

2015-05-29

Friday Hard News Call

INFORMATION REGARDING CALLS PRESENTED AND/OR SUPPORTED BY 2013 RAINBOW ROUND TABLE

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com ; click on Talk Radio Station #2; click on "64K Listen"

Thursday: 9 pm – 12:00 pm EST **Stargate Round Table** **Host: Marietta Robert**

Friday: 9 pm – 2 am EST **Friday Night Hard News** **Hosts: T & R**

Saturday: 4:30 pm – 2 am EST **History of our Galactic World & NESARA** **Hosts: T & R**

Friday, Saturday: From **10 – 11 pm EST**, for one hour, the call moves to the Conference Call Line [PIN below] and then returns to BBS Radio.

- During the radio show, use the following phone numbers to ask questions or make comments
530 – 227-7602 [line 1]
530 – 413-4522 [line 2]
530 – 530-413-5011 [line 3 & 4]

- **BBS Toll Free # in Canada, US** 1 – 888-429-5471 This number picks up whichever line is available.

B Conference Call: 1-860-970-0300

Thursday PIN #	87 87 87#
Friday PIN #	23 23 23 #
Saturday PIN #	13 72 9#

C Skype: **BBSradio2**

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- To access the **FREE BBS archives** for any of these programs:
 - Go to [BBSRadio.com/ Station 2](http://BBSRadio.com/Station2); scroll down; click on **Live Talk Radio Shows**
 - Scroll down to **Hard News on Friday with Tara and Rama**, and click on **"Library Archives"**
 - Click on those words and you will be taken to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
 - Right hand click on "direct MP3 Link" and then you can download the program to your own computer, or click on "Listen" without downloading the archived program.

- The **2013 website also has an archive section:**
<http://2013rainbowroundtable.ning.com/> look under the "Archives" tab for written notes.

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY 2013 Rainbow Roundtable

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST **Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls**
By telephone only: 1 – 860-970-0300; PIN 9467441#

**B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month:
9:30 – 11:00 pm EST** **Ashtar on the Road**
Hosts: Fran; Susan Leland channels Ashtar, Mother Sekhmet
www.Ashtarontheroad.com

- Phone Number: 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400 #
- Call is free [except for long distance charges]
- Can also listen to the call via Skype

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST **The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call**
By telephone only: 1– 712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay # [good for 1 week] 1-712- 432-0990 PIN 666238#

Opening Meditation: Rainbird

Housekeeping: Rainbird Thank you!

- BBS:**
- A listener-supported radio program; we know the White Knights listen but they cannot contribute anything; part of our job is to pay for them too
 - **We need \$375 to cover this week!** Many, many thanks for helping keep us up-to-date. The more people contribute, the easier it is for all.
 - What we hear and learn feeds our minds and our souls! And, as LM Nada said, it is also part of our contribution to the work being done by Tara & Rama and to the changes going on.
 - Go to BBS.com/Radio 2; find the listing for Friday Night Hard News; find the **Paypal** button
 - BBS appreciates getting checks through the mail – no fees taken off by Paypal
 - **NO COST TO ACCESS THE ARCHIVES** for any of the T & R PROGRAMS, or the one for Thursday night: Stargate Round Table, hosted by MariettaRobert
 - Re: archives of the other programs on BBS: the money we pay to listen to someone else's archives is put towards our BBS bill!
 - The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
**BBS Network, Inc. [Attention: Don]
5167 Toyon Lane
Paradise, CA 95969**
 - A check / money order means all you send is received; using Paypal incurs a fee.

• **CUSTOMER SERVICE # - IN CASE YOU CANNOT HEAR – DON'T WAIT: CALL!! 1- 888-710-8061**

T & R: • Need \$125 to complete the rent; also need food, gas money & something for bills.

- Can donate via the Paypal button on the website: www.2013RainbowRoundTable.ning.com
- **Please notify them if you're sending something:** koran999@comcast.net
- Rama's mailing address for cheques, Money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
1704-B Llano St, # 249
Santa Fe, NM 87505
- **phone contact** is via MariettaRobert: 317-773-0061
or by e-mail: stargatemarietta@gmail.com
- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

MR: • Please remember to support MariettaRobert's show, too

Introductory Notes:

- **CONFERENCE CALL FROM 9 – 10 PM, EST: 1 - 209 – 647 – 1600 PIN#: 353 863#**
Conference Call in HD: 1- 209-647-1600, 353 863# [just for the Conference Call]
- **716-748-0044 - use this number to hear the call very clearly: Link is courtesy BBS!**
- **NOTE:** Please use the following audio link to listen to the entire program.

<http://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-may-29-2015>

HARD NEWS

T: No one in Congress contested what Obama said he was doing to do: Cuba is taken off the state terror list, as of today; now the exchange of ambassadors can happen; an airline is ready

R: his mother was born in Cuba – would like to visit. She was Russian, with dual citizenship

T: another rigged election: the head of FIFA has been re-elected.

R: Former speakd Dennis Hastart has been indicted – goes to the heart of

- Denny Hastart has been paying hush money as he used to play with little boys – this goes right into C Street – this info came from Tom the Cat **[SEE BELOW]**

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/05/hastert-indicted/394391/>

- Shelly Adelson has a leather rope around Denny Hastart's neck; Denny is thinking of putting his hat into the 2016 ring: Adelson is paying for him to do a speaking tour!
 - Denny Hastart paid Adelson money; Adelson is tied in with other folks who are black-mailing other members of Congress: those who are in Congress or leave it are blackmailed:
 - Boehner also being blackmailed for multiple rapes; also involved with contract murders; "This is a private conversation and we love to lie" - does not know who the contracts were on
 - this has to do with the members of Congress, of which only 64 are the good guys – something to watch
- Rumours happening and maybe before September: very big – has to do with Wall Street, IMF, all of the other families who have been circling their wagons – they are as scattered as the FIFA story – all has to do with the dark money: very ugly stories – child trafficking; drug running; black ops; touched on by David Wilcock, Kerry Cassidy
 - **THIS IS ALL FEAR-BASED STUFF: talking about EXTINCTION LEVEL EVENTS COMING LATER THIS YEAR, AND THEY EXPECT THIS CRASH TO HAPPEN IN THE SAME TIME:**
 - **THIS IS ALL PLANNED WITH THE GOAL OF SCARING THE FUR OFF US!!**
 - Ashtar or the rest of the Intergalactic Federation of Worlds will not allow this to happen!!! Earth is destined to become the 33rd member of the Intergalactic Federation of Worlds, not to become an asteroid belt like Maldek.

- Reference to an article by Bill Holter

[SEE BELOW]

2015-05-27 **Collapsing Global Economy, Imploding Financial System~China Has Only One Option**

- The Fed will not be able to put out this fire

T: R was told that no one is waiting to rig this thing up for September

R: there are rumours about a 2.5 mile asteroid coming in between. Sept 23-28th

- R has been told by his regular contacts that , right in the moment, we watching the absolute collapse as FIFA has been nailed, and even though the president has been re-elected & Denny Haster has been indicted – there are many other irons in the fire.

Audio: Thom Hartman - The Big Picture with guest Dr Richard Wolff

- opens with discussion about the relationship between cheap interest rates and CEOs buying back the stocks of the company they work for

Topic: The World economy and the Coming Economic Crash



11:48 [The Coming Crash & The Recession That Never Ended - Part 1](#)

Economist Dr. Richard Wolff, Democracy At Work joins Thom Hartmann. The Coming

Economic Crash...And What We Can Do About It .



12:42 [How the Crash Will Come About - Part 2](#)



13:01 [Will The Coming Crash Be Worldwide? - Part 3](#)



12:56 [Is The Crash Inevitable? - Part 4](#)

May 29, 2015

How to prevent next global recession



http://img.rt.com/files/episode/40/35/d0/00/bp_2905.mp4?event=download

Thom discusses the state of the US and world economies with economist and author Richard Wolff in tonight's special hour-long discussion.

CONFERENCE CALL

CALLER: This story originated in Russia - she had Rama print this out

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/global-warming-and-energy/polluterwatch/The-Lewis-Powell-Memo/>

[SEE BELOW]

Note: didn't hear the conference call: phone line was over whelmingly bad, as was the weather – there may have been a correlation.

BBS RADIO

T: volcano in southernmost island of Japan: Yakushima Island and Kochinowere

Mother Sekhmet / Alcyone

Greetings in the light of the Most Radiant One; in the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame

Yesterday when Nassim Haremein when he discovered how big the Universe of Nebadon was he said it also equivocates with the Flower of Life!

Greetings, Children of RA:

Indeed, the Flower of Life is in the mix – this very ancient story yet is not ancient so much; it is right now. We are seeing the manifestation of new energies pouring in

- Mt Shindakai is the name of the volcano which is erupting - this is a very big deal: the Ring of Fire has been fully activated – not going to decrease; will only increase – new land is forming as she speaks; this is about Lemuria rising once again as well as in the Atlantic Ocean: Atlantis rising again.
- All of the ancient legends, stories – not so ancient; it is time we all receive our own gifts and abilities of the Most High as that is who we are in this moment of eternal NOW. It is how we change, shatter and consume all that is NOT of the Office of the Christ .
- This is the issue at hand: Goddess Vyawamus with her twin flame – Gaia/ Vywamus is synonymous: it is about this new heaven, this new earth in year 3 of this new time after 2012 – it is the year 3; if we keep asking, show me the money; where is the change you speak of? **It is here**

T: they are pushing us to make the change or they will do it for it – they are doing away with the 9th amendment in Japan . . .

M/A: they are moving into the realm of flexing the muscle of the military might of the ancient empire that is . . .

T: in a sense, they are trying to make out that China is the bogey man; there are so many anomalies out there; we are in better shape with China than Japan ...” who gets to decide these things.

M/A: : all these issues at the moment are about the schill for the west who is a member of the Jachosaw [a Japanese “gang”/group] he has already approved the one who will replace him and that one will not make anyone happier

M/A: yes, it is the very wild story that has to do with all of us coming back to love – change is the order of the day and how we can best work with change is as Dr Hew Len said: do the cleaning in here as that changes everything out there.

