horticulturists and Organic Farmers, Semi-Organic Farmers and Local – Only Farmers, Off-Grid dwellers, Desalination technicians, NRDC, Jane Goodall, and...

And the documentary, and interviews, from the film, *Oh My God*. - “Anyone who speaks openly and honestly about life, love, God and religion, is good for communication, cooperation and the world...”

And:

Every person and organization that limits waste; conserves water, fuel, materials, spreads positive energy, and helps to preserve and protect the plants and animals that make life on Earth possible, and miraculous... – People are animals too...

“I don't know if we can change human nature, but we have the potential to alter the economic landscape towards one that creates dignified hope, and honors the architect of life itself, whether such exists or not...”

Truce...

JM

1. By “Monetize” I mean establishing a financial structure to stimulate and maintain the jobs (in a regenerative economy).