

*You can lead a horse to water but don't expect him to say,
'thank you'*

FOREWORD

An overwhelming compulsion to save the world began to consume me when I first realized that government was in the hands of the wrong people. Adults, it seemed to me, didn't know much about doing anything well and knew less about running fair and efficient government than anything else.

After the seventh grade, I began to understand why.

*It doesn't take much brain power to be a liberal thinker;
just a tiny bit more than to be a conservative*

INTRODUCTION

In order to understand what is going on here, it may be helpful if you understood the women in my life. Indeed, I might have remained sane had I understood them, myself. I'm not going to go into detail about all the women in my life ... it's not that kind of book, and, believe me, that would be dull in the extreme; but I'll relate to you the most enduring statements these few have made to me and we'll go from there:

My mother – “Get a good job ...”

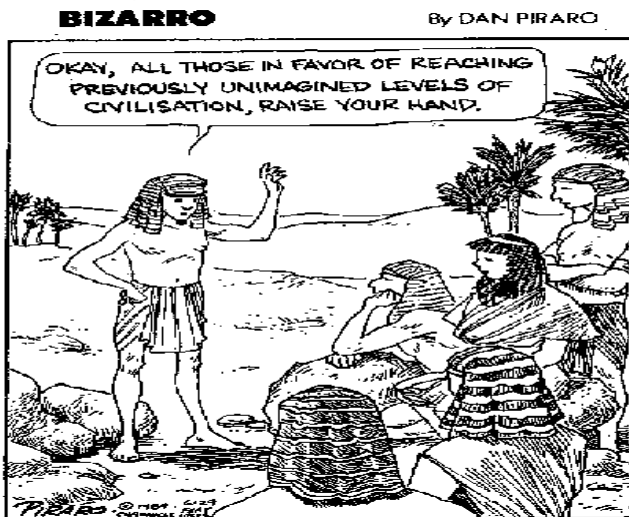
My wife – “Do your thing ...”

My daughters:

> Lisa – “Write a book ...”

> Lori – “Don't demand ..”

> Lynn – “Tell me about the earth ...”



JUST IMAGINE:

**PLANNING
TO BE
CIVILIZED**

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The boundaries of the mind are imagined

Chapter One

THE CHALLENGE

History repeats itself. Chapter one could end right here. This is the Alpha, beginning, crux, midsection, tail-end, and Omega. That mankind has tended to repeat its deadly mistakes is precisely the challenge.

We begin our search for a better America by making our very way of thinking subject to change. The national debt will be paid off, the nation will become a model for the world, and you are a vital cog in a very large wheel. The USA is made better because you and others like you are willing to look at what's wrong with it instead of cheering on the sidelines about our being number one.

Next: Myths and prejudice don't help.

Our conflict with nature is our search for a stable condition and our failure to realize that the ever-changing state of things is that stable condition

Chapter Two

THE DIRECTION

Motion, in and of itself, is not necessarily progress. We have to know where we are going. It might help to know why, but let's consider that a luxury at this point.

Solving problems is made easier by putting two selected brainteasers together and helping them eliminate each other. We shall look at some problems about growing up, serving country and the mother of all headaches: taxes. You're still in charge and we can only hope that your wheels are turning. No person on earth is more important to this plan working.

Next: Some examples and a trip to reality.

Equal and opposite problems solve each other

Chapter Three

THE GAME PLAN

For openers, some definitions are in order. Words like justice, law and order, system, fair, and 100% beef all seem to mean different things to different people or different things to the same people at different times. If we're going to take on this massive task, it's vital that we be on the same page. You may feel that is just a matter of our speaking the same language or sharing the same dream but it's much more than that.

The system works if we agree to bend a little and live as individuals who never forget that we are members of a society. When we decide that individualism is all important or that it doesn't matter at all, we have serious problems. But, we now know how to solve some of those problems. It's your baby.

Next: We face the biggest and most pervasive single problem in the nation today, bar none.

The Chinese symbol for 'crisis' is the symbol for 'danger' combined with the symbol for 'opportunity'

Chapter Four

THE NATIONAL DEBT

First and foremost, let it be known that I understand the negative nature of this subject. Some politicians understand it and some don't. All are vague about it except to blame other politicians for its existence and its growth. That gets us nowhere.

Picture your federal taxes reduced 24%. You may want to get on the phone right now. Just, don't take too long. You have more to do.