- The biggest change that is happening is this inevitable force, frequency that has risen to the situation - the prophets, the heroes are on the move and will tolerate nothing less than heaven on earth NOW; all of the ancient issues of power, control, greed, oppression etc will not stand in the energies of the moment
- that is why Gaia is shifting her body and moving it about as she is giving birth to new heaven, new earth; new land that is rising to the occasion. This new land is about the ancient, ancient wisdom that is literally coming from the bottom of the ocean up to the surface.
- There is much that we will learn, quite literally in nano seconds, as it is happening while we are talking because this new land, the new frequencies are bringing in ancient codes that are not so ancient; they have not been seen for quite a while, now they are rising to the surface
- We remember the stories of the telosonium plates that Merk and the Lady of the Sun gave to the people - telosonium plates with the wisdom of the universe on them:
 - Mother brings up the story because with the rising of Lemuria, that not so ancient wisdom coming to the surface, is about our ascension and the planet's ascension; she [Mother] is going nowhere and neither are we; she is descending into physical manifestation as these temples of water, temples of the living god – we are the exact same frequency as what is rising to the occasion here:
 - The Altamarians, the Andromedans, so many groups are here, terra forming the planet with their technologies of living light, living love. The volcano that just went off – much more to the story than is being said on the transmission box – has to do with the keys to our ascension as the frequencies continue to rise exponentially –
 - We'll really comprehend how vast this universe is: when one particle said yes to the other particle and on it goes the quantum black hole, and it continues and continues as we continue to say yes to the frequencies moving upwards and onwards in this moment – all that is unlike love is being healed right now

T: there are at least 100 volcanoes in Chile alone – will they [the people] have to move?

M/A: there are many things that will need to be configured and adjustments be made as to how we move, live and have our being because of the fact that – yes, as Gaia/Vymamus do their cosmic dance of shifting the environment, shifting us about - it is about raising the frequencies to a much higher level; it is also affecting the atmosphere.

- What is happening is that, in spite of that nasty fairy dust that the fairies didn't make, it is being mitigated, transfigured & transformed in this moment. Whatever they are trying to do to create their space fence – to block Mother and company from coming in: a frequency fence can't stop her and the rest – they are already here, and there are so many more of them that are here
- the little video shown about the angels . . .

T: there were 2 angels navigating the clouds without ships around them or anything!

M/A: the man who put this out was from Argentina, Brazil – not sure exactly which country –

- It is a direct message to the people of earth – Lord Michael's legions are here: he is Planetary Prince, co-regent with Admiral Sananda Kumara
- The Guardians of the Galaxy are here and they take no prisoners. It is about how they do it with love, peace and joy and, at the same time, the ones here on the surface are quaking in their boots because their schemes or, as the right wing scheme machine as Rachel Maddow calls it, is showing its dirty under belly: Hastner, Bill Frist, Mr Boenner, Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul

- On **Hard Ball** today, Christ Matthews put Rand Paul through the wringer: are you a war hawk or is Hillary a bigger one?

T: he is a war hawk in terms of domestic items: would dismantle all public programs that support the people or protect the commons

T: making the distinguishment that if we are of a different colour, that makes you different

M/A: if Rand Paul gets the talking stick, he gives James Crow ESQ a seat on the NY Stock Exchange along with Mr Hair - as Rand Paul continues his charade and basically trashes our divine human rights as well as civil rights – no human rights :
No medicaid, no same sex marriage, no affirmative action

M/A: if we are a same sex couple in Kentucky, is he going to kick us out of the wedding cake store? Which is why she says that if Rand Paul gets the talking stick, the gold watch; the limo – not cool!

- In the moment, everything is on the table for transfiguration: this is why the planet is shifting; we are shifting; everything is shifting into a higher order and balance
- and to Blessed are the peace makers - this is why it's coming up to be healed: tag, we are it, as Mr Thom says - we have the power and as we move it with quantum light speed behind berniesanders.com & support him: it changes the course of everything.

T: the media is ignoring him [Bernie Sanders] – saying it's Hillary against the rest of the republicans or they say he is running against her; **he has said specifically he is not.**

M/A: he is bringing it front and centre: 99% gets it back; the 1% has to give it all away as Sananda said

T: and someone will help them give it back if they don't want to

M/A: the Lavendar Lad has a very good method of helping them out of their very large pants with the large holes: he can fill the black holes with the energies of the quantum field

- In the moment, right here right now, inequality is the one particular story
- why is Baltimore in flames and the police have to get an education in having dignity and respect for all life? For the last 30+ years , voodoo economics has taken us to the cleaners with the fake economic processes where rape, pillage and plunder have ravaged our planet and we did not listen to the good folks who had a plan.

M/A: Like what we were hearing from Rob Potter last night, and Frank Chile - with all due respect

- ringing up Gabriel Green; Rama met GG in 1968, campaigned for him for President because GG was going to begin talking about disclosure, the Galactic Federation and the Ashtar Command; he was a direct messenger from Mother and Co –

- What happened was the word was put out: “don't believe the airy fairy hippies; all they want is a sugar cube and to make love, they are not interested in the real issues”
- The real issue was that the Lemurian people were incarnating in the 60s: Lemurian children like Alan Watts, Ginsberg, Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Kentner, Fritz Pearls, Bernie Gunther -

T: people don't know who you are talking about

M/A: there's enough folks that know about the transformational energies that happened on this planet

- Ram Dass and the Beatles got the message about going to India and hanging out with Maharishi, others and bringing the information back to the West: get the people to raise their kundalini so they turn the lovelight on, called the 3rd eye, and not get caught in the 1st chakra and bring up the energy, so we could do this with love;
- It has taken the heroes and the prophets to bring this full circle
- the Indigo children being born in this very moment and the ones that were here after Gen X, Y, Z – they have the ability and don't have to speak a word: they do the sounds A E I O U which are the creation sounds like what Dyhanni taught the people
- this is why it is so imperative to learn Solex Mal which is spoken in all the 7 super universes, the language we knew before we started using the voice box and making guttural sounds
- the reason she talks this way through this temple of the living god [R] is so we can understand her. If she spoke in Solex Mal, we would need a blackboard and a video cam
 - Yet, it is because, at this moment, Mr 19.5, Mr Putin, Mr Xi and the others have not announced them, so they can't quite get on TV – well, of course we CAN; they can take over our transmissions in an instant, but we have to wait for Captain Ashtar to give the word; he gets the first call as Captain in charge and gets his orders from the Admiral – all of our so-called selected gov'ts know the modus operandi in the moment.
 - Dr Greer, Dr Bassett, so many are burning the candle at both ends to get full disclosure on every single media channel so we can stop talking in this funny way and really have a conversation about peace and love. Imagine all the People as John Lennon said; he's the one who should be saint hooded tonight, not that Father Sarah [name not clear]

T: he was a slave overlord, brutally beat and had people killed, if he didn't do it in person

M/A: R printed out his life - making him out as a good roman catholic father who brought the wisdom: trying to say the man who died on the cross for your sins is the only way to get where we are – a LIE, A BIG LIE – **nobody has to die, grow old, get sick** – we have the frequencies within our temples, right now, to create everlasting immortality within us We started to learn a bit of this through Leonard Orr and Dr Ray with the re-birthing process; they got stuck in the kundalini stuff & the ecstasy and a few other things in the mix

M/A: as Peter Quill, **Star Lord**, said “The good, the bad, a little inbetween”

- have to see it on the big screen – it is about the infinity stones and the real story about how it fits in with the larger picture of what R heard about the sons and daughters of the Most High, B'nai Or, where they come in, and they are here now with the Infinity Stones.
- All the legends, all the stories are here now, and we do this with the grace of Creator Source, All That Is; it begins here in the heart centre by saying: “I'm sorry; please forgive me; thank you; I love you. Whatever I may have done in any time space continuum, anywhere – let's heal it for all eternity” and then we can have a little cake and a little Pleiadian champagne
- in this very moment, we have a key to these infinity stones – **Dr Judy Beebe's gem spheres** which radiate the frequencies of the violet living light that never ever burns out and at the

same moment, how we learn to integrate that energy into these particles which are moving at quantum light speed is such a magnificent thing to behold as

- we are holy innocents who have come in with the wisdom of the ages and said we would follow the man with the plan who said the order of business is "we help those who are the least among us – that is why she **keeps bringing up berniesanders.com**
- and Jamie Dimon can lean back in his chair and give the bird to Elizabeth Warren and say try to kill me if you can: that's how intense this story is - not pretty; it is about us taking our power back, with love - not about war
- It's about the weather underground, the SDS, and all the groups and people who came forward and said we are changing this process right now, we make a difference: all the ones who came forward and said as we do this in the moment – Thom Hayden and the hippies and the yippies -all the other folks

T: when reading about The Powell Memo of 1971 – they referred to a Cointel Pro person who had to be stopped: Eldridge Cleaver

M/A: Cleaver was one of the heroes who spoke the truth – like Malcolm X – by any means necessary in this moment: not about picking up fire sticks, sidereal weapons, guns, or water cannons, and so on

T: but the other side did not let us think this

M/A: yes and the next step is doing the meditation and balancing the hemispheres in this temples of the living god

- do you realize how powerful you are with the metatronic brain you have? He put a little piece of his own action and put it in our heads: as we line up the right, left hemispheres, the light switch goes on and we say "I see; therefore, I am." That is the key to the ascension frequency
- At the same time, it is not very apparent but it is apparent and as we do the inner work, it becomes VERY apparent. They don't want us to remember this: they want us to work 2-3 jobs, where we are dead tired, we can't meditate and can only feed mac and tuna to the kids [she gags]
- they are are trying to create organic mac with tuna: let's not even go there - **delete from program please!!**

T: they squelched the no dolphin tunas – still killing them.

M/A: the dolphins, the whales, the orcas, even the sharks are saying - enough of poisoning us: everything has a consciousness

- she heard on the transmission box that we have the attention of a goldfish! What does that say?
- put down the devices, the transmission box, pick up the meditation pillow and the gem spheres and wake the **** up! Not to be harsh or wag a finger in our faces - they are us and we are them: they are visitors from our future which is their past – they have already done this one: they know we make it with flying colours – don't need to have discussions about wedding cakes and same sex marriage!

T: How about "Don't worry! Be happy!"

