Plain talk

We're past the tipping point

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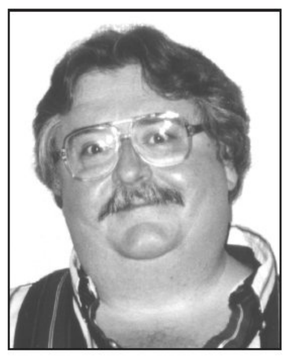

We used to think of our country as the home of the brave and the land of the free. That may have described our national character at one time, but how about now? Maybe the home of the debtors and the land of the clueless would be a more fitting moniker.

Liberal or conservative—it makes no difference. This behavior at all levels seems to be the same. Borrow and spend, then borrow and spend some more. We owe so much money we now owe our national soul to the company store. Yet for the life of us, our leaders just don't seem to get it. I'm not sure if we get it either.

So you're wondering why you are working more and making less. How about taking a 15 percent cut in pay? Maybe your work week has been cut to three days. You can't replace lost customers because there's no one else to call on. How about dwindling advertising revenue? Can't find a job decent enough to make payments on your $100,000 worth of student loans, and still have enough to eat? Looking for answers? I don't know if you can handle the truth! If so, why aren't you yelling and screaming?

Nevertheless, I stumbled across a short story that depicts a major aspect of our problems. I'll share it with you. By the way, for those of you still in the "yeah, but" mode, wake up, we're getting killed!

Joe Smith started the day early, having set his alarm clock (made in Japan) for 6 a.m. While his coffee pot (made in China) was perking, he shaved with his electric razor (made in Hong Kong). He put on a dress shirt (made in Sri Lanka), designer jeans (made in Singapore) and tennis shoes (made in Korea). After cooking his breakfast in his new electric skillet (made in India), he sat down with this calculator (made in Mexico) to see how much he could spend today. After setting his watch (made in Taiwan) to the radio (made in India) he got in his car (made in Germany), filled it with gas from Saudi Arabia and continued his search for a good paying AMERICAN JOB. At the end of yet another discouraging and fruitless day checking his computer (made in Malaysia), Joe decided to relax for a while. He put on his sandals (made in Brazil), poured himself a glass of wine (made in France) and turned on his TV (made in Indonesia), and then wondered why he can't find a good paying job in America.

Our national and personal wealth is hemorrhaging right out of our hands. If you haven't noticed, it's being redistributed everywhere but here. Furthermore, in many cases, the banks won't lend capital dollars for a domestic project but they sure will get involved in an overseas deal. Why? Because the U.S. is rapidly becoming a bad bet. If you don't see it, you are just not paying attention.

Personal activism is the answer. Holding our elected leaders' feet to the fire has to happen. Whether you are a corporate type, small business owner, head of a trade or business association, or wage earner, if you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem. Claim you don't have the time or resources to get involved? I submit you can't afford not to.

If you are fortunate enough to have a decent job or business left, God bless you and I hope things continue favorably for you. Just don't get overly-confident. Bigger and better than you are having their hats handed to them on a daily basis.

The grass roots in the country will have to become proactive. You can't see the foundation of a building from the penthouse. The only way the folks occupying the high places can see the crumbling foundation is to go down and look at it. The federal fat cats live in an insulated bubble at the top and it's apparently beneath them to go down and check out the basement. That being the case, if we don't begin to help and support each other at some level, we are going to end up *dog meat.*

We are past the tipping point and headed for some real scary circumstances. It's your life, business, money and future. As far as that goes, it's your country! No one is going to fight this fight for you.

God bless America.

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