*Next: We tackle the monster, the federal budget.
Value is often based on rarity,
which makes common sense priceless*

Chapter Five

THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

It's ironic and almost bizarre that someone or some committee chose to use the very same word -- economy -- to mean "thrifty management of resources" and "money system (under government control)."

Beneath all is economics. A balanced budget or off with their heads. It's that simple. Real capitalism could work if the invention were rewarded more than inheritance.

Next: Getting control of government. Is it what you really want?

Behind all of the nation's problems is at least one diehard trying to fight the will of nature

Chapter Six

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

One out of every six paychecks in these United States is a government check. You can look it up. Meanwhile, you can bet that's simply too much government. Conservatives seem to think we have a giant government because lazy people keep demanding services. Liberals think we have giant government because special-interest groups and large corporations keep demanding services.

The real government of the people is now in your hands. The daring experiment, which is the United States, continues.

Next: A whole new and far more fair tax system. Don't miss it.

Taxes represent the average person's opportunity

to participate in government

Chapter Seven

THE POWER TO TAX

It is a dangerous and foolish thing we do when we shrug and accept the nonsense which is the ridiculous revenue generating mechanism known as the income tax. There is some question as to this tax being proper or fair from the starting gate, regardless of form.

***Simplifying the tax code is even more important than reducing taxes.
Trust me. Confusion is the enemy of fairness.***

Next: Cities and suburbs work together or they all lose in the long run.

Without a plan, nothing can go wrong

Chapter Eight

CITIES AND SUBURBS

Cities and the communities immediately surrounding them are the classic odd couples; marriages arranged by circumstance, opposites working together and co-existing. The problem is — as with so many things — the borderline, that not-so-distinct meeting point of the two distinct worlds.

A little planning goes a long way. A city should be the exciting center of a pulsating and vibrant region.

Next: A look at the world. We participate and should be concerned. The U.N. becomes a catalyst for international betterment to the delight of all. Or, it could continue to be a huge waste of money.

The shortest distance between two points doesn't exist

Chapter Nine

CONNECTING THE DOTS

International events are grand opportunities to grow up.

The United States has done its share and been decent in most of the considerations of things like the United Nations, the Olympic Games, foreign aid, and the like. The United States has been remarkably foolish in its attempts to use money to buy friends.

Ideas come from the young and the inexperienced. The established order mellows. The blending of the two is a must for survival. Neither dominance by the staid nor dominance by the wild will lead to progress.

Next: Without trees, there is not much to discuss. Any culture which is not kindly to the tree is not long for the world.

*I think that I shall never see anything
as valuable as a replaceable resource*

Chapter Ten

NATURAL RESOURCES

The degree to which a given nation or culture is civilized can be measured by a couple of simple observations. In the area of jurisdiction of that tribe, assuming reasonable health of the inhabiting humans, is the tree population (a) increasing or (b) decreasing? Is the ratio of trees to people (a) increasing or (b) decreasing?

Abuse of the vital basics of life is just cause for society's wrath. We can afford to be too many only if we are sure not to be too silly.

Next: Crime, like all other problems, is best confronted at its very base. Why do some people gravitate to criminal activity and what would straighten their course?

The foundation for all crime is the lie

Chapter Eleven

CRIME AND CORRUPTION

Crime and corruption may well be synonymous with human existence. It is a certainty that the attempt to rid the earth of criminal activity has gone on for centuries and will for centuries more. Bear with me on this. Optimism is not in order here. On the other hand, were I pressed, I should remind you that there are at least two points of view in most matters.

Fair opportunity to participate in the game eliminates much of the desire to throw stones on the sidelines. Drugs, in particular, are much more symptom than problem. To close down the dealers, make product available through controlled distribution with no hassles and no fees.

Next: Schools must change. Don't minimize that and don't apply wishful thinking or mythical hopes and dreams. The customer is always the customer.

*Being ignorant is a disadvantage;
wanting to be ignorant is a sin*

Chapter Twelve

EDUCATION

School systems, most particularly public school systems, are very busy teaching a whole lot of stuff. Knowing stuff is good. Knowing how to learn would be better.

Radical stuff may appear to be upsetting. The time has come for fundamental change. Sixty million kids can't be wrong. Public schools can be much more effective, lots more fun and far less costly.

Next: Let's find some answers. Did someone say, fundamental? Can you say: "trickle up," boys and girls?

Deep hole or shallow hole, the first spadeful is the same

Chapter Thirteen

THE WAY TO GO

It's not fair to throw all these problems up in the air and into your lap. I did promise you at least the seeds of ideas. Here's one seed that you may find difficult but which you and all of us should take very seriously. The good things don't all just naturally remain in their goodly state and stick around. They demand some consideration, some care, and protection from abuse.