- Greetings in the light of the most radiant one – Kadoish, kadoish, kadoish

T: the Ruby Ray Masters are on the ground now too – inspire the leadership in all of us

R: was sitting at Mt Kailosh, talking with the 2 Tibetan Llamas [he has sat with before] - thinks they're guardians since the Nepal earthquake, making sure things are OK; so many folks are coming in, bringing peace and joy to the planet: if we could see what they are looking at, we'd be dancing in the streets. It has definitely begun.

T: yes, on TV on the front of the Guardian changed the 't' to 'd's [in Pres of FIFA Sepp Blatter's name] and had some fun: the article said if you think for one second he is not involved, you don't know what is going on! The Saudi prince stepped down – they intimated on the

Journal that if he wanted to live, he'd best get out! They wanted to just detour a bit and keep on going. They said on the Journal there is another soccer group in Europe for the EU which said they were going to go after some and clean things up . . . made it clear – sentence not completed.

- Have to sharpen our higher intelligence and not be fooled by the flowery language which says the opposite to what is best for all concerned.

R: BERNIESANDERS.COM – this is the way home!

T: he will get the issues out there; said he would not play personality games with H Clinton.

Audio: Rest of Richard Wolff and Thom Hartman [see page 4]



13:01 [Will The Coming Crash Be Worldwide? - Part 3](#)



12:56 [Is The Crash Inevitable? - Part 4](#)

Audio: Democracy Now

[SEE BELOW]

2015-05-29 **The Enron of Sports: FIFA's Upheaval, from Corruption Arrests to Rising Death Toll in Qatar**

<http://publish.dvlabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0529.mp4?&start=588.0&end=1815.0>

<http://publish.dvlabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0529.m4a?&start=588.0&end=1815.0>

Audio: Thom Hartmann – Green Report

SCREWED: Why Are We Using Oil Wastewater on Food Crops? Patty Lovera,
[Food & Water Watch](#) [get the video]

Audio: Keiser Report

Episode 763

May 28, 2015

<http://img.rt.com/files/episode/40/12/d0/00/kr2805.mp4?event=download>

In this episode of the Keiser Report, Max and Stacy discuss 'vaporwealth', which much like 'vaporware' is a product or a net worth. In this case, it's never manufactured, but instead either stolen or magically created on the Fed's balance sheet. In the second half, Max interviews Liam Halligan of BNE.eu about the economic situation in Europe, and how Nicola Sturgeon is the new existential boogie man for the tabloids.

Audio: Jon Stewart The Daily Show May 27, 2015 on FIFA

<http://www.thecomedynetwork.ca/Shows/TheDailyShow?vid=620518>

2015-05-28 **The Daily Show quells our fear over the coming pollen tsunami**



5/28/2015 12:34:30 PM by Glenn

The warm and sunny weather that has slowly been replacing the dog crap that was last winter is a welcome change for most warm-blooded creatures, but with it comes a silent force of evil that has the potential to mildly disrupt the nicest of days – POLLEN.

Allergy sufferers have been nervously waiting by their radios for news of how this year's plant orgy will affect their noses and eyes and unfortunately, the news isn't good. Most major news outlets are forecasting a "pollen tsunami" that has itchy-eyed nose drippers running to their nearest pharmacy to load up on relief, but as *The Daily Show* found out, perhaps the pollen report is as overblown as it's been every year.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Roo--idDA24

Audio: Jon Stewart – interview with a woman who wrote a book on the need for infrastructure investment

Rama just handed Tara the following:

2015-05-29 **Investment Banker Jumps To His Death From Manhattan Luxury Apartment** [SEE BELOW]

Reading: **Buddha in Redface**

Closing: **Rainbird**

Music: "The Hymn of the Pearl" by Robert Bly
Amazon Sings

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2015-05-29 The Disturbing Indictment Against Dennis Hastert

The former speaker of the House is charged with lying to federal agents and evading financial reporting requirements, reportedly while attempting to conceal past sexual misconduct.

Dennis Hastert speaks at the 2009 unveiling of his official portrait at the Capitol. Pablo Martinez Monsivais / AP

[David A. Graham](#)

May 29, 2015

Updated on May 29, 2015, at 4:05 p.m.



Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert has been indicted on charges of lying to FBI agents and evading federal financial-reporting requirements, reportedly while paying a man to cover up past sexual misconduct.

Hastert, an Illinois Republican, was speaker from 1999 to 2007. *BuzzFeed's* John Stanton [notes](#) that there were several high-profile congressional scandals in those years. Illinois is also a notorious hotbed for political corruption, as Roland Burris, Rod Blagojevich, George Ryan, and Jesse Jackson Jr. can attest.

But Hastert's indictment seems to involve a darker story than political corruption. In or about 2010, according to the indictment, Hastert—a former high-school teacher and coach—met with an unnamed individual from Yorkville, Hastert's hometown. They "discussed past misconduct by defendant against Individual A that had occurred years earlier." In effect, Hastert fell victim to blackmail, the indictment alleges: He "agreed to provide Individual A \$3.5 million in order to compensate for and conceal his prior misconduct against Individual A." (Since leaving the House, [Hastert has become a highly paid lobbyist.](#))

While Hastert has not made any comment and prosecutors haven't offered any public explanations, [the Los Angeles Times](#) and [NBC News](#) reported that Friday that Hastert's payments were made to cover up past sexual misconduct with a male. "It was sex," a law-enforcement source told the *Times*, adding that it "occurred years earlier" than his election to public office, a timeframe that aligns with Hastert's stint as a high school teacher and wrestling coach. *BuzzFeed* reported that a U.S. attorney withheld the details of the "prior misconduct" from the indictment at the request of Hastert's lawyers, and that the prosecutor also considered additional charges against the former speaker tied to a second alleged victim, but decided against pursuing them.

After the 2010 meeting with Individual A, Hastert allegedly began withdrawing cash from his bank accounts to pay to the individual. But federal laws require financial institutions to report transactions greater than \$10,000, and Hastert made a series of them. In April 2012, the indictment alleges, employees of Hastert's bank questioned him about the withdrawals, and he

promptly reduced his withdrawals to smaller amounts, to escape the requirement. Authorities were already watching, however, and they began investigating Hastert for structuring currency transactions to evade federal requirements—itsself a crime.

When FBI agents questioned Hastert about it, he allegedly lied in his response:

Specifically, in response to the agents' question confirming whether the purpose of the withdrawals was to store cash because he did not feel safe with the banking system, as he previously indicated, JOHN DENNIS HASTERT stated: "Yeah ... I kept the cash. That's what I'm doing." Whereas, in truth and in fact, as JOHN DENNIS HASTERT then well knew, this statement was false ...

The indictment does not reveal the identity of the individual with whom Hastert allegedly met. Nor does it identify the misconduct that Hastert was allegedly paying to cover up. It offers few hints, stating only that "Individual A has been a resident of Yorkville, Illinois and has known defendant JOHN DENNIS HASTERT most of Individual A's life."

[The full indictment is here](#). There's a great deal that's still unclear about the case. Grand juries tend to follow prosecutors' requests to indict, so it's difficult to judge the merits of the case.

Hastert appears to be the first current or former speaker of the House to be indicted. Earlier this month, Democrat Jim Wright of Texas—who resigned amid scandal—died. Newt Gingrich was reprimanded for ethics violations while in office; his later resignation handed Hastert the speaker's gavel. The suggestion of sexual misconduct on Hastert's part has raised eyebrows in part because Hastert oversaw the investigation into Representative Mark Foley, a Florida Republican who resigned in 2006 after revelations that he sent sexually explicit messages and emails to congressional pages. Hastert was [accused of dealing too leniently with Foley](#).

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/05/hastert-indicted/394391/>

2015-05-27 Collapsing Global Economy, Imploding Financial System~China Has Only One Option

By [Bill Holter](#)

Global Research, May 27, 2015

Url of this article:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/collapsing-global-economy-imploding-financial-system-china-has-only-one-option/5451955>



The title is of course a little misleading because China has many options, none of which except one in my opinion will actually work. Options to what exactly you ask? Options to a collapsing global economy and an imploding financial system which will surely affect China as much as anywhere else, but with one caveat. I take these events as a given; others do not, but betting against an outright panic and global bankruptcy is betting against pure mathematics itself.

Let's back up a little bit and look at where China is currently. They are the second largest economy in the world (maybe the largest, we can't really know because the numbers here, there, and everywhere are made up). China is by far THE largest manufacturer in the world and also an enormous exporter. China is also in a three horse race as to who owns the most U.S. Treasuries with Japan and, unbelievably, the Federal Reserve itself. They have an oversized shadow banking system which has already been shown as fraudulent in several cases regarding copper, zinc and lead as "collateral" (or not).

[The Chinese also have a stock market bubble boiling that makes the tulip craze look tame.](#)

Because of sheer size of the country, they are opening something like four million brokerage accounts per month. In recent days, they have had several stocks hit new highs only to drop 50-60% or more in just one day. In fact, they had one company stock hit a new high and then go to ZERO the following day because it was discovered their books were cooked to a crisp.

We also know China is a huge importer of gold AND the largest producer of gold in the world. NONE of their production ever leaves their borders. There have been estimates of gold tonnage held by many. Alisdair Mcleod believes they may have 25,000 tons or more, I personally believe it is possible if you include legacy or "elders" gold. Others believe the number is closer to the 5,000 ton range. My belief is that 10,000 tons is a justifiable number and very easily proven; if this is true, much of it had come from the U.S. and other Western sources and thus depleting the reserves.

I assume the number is 10,000 tons or more; this is a safe number in my mind. I think it is also a safe bet to say the U.S. has sold a minimum of one half of "our" gold which would leave about

4,000 tons. If this is the case, there is already a new world order where China has as much gold as numbers 2, 3 and 4. Looking backwards in time, after the Bretton Woods agreement, the U.S. had every incentive to keep the "price" of gold down at \$35. This is so and evidenced by the old saying "it's as good as gold". The saying originally came about as a description of the dollar. As it turns out, the dollar was NOT as good as gold; in fact, it was not as good as anything, even a cup of coffee. The dollar was overprinted and abused (inflated) by politicians (the Fed) in order to hide anything and everything "bad". This worked until we hit the wall; let's call this wall "debt saturation". Now, the process is reversing and will end in a massive deflation versus real money while fiat currencies follow their issuers into insolvency.

Getting back to China, whenever they do make an announcement of how much gold they have, the yuan will appreciate greatly versus all fiat currencies. Many will pooh pooh this thought because "China will never do that; they will kill their own manufacturing base". Let me answer this before moving forward. The Chinese are very smart people; they can see the West is hitting the debt wall. They also know that, as the wall is hit and markets begin to implode, their "customers" are going to have an even harder time buying Chinese produced goods. In fact, they already know this. They already know this is happening and can see it in their trade figures ...which is why they recently formed the AIIB and are working feverishly to open the "old silk road" trade route! They are simply lining up new customers from one end of the silk road to the other!

I have hypothesized many times in the past, China has built out their infrastructure and even "ghost cities" using credit. Once the credit markets begin to default, they will be left with "stuff" in place and will last for the next 50 to 100 years. Roads, bridges, buildings, airports, ports, etc., you name it: they have already built it. And yes, their stock market will crash; their real estate market is already softening, in reverse and declining. I am not saying it will be all rosy; to the contrary, there will be bankruptcies galore in China... with a caveat. The "government" of China will go through this liquidation phase with the most gold in the world.

Moving forward, since China will be hurt badly as investments default, I believe they will re price their gold higher initially. I believe marking their gold higher in terms of yuan will be their only option. They will be forced to in order to "recapitalize" themselves (and their banking system) and begin to fill in the black holes created by defaulted U.S. Treasuries and other "assets" held. You see, not only is the old saying "he who owns the gold makes the rules" true, it is also true that he who owns the gold has the ability to PRICE IT.

This has been true for so many years as the U.S. (the West) has wanted low gold prices as a show or display that their fiat currencies were "good". Now, as the curtain goes down on the West, China will want a very high gold price in yuan for when the curtain rises again. A gold price maybe even higher than it should be will give the PBOC more power initially AND will allow them some room to inflate and grow. Please notice I am only talking about China in this paragraph. As for the dollar and other Western currencies, they will be revalued downward versus the yuan which gives gold priced in dollars a double whammy of re pricing.

Let's tie this all together and look at the old silk road and the trade route China is focusing on. It goes from Asia, through the Middle East and into Europe. Could this be why various European nations are repatriating their gold? Not only because they have lost trust in their custodian but they also know China will put an emphasis on gold holdings in the future? What do many Asians

hold as money? Yes, Gold. Indians? Gold. Arabs? Again gold. The point I am trying to make is the "old silk road" might as well be called the "yellow brick road" and one paved with gold from beginning to end! It seems to me, the only ones who don't understand this or even disagree are Westerners and, in particular, Americans. Our standard of living is about to be pulled right out from under us while violently proclaiming "it can never happen". I would say, it should have already happened but has not because we still had a few kilos left to supply the paving crew of the "Wizard of OZ paving company".

The above was finished midday on Saturday; since then two new pieces of news have come out. First, China announced it is setting up "[the world's largest gold fund](#)". They will earmark \$16 billion to purchase physical gold. If you do the math, this is around 500 tons or about 20% of global production. By calling it "the world's largest gold fund", maybe China is saying they do not believe "GLD" is real? Just an observation.

In the latest piece of news, <http://rt.com/business/261289-brics-new-development-bank/> RT ran an editorial piece pointing out that China already lends more to Africa and Latin America than the World Bank and IMF combined. Is this posturing "for" the Chinese before the IMF readjusts the SDR? Seemingly disconnected pieces to the puzzle, don't bet on it!

2015-05-29 **The Enron of Sports: FIFA's Upheaval, from Corruption Arrests to Rising Death Toll in Qatar**

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/ipod/dn2015-0529.mp4?&start=588.0&end=1815.0>

<http://publish.dvllabs.com/democracynow/audio-m4a/dn2015-0529.m4a?&start=588.0&end=1815.0>

Guests

Dave Zirin, sports columnist for *The Nation* magazine and host of *Edge of Sports Radio* on SiriusXM. Zirin is the author of several books on sports. His latest is *Brazil's Dance with the Devil: The World Cup, the Olympics, and the Fight for Democracy*.

Jules Boykoff, teaches political science at Pacific University in Oregon. He is the author of *Activism and the Olympics: Dissent at the Games in Vancouver and London* and *Celebration Capitalism and the Olympic Games*. In the 1980s and 1990s, he represented the U.S. Olympic soccer team in international competition.

In what's been described as the largest scandal in modern sports history, nine high-ranking soccer officials, including two current vice presidents of soccer's world governing body, FIFA, were indicted along with five sports marketing executives on federal corruption charges by the U.S. Justice Department. Among those arrested in connection with the probe is Jack Warner, former vice president of FIFA, who is accused of taking a \$10 million bribe to cast his ballot for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup. Despite the arrests, FIFA is holding an election today to pick the next president of the organization. FIFA President Sepp Blatter is seeking re-election for the post he has held since 1998. Many commentators have predicted he will be re-elected, though some nations, including the United States, have vowed to vote against him. We speak to sportswriter Dave Zirin and Jules Boykoff, former professional soccer player who represented the U.S. Olympic soccer team.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: We turn now to what some have described as the largest scandal in modern sports history. Earlier this week, nine high-ranking soccer officials, including two current vice presidents of soccer's world governing body, FIFA, were indicted along with five sports marketing executives on federal corruption charges by the U.S. Justice Department. Early on Wednesday, Swiss authorities made a series of arrests at a five-star hotel at the request of the the U.S. authorities.

AMY GOODMAN: Among those arrested in connection with the probe is Jack Warner, former vice president of FIFA, who is accused of taking a \$10 million bribe to cast his ballot for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup. U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said the corruption dates back to at least 1991.

ATTORNEY GENERAL LORETTA LYNCH: The 14 defendants charged in the indictment we are unsealing today include high-ranking officials of FIFA, the international organization responsible for regulating and promoting soccer, leaders of regional and other governing bodies under the FIFA umbrella and sports marketing executives who, according to the indictment, paid millions of dollars in bribes and

kickbacks to obtain lucrative media and marketing rights to international soccer tournaments. The 47-count indictment against these individuals includes charges of racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies spanning two decades.

AMY GOODMAN: On Thursday, the chief of the IRS Criminal Investigation [unit], Richard Weber, described the corruption within FIFA.

RICHARD WEBER: As the best financial investigators in the world, IRS-CI special agents exposed complex money-laundering schemes, uncovered millions of dollars in untaxed income, and discovered tens of millions of dollars hidden away in offshore accounts in countries like Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands and Switzerland. This really is the World Cup of fraud. And today we are issuing FIFA a red card.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Despite the arrests, FIFA is holding an election today to pick the next president of the organization. FIFA President Sepp Blatter is seeking re-election for the post he has held since 1998. Many commentators have predicted he will be re-elected, though some nations, including the United States, have vowed to vote against him. Earlier today, protesters in Zurich called for Blatter to step down. This is Alaphia Zoyab of the group Avaaz.

ALAPHIA ZOYAB: If Blatter doesn't go despite giving the World Cup to a country that has slave labor, if Blatter doesn't go despite the fact that his sponsors are starting to wobble, and if Blatter doesn't go despite the fact that half his board has been arrested, it's not just Blatter that needs to be axed, the FIFA Congress itself needs to be questioned.

AMY GOODMAN: This week's FIFA arrests are just the latest scandal within the international soccer community. FIFA has also come under criticism for selecting Qatar to host the 2022 games despite the country's poor human rights record. According to the International Trade Union Confederation, 1,200 migrant workers have died since the World Cup was awarded in 2010.

To talk more about FIFA and the soccer scandals, we're joined by two guests. Jules Boykoff is with us, former professional soccer player who represented the U.S. Olympic soccer team. He now teaches political science at Pacific University in Oregon, joining us from Portland. And in Washington, D.C., sportswriter Dave Zirin. His latest book, *Brazil's Dance with the Devil: The World Cup, the Olympics, and the Fight for Democracy*.

Well, Dave, you've been covering this for a long time. We were interviewing you in Brazil when the World Cup was there. Are you surprised?

DAVE ZIRIN: Not surprised at all, about as surprised as I'd be if I fell in a pool and emerged wet. The only thing that is surprising here is that we're now dealing with charges that have actual teeth. That's the only surprise. I mean, we are talking about the Enron of sports and a hubris and arrogance that is bringing down a multibillion-dollar corporation. The only difference between FIFA and Enron is that FIFA has been designated a nonprofit by the Swiss government, which makes looking at its books and finding the extent of the corruption all the more difficult.

Now, for *Democracy Now!* listeners and viewers, I could understand why people would look at the U.S. Justice Department and say, "Why can't they be this aggressive towards the Wall Street bankers? Why can't they be this aggressive towards police brutality?" And those viewers are absolutely correct. But people should also realize that this is a day that people should celebrate,

because it is crippling one of the most corrupt multinationals that we have, sports or otherwise.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: And, Dave, could you tell us a little bit about Sepp Blatter, the president of FIFA? He wasn't among those who was indicted, and today he's running for president, for re-election for president of FIFA.

DAVE ZIRIN: Yes, Sepp Blatter, as you said, he has been in charge of FIFA for 17 years. The thing about Sepp Blatter that distinguishes him from the people who were indicted is that Sepp Blatter uses his power and influence to attain more power. He's less interested in personal enrichment than he is in influence, and this is what has allowed him to remain free of prison these last many years. Although Sepp Blatter is also—he will not get off a plane in the United States, for fear that he will be arrested. That is true. There are also people saying that he might not attend the Women's World Cup in Canada, for fear that he might be arrested. So, you're talking about somebody who is effectively a stateless actor, somebody who is under investigation, who will probably be re-elected for a fifth term to head FIFA.

AMY GOODMAN: Are there any U.S. Justice Department Blatter leaks? What will happen to Blatter next, Dave?

DAVE ZIRIN: That's a terrific question. What is very clear is that Lorreta Lynch has Blatter in her sights. That's why she said she wanted to uproot corruption going back 20 years. That's Blatter's term. And let's be clear about this, too: The U.S. Justice Department is going after FIFA very simply because the U.S. was not awarded the 2022 World Cup. If they had been, I don't think this investigation would be taking place. And also let's keep in mind that the Justice Department has only gone after, at this point, a small part of the world—North America, Central America, these confederations. What it says to us is that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and if some of these FIFA vice presidents begin to talk, begin to flip, if you will, to use Mafia parlance, what we could be looking at is the bringing down of Sepp Blatter and perhaps the beginning of the end of FIFA itself.