Trickle up economics is the answer if the United States is to be a national society within which many can rise to great economic heights and others won't starve. Regeneration renews the base of the system by pumping the blood of its life back to the point of growth and invention. Regeneration feeds the new, the future. Unlike trickle-down, it encourages innovation.

Next: The ultimate in recycling. We pass on opportunity. We grow up enough to give some of our toys away.

*You rise to great heights when you give
to a future beyond your own*

Chapter Fourteen

RE

The world needs a language that makes sense; one that is easy to teach and easy to learn. English isn't it. But the English language does include the popular prefix — re — which generally implies a doing again except when it appears at the beginning of the word 'repeat' which, ironically, means to do again.

Improving on a good thing is a doubly good thing.

Next: We look ahead and change is what we see. Are we the changers or merely the changed? That is the question.

*The possible is done, leaving for consideration
only the impossible*

Chapter Fifteen

THE FUTURE

Imagine the thrill of pursuing that which is known to be impossible. Imagine your mother asking what you've accomplished and your continuing answer that you're working on something and cannot be disturbed. Imagine your mother slapping your head. But, the other side of the coin: Harvey Slovisky invents perpetual motion, saves mankind; mother elated. I know that's not your name but you'll want a little privacy, I'm sure.

We have taken the first steps to a better world. You are now prepared to attack the problems, rewrite the book and change the direction of the entire world. Or, you may want to set up defenses against every person attempting to change the direction of the entire world. Whatever you decide, it is a sure bet that your influence will be part of a great ebb and flow that will actually determine the future.

Next: Four thoughts, the icing on the cake.

Appendix I

FAILURE

Since the year one, the generations have tried to teach their successors the way things are, how to survive, and the meaning of life. Somewhere between talks behind the woodshed, myths, inspired scrolls, tablets, writings, and formal education, a precious chain is broken.

It's no wonder the school systems work so hard. They use the wrong technique. By shielding kids from failure, they insulate them from the very best educator.

Next: The good, the bad, and the ugly as hell. They're all in the corporate world. It's the best of us and it's the worst of us.

Appendix II

CORPORATIONS

Everything in nature is programmed to die some day. Everything man creates, he tries to make everlasting. Just when it appears that man finally has the better idea, along comes the corporation -- man's unparalleled creation -- to prove that nature's recipe cooks best.

Corporations are OK. They'd be even better if they died off after a while and left behind some little corporations.

Next: You'll want to get your thinking cap on. We ask the House of Representatives to do away with itself, sort of. Will the last one out please turn off the lights?

Appendix IV

CONSERVALS AND LIBERATIVES

It would be impossible to consider the future of the United States without playing the label game. What is a conservative and what is a liberal? Would the dictionary be a valid reference? Can a liberal entertain a conservative thought? According to Webster's, a liberal is open-minded and tolerant. Sounds like someone who could be helpful in keeping the peace and someone you would like to have around if you wish to make a point.

We've seen ourselves, our country, and our world. All in need of some help; all worth while.

Next: Get on with it. You've got a lot to do; all worth doing.

I've attached selected articles from my series in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

AFTERWORD

Uncle Sam Wants You

Whenever the country is in trouble it calls out to a select group. It makes no bones about taking young men away from home and onto the battlefields around the world. Discrimination, denial of free choice, disproportionate sharing of sacrifices. All acceptable.

The National Debt And The Apostrophe

Anyone can find a way to pay off the national debt. The trick is to maximize the benefits in the process.

I propose a \$ 5.00 surcharge on each and every public misuse of the apostrophe. The receipts would go directly to, and only to, paying off the national debt.

Let's Play House

You've heard the expression, "they can put a man on the moon" It's one way of wondering out loud why modern technology is not adapted to something more urgent than our being represented on another planet.

It's that representation thing I feel needs to be addressed right now. The reason we have representative government is that the old-fashioned town meeting was not very practical for a federal constitution, or even a state charter, when those governments were organized.

Mittens and Banks and Guns

One of those famous 'momisms' is: "don't go out without your mittens." Mothers usually quit using that one in the summer and phase it out altogether when their offspring hit about thirty years of age or otherwise appear to have grown up.

Some of the right-wing literature these days cites -- as one of the reasons every home should have an arsenal -- the fact that the leaders of the Virginia Colony banned individual travel by unarmed persons outside a settled area.