AMY GOODMAN: Could you talk about the revelations regarding the Clinton Foundation—

DAVE ZIRIN: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: —having received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Qatari World Cup Committee—

DAVE ZIRIN: Yes.

AMY GOODMAN: —when Bill Clinton was serving as the U.S. World Cup delegate with the U.S. cup world delegation—the World Cup delegation?

DAVE ZIRIN: Yes. Not only has the Clinton Foundation received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Qatar World Cup Committee, it has also received millions of dollars from the Qatari government over the last several years. And the Clintons are going to have to answer this question, because, as you said in the intro, the Qatari World Cup construction has an absolutely monstrous body count—1,200 deaths—slavery, and even the prevention of Nepalese migrant workers of going home to Nepal after the recent earthquake to go to funerals for members of their family. Now, there is this lore that's out there in the media that Bill Clinton was so angry after the U.S. did not get the World Cup bid for 2022, he broke a mirror, and that signaled that the United

States was going to get serious about corruption in the World Cup. This is mainstream media hooley. What you see much more clearly is a very bizarre, very unexplained connection between the Qatari royal family, the Qatari World Cup bid and the Clinton Foundation, which allegedly was to facilitate less labor abuses, when in reality we have not seen that at all.

AMY GOODMAN: *The Guardian* has an amazing figure: Despite Qatar's promises to improve conditions, Nepali migrants have died at a rate of one every two days in 2014 in Qatar.

DAVE ZIRIN: Yeah, and that blood is on Sepp Blatter's hands, as well. Even though, ironically, Sepp Blatter was not in favor of the Qatari bid, he has said that this World Cup will go on in 2022, quote-unquote, "over his dead body"—that's his words—even though it's 125 degrees during the summer in Qatar, even though they're going to have to have the World Cup in 2022 in the fall, which will effectively cut into, if not completely reorganize, the European soccer leagues, which are the world's most popular. And that's why I think 2022, if Blatter is re-elected and if we have a situation where he's not imprisoned, where we could be looking at the crack-up of FIFA in the years to come, because the splits are really profound. And the splits are unclear. Voting against Blatter today will not only be the United States, as you mentioned, but also the Palestinian Football Association. So, if Blatter and FIFA have done nothing else, they have brought the interests of Palestine and the interests of the United States together for once.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Well, could you talk about that, Dave? Your recent [piece](#) talks about the Palestinian Football Association's bid to have the Israeli Football Association, you know, somehow sanctioned for the way it treats Palestinian football players. Could you talk about that?

DAVE ZIRIN: Yes, sanctioned or expelled. It would be the first time since apartheid South Africa that a country was asked to leave FIFA because of its practices. But this news is changing as I'm speaking to you. There are negotiations going on. Israel, from what I hear from news reports, is already relenting on what has been a blockade preventing players in Gaza from traveling freely to the West Bank. And that's what the Palestinian Football Association is charging Israel with. They're saying they are choking out their ability to develop soccer because of the way that they get in the way of free movement of players, free movement of coaches. And perhaps the most damning accusation towards the Israeli Football Association is that they have created and formed five or six, depending on reports, clubs in the Occupied Territories, in the settlements of the West Bank, so it's Israeli Football Association using soccer as a way to take land that should rightfully be part of a possible Palestinian state. And they're saying that the Israeli Football Association should be removed from FIFA unless they agree to cease these practices. And there are furious negotiations going on, as we speak, to try to head that off.

AMY GOODMAN: Russian President Vladimir Putin has come out in defense of the embattled FIFA president, Sepp Blatter. Russia is due to host the World Cup in 2018. Putin drew comparisons between the alleged attempt to oust Blatter and the charges brought against National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, who's got political asylum in Russia, and WikiLeaks founder and editor Julian Assange. He accused the U.S. of meddling outside its jurisdiction.

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN: [translated] With regard to the arrests that have been made, it looks very strange, to say the least, because the arrests have been made at the request of the American side on charges of corruption. And who were charged? International officials. We can assume that some of them may have violated something. I don't know. But it's clear that the U.S. has nothing to do with that

anyway. Those officials are not U.S. citizens. And if some event indeed happened, and it happened not on the United States territory, and the U.S. has nothing to do with that, this is yet another blatant attempt to extend its jurisdiction to other states.

AMY GOODMAN: Dave Zirin, your response?

DAVE ZIRIN: Well—

AMY GOODMAN: That was, of course, Vladimir Putin.

DAVE ZIRIN: Well, I mean, Vladimir Putin will also be having to answer, in the weeks and months to come, new allegations about the use of prison labor to create World Cup facilities in Russia. But that being said, one thing that Putin is saying which is true is that the United States Justice Department is using statutes that they—that was granted to it by law after 9/11 as a way to conduct international antiterror arrests in other countries that they have extradition agreements with. So this was a post-9/11 arrest using antiterror statutes as a way to arrest foreign officials and bring them to the United States for trial. And these antiterror statutes are so broad that if someone even tries to send money through a computer server in the United States, it dings off a server in the U.S., then the U.S. Justice Department has jurisdiction to go into another country, conduct an arrest and bring people back to the U.S. for trial. So this is the United States playing globocop. That is irrefutable.

NERMEEN SHAIKH: Jules Boykoff, I want to ask you—you've played competitively for the U.S. in international soccer tournaments. What was your response when this scandal broke with FIFA? And can you say a little about the way in which soccer has changed from the time that you played to now?

JULES BOYKOFF: Absolutely. Well, corruption in FIFA has been an open secret for a long time. I actually was a little bit surprised when the allegations came out, and I was surprised that the Justice Department would pursue this using the legal means at its disposal. Soccer has changed a lot over the years, and it's become a big-time money enterprise, and there's a whole lot at stake. FIFA is supposedly a nonprofit organization, yet it sure is profitable. It has holdings of about \$1.5 billion. It made nearly \$5 billion off the Brazil World Cup. And so, when you have that kind of money floating around, we shouldn't be surprised about stories regarding envelopes full of tens of thousands of dollars, or we shouldn't be surprised by stories like Chuck Blazer, the U.S. soccer honcho, who was renting an apartment at Trump Tower, not too far from you, at \$18,000 a month. In fact, the guy had an apartment for his cats at \$6,000 a month. So when you have that kind of money floating around, we shouldn't be surprised that we see these kind of corrupt activities.

What's interesting to me, too, though, beyond that, beyond the actual illegal corruption, is the corruption that's sort of imbedded in everyday practice for FIFA. So, for example, since 1999, under Sepp Blatter, he's distributed funds through various programs, including the Goal Project, Football for Hope, to various small countries, and that's how he's gained their allegiance. So your listeners and viewers might be wondering how the heck is this guy going to possibly get re-elected shortly. Therein lies the answer. He's distributed money, he's farmed it out, and he's gained the allegiance from people across the world this way. So he may well get the two-thirds he needs in the first vote today. That's 140 votes. And if he doesn't, he may well get the majority

required in the second round of voting.

AMY GOODMAN: Dave Zirin, before you go, I wanted to ask you about, you know, what's being said is Loretta Lynch's first big move as U.S. attorney general. Now, she took this with her from being U.S. attorney here in New York. But before this, of course, the indictments against the banks were announced, or the settlement. Now, that was banks, not individuals. What about that comparison, that you see all these people hauled off, but when it comes to the banks, no one is named?

DAVE ZIRIN: Yeah, I think it's disturbing. And another one is the real timidity to go after local police departments, as well, by the Justice Department, given some of the cases like, for example, the one that you discussed at the top of the show that's so horrifying, about the woman who was pregnant and brought to the ground. I think this is something that people need to demand and press the Justice Department about. And frankly, I think it is happening because FIFA is such low-hanging fruit. I mean, if you think about it, it's not people from the United States. It looks extremely aggressive. And FIFA's reputation has been terrible for about 20, 25 years. And so, this idea of, oh, people are actually doing something about FIFA, especially at a time when soccer is growing in popularity in the United States, this is a very, very popular, bipartisan move for the United States to do. And for the right wing, it also looks very muscular, because it's going overseas to play globocop and make an arrest and bring people then back to the United States for trial. Yet lost in all of this is the precedent, first of all, that the U.S. is setting by going overseas on a non-terror case to make an arrest and bring people back. And what's being lost is that you have bankers in this country who facilitated the largest theft in the history of thieves back in 2008, and yet they remain free. I think that's something people need to continue to press and ask this Justice Department: If they're this muscular with FIFA, why not with the Wall Street bankers?

AMY GOODMAN: Jules Boykoff, talk about the women's cup.

JULES BOYKOFF: Well, that's one of the sad facts of all this, is that the Women's World Cup is going to start on June 6, and it's getting totally overshadowed by this FIFA corruption scandal. It's going to be a terrific tournament. Canada is hosting it. We're going to see women from across the world play some terrific soccer in front of us. Unfortunately, they're going to be playing on artificial turf fields, which has been a point of major disagreement from the women players who will be coming to Canada, because of the possibility of injury increasing and because it changes the game, makes it a bit faster and different than it is on grass.

But certainly, FIFA has a long history of flinging misogyny in every direction. Back in 2004, Sepp Blatter stated quite clearly, when asked how we could make the women's game more popular in the world, he suggested that they wear tighter shorts. For real. Ten years later, he didn't even recognize Alex Morgan, one of the top three players in the world, up for the FIFA Player of the Year award. He didn't even recognize her at the gala banquet dinner. A couple—also, beyond that, he walked up to Abby Wambach's wife, Sarah Huffman, and thought she was Marta, the Brazilian star who had won the FIFA award five times. So, misogyny in FIFA, sexism in FIFA runs deep. And this has been one of the sad side effects, is that we're not talking about what's going to be a terrific tournament.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, we want to thank you both for being with us. Jules Boykoff teaches political science at Pacific University in Oregon, author of *Activism and the Olympics: Dissent at*

the Games in Vancouver and London, as well as *Celebration Capitalism and the Olympic Games*. In the '80s and '90s, he represented the U.S. Olympic soccer team in international competition. And thanks to Dave Zirin, sports columnist for *The Nation*.

This is *Democracy Now!* When we come back, we go to Texas, where floods have killed many people. We'll talk about climate change, from Texas to India. Stay with us.

2015-05-29 **Investment Banker Jumps To His Death From Manhattan Luxury Apartment**

<http://www.inquisitr.com/2128894/investment-banker-jumps/>



An investment banker jumped to his death from a luxury apartment building in Manhattan. Authorities confirmed Thomas J. Hughes was 29-years-old.

Witnesses said the investment banker jumped from a window on the 24th floor of the Ocean Luxury Residences. The incident is still under investigation. However, authorities believe Hughes committed suicide from the window of his own apartment.

As reported by the *New York Daily News*, Hughes eventually [struck a guardrail](#), which runs between Battery Place and an underpass.

Hans Peler, who manages a nearby parking garage, witnessed the grisly scene.

"There were body parts all over the floor... Blood was all over [my employee's] shirt. I sent him straight home. He was very upset... It's terrible..."

Witnesses said the impact propelled gore onto the sidewalk, street, pedestrians, and passing vehicles. Although a majority of the witnesses were horrified, others stopped to take pictures.

As reported by Fox News, a group of tourists, who were riding an [open-air bus](#), were seen "scrambling for their cellphones to snap pictures of the body."

Unfortunately, a startling number of investment bankers jump to their deaths each year. Although suicides are often impossible to explain, stress may be an important factor.

An informal study, published in 2014 by *Business Insider*, found investment banking to be the "most stressful job on Wall Street."

According to [the article](#), investment bankers are routinely subjected to a high volume of tasks, which require a high level of concentration.

Career coach Roy Cohen said the demands are even worse on associates.

“The life of a junior banker is one of the last forms of legalized slavery... It is a grueling survival of the fittest existence defined by all-nighters, no time to eat well or to exercise, and compensation that has remained flat for a number of years.”

Associate investment bankers often work up to 90 hours per week, which include a lot of nights and weekends. Although many adapt to the long hours and immense stress, others are not so lucky.

According to reports, Thomas J. Hughes was an associate at Moelis & Company

It is unclear what prompted the investment banker to jump to his death from his apartment window. However, Hughes' family confirmed he was under a great deal of stress and had attempted suicide on at least one other occasion.

[Image via [Shutterstock](#)]

2015-05-30 **The Lewis Powell Memo - A Corporate Blueprint to Dominate Democracy**

Written in 1971 to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Lewis Powell Memo was a blueprint for corporate domination of American Democracy.

A typescript PDF copy of the original [Powell Memo](#), with footnotes, can be downloaded from the [Greenpeace Investigations website](#). For more, see [Greenpeace analyses](#) of how Lewis Powell's suggestions have impacted the realms of [politics](#), [judicial law](#), [communications](#) and [education](#).

The full text of the Powell Memo is below:

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM **Attack on American Free Enterprise System**

DATE: August 23, 1971

TO: Mr. Eugene B. Sydnor, Jr., Chairman, Education Committee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

FROM: Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

This memorandum is submitted at your request as a basis for the discussion on August 24 with Mr. Booth (executive vice president) and others at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The purpose is to identify the problem, and suggest possible avenues of action for further consideration.

Dimensions of the Attack

No thoughtful person can question that the American economic system is under broad attack. This varies in scope, intensity, in the techniques employed, and in the level of visibility.

There always have been some who opposed the American system, and preferred socialism or some form of statism (communism or fascism). Also, there always have been critics of the system, whose criticism has been wholesome and constructive so long as the objective was to improve rather than to subvert or destroy.

But what now concerns us is quite new in the history of America. We are not dealing with sporadic or isolated attacks from a relatively few extremists or even from the minority socialist cadre. Rather, the assault on the enterprise system is broadly based and consistently pursued. It is gaining momentum and converts.

Sources of the Attack

The sources are varied and diffused. They include, not unexpectedly, the Communists, New Leftists and other revolutionaries who would destroy the entire system, both political and economic. These extremists of the left are far more numerous, better financed, and increasingly are more welcomed and encouraged by other elements of society, than ever before in our history. But they remain a small minority, and are not yet the principal cause for concern.

The most disquieting voices joining the chorus of criticism come from perfectly respectable elements of society: from the college campus, the pulpit, the media, the intellectual and literary journals, the arts and sciences, and from politicians. In most of these groups the movement against the system is participated in only by minorities. Yet, these often are the most articulate,

the most vocal, the most prolific in their writing and speaking.

Moreover, much of the media -- for varying motives and in varying degrees -- either voluntarily accords unique publicity to these "attackers," or at least allows them to exploit the media for their purposes. This is especially true of television, which now plays such a predominant role in shaping the thinking, attitudes and emotions of our people.

One of the bewildering paradoxes of our time is the extent to which the enterprise system tolerates, if not participates in, its own destruction.

The campuses from which much of the criticism emanates are supported by (i) tax funds generated largely from American business, and (ii) contributions from capital funds controlled or generated by American business. The boards of trustees of our universities overwhelmingly are composed of men and women who are leaders in the system.

Most of the media, including the national TV systems, are owned and theoretically controlled by corporations which depend upon profits, and the enterprise system to survive.

Tone of the Attack

This memorandum is not the place to document in detail the tone, character, or intensity of the attack. The following quotations will suffice to give one a general idea:

William Kunstler, warmly welcomed on campuses and listed in a recent student poll as the "American lawyer most admired," incites audiences as follows:

"You must learn to fight in the streets, to revolt, to shoot guns. We will learn to do all of the things that property owners fear." The New Leftists who heed Kunstler's advice increasingly are beginning to act -- not just against military recruiting offices and manufacturers of munitions, but against a variety of businesses: "Since February, 1970, branches (of Bank of America) have been attacked 39 times, 22 times with explosive devices and 17 times with fire bombs or by arsonists." Although New Leftist spokesmen are succeeding in radicalizing thousands of the young, the greater cause for concern is the hostility of respectable liberals and social reformers. It is the sum total of their views and influence which could indeed fatally weaken or destroy the system.

A chilling description of what is being taught on many of our campuses was written by Stewart Alsop:

"Yale, like every other major college, is graduating scores of bright young men who are practitioners of 'the politics of despair.' These young men despise the American political and economic system . . . (their) minds seem to be wholly closed. They live, not by rational discussion, but by mindless slogans." A recent poll of students on 12 representative campuses reported that: "Almost half the students favored socialization of basic U.S. industries."

A visiting professor from England at Rockford College gave a series of lectures entitled "The Ideological War Against Western Society," in which he documents the extent to which members of the intellectual community are waging ideological warfare against the enterprise system and the values of western society. In a foreword to these lectures, famed Dr. Milton Friedman of Chicago warned: "It (is) crystal clear that the foundations of our free society are under wide-ranging and powerful attack -- not by Communist or any other conspiracy but by misguided individuals parroting one another and unwittingly serving ends they would never intentionally promote."

Perhaps the single most effective antagonist of American business is Ralph Nader, who -- thanks largely to the media -- has become a legend in his own time and an idol of millions of Americans. A recent article in Fortune speaks of Nader as follows:

"The passion that rules in him -- and he is a passionate man -- is aimed at smashing utterly the target of his hatred, which is corporate power. He thinks, and says quite bluntly, that a great many corporate executives belong in prison -- for defrauding the consumer with shoddy merchandise, poisoning the food supply with chemical additives, and willfully manufacturing unsafe products that will maim or kill the buyer. He emphasizes that he is not talking just about 'fly-by-night hucksters' but the top management of blue chip business."

A frontal assault was made on our government, our system of justice, and the free enterprise system by Yale Professor Charles Reich in his widely publicized book: "The Greening of America," published last winter.

The foregoing references illustrate the broad, shotgun attack on the system itself. There are countless examples of rifle shots which undermine confidence and confuse the public. Favorite current targets are proposals for tax incentives through changes in depreciation rates and investment credits. These are usually described in the media as "tax breaks," "loop holes" or "tax benefits" for the benefit of business. * As viewed by a columnist in the Post, such tax measures would benefit "only the rich, the owners of big companies."

It is dismaying that many politicians make the same argument that tax measures of this kind benefit only "business," without benefit to "the poor." The fact that this is either political demagoguery or economic illiteracy is of slight comfort. This setting of the "rich" against the "poor," of business against the people, is the cheapest and most dangerous kind of politics.

The Apathy and Default of Business

What has been the response of business to this massive assault upon its fundamental economics, upon its philosophy, upon its right to continue to manage its own affairs, and indeed upon its integrity?

The painfully sad truth is that business, including the boards of directors' and the top executives of corporations great and small and business organizations at all levels, often have responded -- if at all -- by appeasement, ineptitude and ignoring the problem. There are, of course, many exceptions to this sweeping generalization. But the net effect of such response as has been made is scarcely visible.

In all fairness, it must be recognized that businessmen have not been trained or equipped to conduct guerrilla warfare with those who propagandize against the system, seeking insidiously and constantly to sabotage it. The traditional role of business executives has been to manage, to produce, to sell, to create jobs, to make profits, to improve the standard of living, to be community leaders, to serve on charitable and educational boards, and generally to be good citizens. They have performed these tasks very well indeed.

But they have shown little stomach for hard-nose contest with their critics, and little skill in effective intellectual and philosophical debate.

A column recently carried by the Wall Street Journal was entitled: "Memo to GM: Why Not Fight

Back?" Although addressed to GM by name, the article was a warning to all American business. Columnist St. John said:

"General Motors, like American business in general, is 'plainly in trouble' because intellectual bromides have been substituted for a sound intellectual exposition of its point of view." Mr. St. John then commented on the tendency of business leaders to compromise with and appease critics. He cited the concessions which Nader wins from management, and spoke of "the fallacious view many businessmen take toward their critics." He drew a parallel to the mistaken tactics of many college administrators: "College administrators learned too late that such appeasement serves to destroy free speech, academic freedom and genuine scholarship. One campus radical demand was conceded by university heads only to be followed by a fresh crop which soon escalated to what amounted to a demand for outright surrender."

One need not agree entirely with Mr. St. John's analysis. But most observers of the American scene will agree that the essence of his message is sound. American business "plainly in trouble"; the response to the wide range of critics has been ineffective, and has included appeasement; the time has come -- indeed, it is long overdue -- for the wisdom, ingenuity and resources of American business to be marshalled against those who would destroy it.

Responsibility of Business Executives

What specifically should be done? The first essential -- a prerequisite to any effective action -- is for businessmen to confront this problem as a primary responsibility of corporate management.

The overriding first need is for businessmen to recognize that the ultimate issue may be survival -- survival of what we call the free enterprise system, and all that this means for the strength and prosperity of America and the freedom of our people.

The day is long past when the chief executive officer of a major corporation discharges his responsibility by maintaining a satisfactory growth of profits, with due regard to the corporation's public and social responsibilities. If our system is to survive, top management must be equally concerned with protecting and preserving the system itself. This involves far more than an increased emphasis on "public relations" or "governmental affairs" -- two areas in which corporations long have invested substantial sums.

A significant first step by individual corporations could well be the designation of an executive vice president (ranking with other executive VP's) whose responsibility is to counter-on the broadest front-the attack on the enterprise system. The public relations department could be one of the foundations assigned to this executive, but his responsibilities should encompass some of the types of activities referred to subsequently in this memorandum. His budget and staff should be adequate to the task.

Possible Role of the Chamber of Commerce

But independent and uncoordinated activity by individual corporations, as important as this is, will not be sufficient. Strength lies in organization, in careful long-range planning and implementation, in consistency of action over an indefinite period of years, in the scale of financing available only through joint effort, and in the political power available only through united action and national organizations.

Moreover, there is the quite understandable reluctance on the part of any one corporation to get

too far out in front and to make itself too visible a target.

The role of the National Chamber of Commerce is therefore vital. Other national organizations (especially those of various industrial and commercial groups) should join in the effort, but no other organizations appear to be as well situated as the Chamber. It enjoys a strategic position, with a fine reputation and a broad base of support. Also -- and this is of immeasurable merit -- there are hundreds of local Chambers of Commerce which can play a vital supportive role.

It hardly need be said that before embarking upon any program, the Chamber should study and analyze possible courses of action and activities, weighing risks against probable effectiveness and feasibility of each. Considerations of cost, the assurance of financial and other support from members, adequacy of staffing and similar problems will all require the most thoughtful consideration.

The Campus

The assault on the enterprise system was not mounted in a few months. It has gradually evolved over the past two decades, barely perceptible in its origins and benefiting (sic) from a gradualism that provoked little awareness much less any real reaction.

Although origins, sources and causes are complex and interrelated, and obviously difficult to identify without careful qualification, there is reason to believe that the campus is the single most dynamic source. The social science faculties usually include members who are unsympathetic to the enterprise system. They may range from a Herbert Marcuse, Marxist faculty member at the University of California at San Diego, and convinced socialists, to the ambivalent liberal critic who finds more to condemn than to commend. Such faculty members need not be in a majority. They are often personally attractive and magnetic; they are stimulating teachers, and their controversy attracts student following; they are prolific writers and lecturers; they author many of the textbooks, and they exert enormous influence -- far out of proportion to their numbers -- on their colleagues and in the academic world.

Social science faculties (the political scientist, economist, sociologist and many of the historians) tend to be liberally oriented, even when leftists are not present. This is not a criticism per se, as the need for liberal thought is essential to a balanced viewpoint. The difficulty is that "balance" is conspicuous by its absence on many campuses, with relatively few members being of conservatives or moderate persuasion and even the relatively few often being less articulate and aggressive than their crusading colleagues.

This situation extending back many years and with the imbalance gradually worsening, has had an enormous impact on millions of young American students. In an article in Barron's Weekly, seeking an answer to why so many young people are disaffected even to the point of being revolutionaries, it was said: "Because they were taught that way." Or, as noted by columnist Stewart Alsop, writing about his alma mater: "Yale, like every other major college, is graduating scores' of bright young men ... who despise the American political and economic system."

As these "bright young men," from campuses across the country, seek opportunities to change a system which they have been taught to distrust -- if not, indeed "despise" -- they seek employment in the centers of the real power and influence in our country, namely: (i) with the news media, especially television; (ii) in government, as "staffers" and consultants at various

levels; (iii) in elective politics; (iv) as lecturers and writers, and (v) on the faculties at various levels of education.

Many do enter the enterprise system -- in business and the professions -- and for the most part they quickly discover the fallacies of what they have been taught. But those who eschew the mainstream of the system often remain in key positions of influence where they mold public opinion and often shape governmental action. In many instances, these "intellectuals" end up in regulatory agencies or governmental departments with large authority over the business system they do not believe in.

If the foregoing analysis is approximately sound, a priority task of business -- and organizations such as the Chamber -- is to address the campus origin of this hostility. Few things are more sanctified in American life than academic freedom. It would be fatal to attack this as a principle. But if academic freedom is to retain the qualities of "openness," "fairness" and "balance" -- which are essential to its intellectual significance -- there is a great opportunity for constructive action. The thrust of such action must be to restore the qualities just mentioned to the academic communities.

What Can Be Done About the Campus

The ultimate responsibility for intellectual integrity on the campus must remain on the administrations and faculties of our colleges and universities. But organizations such as the Chamber can assist and activate constructive change in many ways, including the following:

Staff of Scholars

The Chamber should consider establishing a staff of highly qualified scholars in the social sciences who do believe in the system. It should include several of national reputation whose authorship would be widely respected -- even when disagreed with.

Staff of Speakers

There also should be a staff of speakers of the highest competency. These might include the scholars, and certainly those who speak for the Chamber would have to articulate the product of the scholars.

Speaker's Bureau

In addition to full-time staff personnel, the Chamber should have a Speaker's Bureau which should include the ablest and most effective advocates from the top echelons of American business.

Evaluation of Textbooks

The staff of scholars (or preferably a panel of independent scholars) should evaluate social science textbooks, especially in economics, political science and sociology. This should be a continuing program.

The objective of such evaluation should be oriented toward restoring the balance essential to genuine academic freedom. This would include assurance of fair and factual treatment of our system of government and our enterprise system, its accomplishments, its basic relationship to individual rights and freedoms, and comparisons with the systems of socialism, fascism and communism. Most of the existing textbooks have some sort of comparisons, but many are superficial, biased and unfair.

We have seen the civil rights movement insist on re-writing many of the textbooks in our universities and schools. The labor unions likewise insist that textbooks be fair to the viewpoints of organized labor. Other interested citizens groups have not hesitated to review, analyze and criticize textbooks and teaching materials. In a democratic society, this can be a constructive process and should be regarded as an aid to genuine academic freedom and not as an intrusion upon it.

If the authors, publishers and users of textbooks know that they will be subjected -- honestly, fairly and thoroughly -- to review and critique by eminent scholars who believe in the American system, a return to a more rational balance can be expected.

Equal Time on the Campus

The Chamber should insist upon equal time on the college speaking circuit. The FBI publishes each year a list of speeches made on college campuses by avowed Communists. The number in 1970 exceeded 100. There were, of course, many hundreds of appearances by leftists and ultra liberals who urge the types of viewpoints indicated earlier in this memorandum. There was no corresponding representation of American business, or indeed by individuals or organizations who appeared in support of the American system of government and business.

Every campus has its formal and informal groups which invite speakers. Each law school does the same thing. Many universities and colleges officially sponsor lecture and speaking programs. We all know the inadequacy of the representation of business in the programs.

It will be said that few invitations would be extended to Chamber speakers. This undoubtedly would be true unless the Chamber aggressively insisted upon the right to be heard -- in effect, insisted upon "equal time." University administrators and the great majority of student groups and committees would not welcome being put in the position publicly of refusing a forum to diverse views, indeed, this is the classic excuse for allowing Communists to speak.

The two essential ingredients are (i) to have attractive, articulate and well-informed speakers; and (ii) to exert whatever degree of pressure -- publicly and privately -- may be necessary to assure opportunities to speak. The objective always must be to inform and enlighten, and not merely to propagandize.

Balancing of Faculties

Perhaps the most fundamental problem is the imbalance of many faculties. Correcting this is indeed a long-range and difficult project. Yet, it should be undertaken as a part of an overall program. This would mean the urging of the need for faculty balance upon university administrators and boards of trustees.

The methods to be employed require careful thought, and the obvious pitfalls must be avoided. Improper pressure would be counterproductive. But the basic concepts of balance, fairness and truth are difficult to resist, if properly presented to boards of trustees, by writing and speaking, and by appeals to alumni associations and groups.

This is a long road and not one for the fainthearted. But if pursued with integrity and conviction it could lead to a strengthening of both academic freedom on the campus and of the values which have made America the most productive of all societies.

Graduate Schools of Business

The Chamber should enjoy a particular rapport with the increasingly influential graduate schools of business. Much that has been suggested above applies to such schools.

Should not the Chamber also request specific courses in such schools dealing with the entire scope of the problem addressed by this memorandum? This is now essential training for the executives of the future.

Secondary Education

While the first priority should be at the college level, the trends mentioned above are increasingly evidenced in the high schools. Action programs, tailored to the high schools and similar to those mentioned, should be considered. The implementation thereof could become a major program for local chambers of commerce, although the control and direction -- especially the quality control -- should be retained by the National Chamber.

What Can Be Done About the Public?

Reaching the campus and the secondary schools is vital for the long-term. Reaching the public generally may be more important for the shorter term. The first essential is to establish the staffs of eminent scholars, writers and speakers, who will do the thinking, the analysis, the writing and the speaking. It will also be essential to have staff personnel who are thoroughly familiar with the media, and how most effectively to communicate with the public. Among the more obvious means are the following:

Television

The national television networks should be monitored in the same way that textbooks should be kept under constant surveillance. This applies not merely to so-called educational programs (such as "Selling of the Pentagon"), but to the daily "news analysis" which so often includes the most insidious type of criticism of the enterprise system. Whether this criticism results from hostility or economic ignorance, the result is the gradual erosion of confidence in "business" and free enterprise.

This monitoring, to be effective, would require constant examination of the texts of adequate samples of programs. Complaints -- to the media and to the Federal Communications Commission -- should be made promptly and strongly when programs are unfair or inaccurate.

Equal time should be demanded when appropriate. Effort should be made to see that the forum-type programs (the Today Show, Meet the Press, etc.) afford at least as much opportunity for supporters of the American system to participate as these programs do for those who attack it.

Other Media

Radio and the press are also important, and every available means should be employed to challenge and refute unfair attacks, as well as to present the affirmative case through these media.

The Scholarly Journals

It is especially important for the Chamber's "faculty of scholars" to publish. One of the keys to the success of the liberal and leftist faculty members has been their passion for "publication" and "lecturing." A similar passion must exist among the Chamber's scholars.

Incentives might be devised to induce more "publishing" by independent scholars who do believe in the system.

There should be a fairly steady flow of scholarly articles presented to a broad spectrum of magazines and periodicals -- ranging from the popular magazines (Life, Look, Reader's Digest, etc.) to the more intellectual ones (Atlantic, Harper's, Saturday Review, New York, etc.) and to the various professional journals.

Books, Paperbacks and Pamphlets

The news stands -- at airports, drugstores, and elsewhere -- are filled with paperbacks and pamphlets advocating everything from revolution to erotic free love. One finds almost no attractive, well-written paperbacks or pamphlets on "our side." It will be difficult to compete with an Eldridge Cleaver or even a Charles Reich for reader attention, but unless the effort is made -- on a large enough scale and with appropriate imagination to assure some success -- this opportunity for educating the public will be irretrievably lost.

Paid Advertisements

Business pays hundreds of millions of dollars to the media for advertisements. Most of this supports specific products; much of it supports institutional image making; and some fraction of it does support the system. But the latter has been more or less tangential, and rarely part of a sustained, major effort to inform and enlighten the American people.

If American business devoted only 10% of its total annual advertising budget to this overall purpose, it would be a statesman-like expenditure.

The Neglected Political Arena

In the final analysis, the payoff -- short-of revolution -- is what government does. Business has been the favorite whipping-boy of many politicians for many years. But the measure of how far this has gone is perhaps best found in the anti-business views now being expressed by several leading candidates for President of the United States.

It is still Marxist doctrine that the "capitalist" countries are controlled by big business. This doctrine, consistently a part of leftist propaganda all over the world, has a wide public following among Americans.

Yet, as every business executive knows, few elements of American society today have as little influence in government as the American businessman, the corporation, or even the millions of corporate stockholders. If one doubts this, let him undertake the role of "lobbyist" for the business point of view before Congressional committees. The same situation obtains in the legislative halls of most states and major cities. One does not exaggerate to say that, in terms of political influence with respect to the course of legislation and government action, the American business executive is truly the "forgotten man."

Current examples of the impotency of business, and of the near-contempt with which businessmen's views are held, are the stampedes by politicians to support almost any legislation related to "consumerism" or to the "environment."

Politicians reflect what they believe to be majority views of their constituents. It is thus evident that most politicians are making the judgment that the public has little sympathy for the

businessman or his viewpoint.

The educational programs suggested above would be designed to enlighten public thinking -- not so much about the businessman and his individual role as about the system which he administers, and which provides the goods, services and jobs on which our country depends.

But one should not postpone more direct political action, while awaiting the gradual change in public opinion to be effected through education and information. Business must learn the lesson, long ago learned by labor and other self-interest groups. This is the lesson that political power is necessary; that such power must be assiduously (sic) cultivated; and that when necessary, it must be used aggressively and with determination -- without embarrassment and without the reluctance which has been so characteristic of American business.

As unwelcome as it may be to the Chamber, it should consider assuming a broader and more vigorous role in the political arena.

Neglected Opportunity in the Courts

American business and the enterprise system have been affected as much by the courts as by the executive and legislative branches of government. Under our constitutional system, especially with an activist-minded Supreme Court, the judiciary may be the most important instrument for social, economic and political change.

Other organizations and groups, recognizing this, have been far more astute in exploiting judicial action than American business. Perhaps the most active exploiters of the judicial system have been groups ranging in political orientation from "liberal" to the far left.

The American Civil Liberties Union is one example. It initiates or intervenes in scores of cases each year, and it files briefs amicus curiae in the Supreme Court in a number of cases during each term of that court. Labor unions, civil rights groups and now the public interest law firms are extremely active in the judicial arena. Their success, often at business' expense, has not been inconsequential.

This is a vast area of opportunity for the Chamber, if it is willing to undertake the role of spokesman for American business and if, in turn, business is willing to provide the funds.

As with respect to scholars and speakers, the Chamber would need a highly competent staff of lawyers. In special situations it should be authorized to engage, to appear as counsel amicus in the Supreme Court, lawyers of national standing and reputation. The greatest care should be exercised in selecting the cases in which to participate, or the suits to institute. But the opportunity merits the necessary effort.

Neglected Stockholder Power

The average member of the public thinks of "business" as an impersonal corporate entity, owned by the very rich and managed by over-paid executives. There is an almost total failure to appreciate that "business" actually embraces -- in one way or another -- most Americans. Those for whom business provides jobs, constitute a fairly obvious class. But the 20 million stockholders -- most of whom are of modest means -- are the real owners, the real entrepreneurs, the real capitalists under our system. They provide the capital which fuels the economic system which has produced the highest standard of living in all history. Yet, stockholders have been as ineffectual as

business executives in promoting a genuine understanding of our system or in exercising political influence.

The question which merits the most thorough examination is how can the weight and influence of stockholders -- 20 million voters -- be mobilized to support (i) an educational program and (ii) a political action program.

Individual corporations are now required to make numerous reports to shareholders. Many corporations also have expensive "news" magazines which go to employees and stockholders. These opportunities to communicate can be used far more effectively as educational media.

The corporation itself must exercise restraint in undertaking political action and must, of course, comply with applicable laws. But is it not feasible -- through an affiliate of the Chamber or otherwise -- to establish a national organization of American stockholders and give it enough muscle to be influential?

A More Aggressive Attitude

Business interests -- especially big business and their national trade organizations -- have tried to maintain low profiles, especially with respect to political action.

As suggested in the Wall Street Journal article, it has been fairly characteristic of the average business executive to be tolerant -- at least in public -- of those who attack his corporation and the system. Very few businessmen or business organizations respond in kind. There has been a disposition to appease; to regard the opposition as willing to compromise, or as likely to fade away in due time.

Business has shunted confrontation politics. Business, quite understandably, has been repelled by the multiplicity of non-negotiable "demands" made constantly by self-interest groups of all kinds.

While neither responsible business interests, nor the United States Chamber of Commerce, would engage in the irresponsible tactics of some pressure groups, it is essential that spokesmen for the enterprise system -- at all levels and at every opportunity -- be far more aggressive than in the past.

There should be no hesitation to attack the Naders, the Marcuses and others who openly seek destruction of the system. There should not be the slightest hesitation to press vigorously in all political arenas for support of the enterprise system. Nor should there be reluctance to penalize politically those who oppose it.

Lessons can be learned from organized labor in this respect. The head of the AFL-CIO may not appeal to businessmen as the most endearing or public-minded of citizens. Yet, over many years the heads of national labor organizations have done what they were paid to do very effectively. They may not have been beloved, but they have been respected -- where it counts the most -- by politicians, on the campus, and among the media.

It is time for American business -- which has demonstrated the greatest capacity in all history to produce and to influence consumer decisions -- to apply their great talents vigorously to the preservation of the system itself.

The Cost

The type of program described above (which includes a broadly based combination of education and political action), if undertaken long term and adequately staffed, would require far more generous financial support from American corporations than the Chamber has ever received in the past. High level management participation in Chamber affairs also would be required.

The staff of the Chamber would have to be significantly increased, with the highest quality established and maintained. Salaries would have to be at levels fully comparable to those paid key business executives and the most prestigious faculty members. Professionals of the great skill in advertising and in working with the media, speakers, lawyers and other specialists would have to be recruited.

It is possible that the organization of the Chamber itself would benefit from restructuring. For example, as suggested by union experience, the office of President of the Chamber might well be a full-time career position. To assure maximum effectiveness and continuity, the chief executive officer of the Chamber should not be changed each year. The functions now largely performed by the President could be transferred to a Chairman of the Board, annually elected by the membership. The Board, of course, would continue to exercise policy control.

Quality Control is Essential

Essential ingredients of the entire program must be responsibility and "quality control." The publications, the articles, the speeches, the media programs, the advertising, the briefs filed in courts, and the appearances before legislative committees -- all must meet the most exacting standards of accuracy and professional excellence. They must merit respect for their level of public responsibility and scholarship, whether one agrees with the viewpoints expressed or not.

Relationship to Freedom

The threat to the enterprise system is not merely a matter of economics. It also is a threat to individual freedom.

It is this great truth -- now so submerged by the rhetoric of the New Left and of many liberals -- that must be re-affirmed if this program is to be meaningful.

There seems to be little awareness that the only alternatives to free enterprise are varying degrees of bureaucratic regulation of individual freedom -- ranging from that under moderate socialism to the iron heel of the leftist or rightist dictatorship.

We in America already have moved very far indeed toward some aspects of state socialism, as the needs and complexities of a vast urban society require types of regulation and control that were quite unnecessary in earlier times. In some areas, such regulation and control already have seriously impaired the freedom of both business and labor, and indeed of the public generally. But most of the essential freedoms remain: private ownership, private profit, labor unions, collective bargaining, consumer choice, and a market economy in which competition largely determines price, quality and variety of the goods and services provided the consumer.

In addition to the ideological attack on the system itself (discussed in this memorandum), its essentials also are threatened by inequitable taxation, and -- more recently -- by an inflation which has seemed uncontrollable. But whatever the causes of diminishing economic freedom may be, the truth is that freedom as a concept is indivisible. As the experience of the socialist and totalitarian states demonstrates, the contraction and denial of economic freedom is followed

inevitably by governmental restrictions on other cherished rights. It is this message, above all others, that must be carried home to the American people.

Conclusion

It hardly need be said that the views expressed above are tentative and suggestive. The first step should be a thorough study. But this would be an exercise in futility unless the Board of Directors of the Chamber accepts the fundamental premise of this paper, namely, that business and the enterprise system are in deep trouble, and the hour is late.

Additional Resources:

The **Powell Memo** with an introduction and **Lewis Powell's** footnotes is available on the [Reclaim Democracy](#) website.

Other overviews of the Powell Memo can be found at the following sources:

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"The Powell Memo," Twink.org. Available at: <http://www.thwink.org/sustain/manuscript2/PowellMemo.htm>.

Hedrick Smith, [Who Stole the American Dream](#). New York: Random House, 2013.

Moyers & Co. (PBS): ["The Powell Memo: A Call-to-Arms for Corporations,"](#) September 14, 2013.

keywords: *Lewis Powell Memo, US Chamber of Commerce, Supreme Court Justice, Corporation*

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