

AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT TIM'S PREPARATION

#

CONCLUSIONS

Drawing on my personal Experience and study, I have come to these conclusions, after much reflection and thought over four decades. In 2004, I was an Elector to the Electoral College for Presidential candidate David Cobb (of the Green Party), being offered thereafter a seat as an alternate to the Green's National Committee – only to set it aside to join my old Democratic Allies here in their quest to replace George Bush and his friends in the White House. Thereby I ran for Mayor to acknowledge to all my return to San Jose, and readiness to serve the community I so loved and lived in as a near life time resident.

After a very successful performance as Vice Chair of the San Jose Disability Advisory Commission, acting to spare, in particular, the Mentally ill from being displaced from their 'Group Homes' downtown - and action that prompted County Supervisor Blanco Alvarado to move to appoint me to the Mental Health Advisory Board of the County - I left San Jose with a newly earned Masters from San Jose State in History, to accept a part time teaching position in a new Branch of the Eastern Sierra Community College System.

My parents having at that moment passed on, leaving me with a very substantial - from my impoverished view, but by today's standard a modest fortune - which I quickly moved to invest in Second Income property, I was convinced promised a high return. The job at the Community College evaporated a couple of years later, along with some Real Estate deals that went sour, and in a few more years spent writing and thinking about what I had learned the prior 30 years at San Jose State and the surrounding community, I left almost as broke as when I arrived. Losing what remained of the money and assets the following years spent in Sonora 's Columbia Community College while I worked - again as adjunct faculty - teaching Economics.

Thereafter I returned in 2005 to the familiarity and warmth I had known most of my adult life as a resident of downtown San Jose , wiser and more reserved than I had been before I left. Yes, along the way, before this amazing break, I did have two major breakdowns due to nervous exhaustion - driven as a workaholic most of my entire life - and spending as many hours on my career and profession as a CEO of a major Corporation without anywhere near the compensation or reward. And I take care to live more modestly at 60 than I did at forty or twenty, in hopes that that tragedy not be repeated a third time.

You may ask yourself, 'was it not strange that he never married?' It being said, after all, 'two can live cheaper than one.' To which I admit I had known at least a few women in an intimate way along life's path, but when it came to making the relationship more permanent, in each case the 'significant other' took the position I forsake my profession and abandon my career for 'their' version of a home life

and domestic tranquility. Something in my quest for the 'life of the mind' I could never bring myself to do.

It is in fact, my sense of purpose and pursuit of learning more about the 'unexamined life' that kept me going and gave me the courage and tenacity to encounter life on its own terms, meet adversity as it came, and thereby overcome the incredible obstacles found along my path that blocked my contributions to the community and society in which I found myself living.

One does not hope to wonder, under those circumstances, if there were not many along the path Western History has taken that did not or would not agree, as well I might, that were it not for an abundance of friends and neighbors in this state along the way, it would be as Thomas Hobbes said almost 400 years ago:” Life is poor, nasty, brutish, and short.’ And I strongly suggest for the guy at the bottom in THIS SOCIETY, things haven't changed much in that intervening time.

In the footsteps of the great minds like Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Karl Marx, and Adam Smith - you name it. I have devoted my life to the single minded effort to get a grip, none the less, on the purpose and meaning of civilization. Its inner workings, its axioms and principles. And after 40 or more years I am satisfied I have finally arrived at some sound understanding and path breaking conclusions.

Yes, the price I paid in the inquiry well might wilt the faith of the faint of heart. Having at least materially lived at a bare subsistence level, not even considering for myself what today are normally accepted living wages, or decent standard of living. These all due to my tragic circumstances costing me in my shame at the start - fating my enterprise to affiliate in the State Legislature in some way - and enduring more hardship for the mere possibility of success, than most persons today would willingly undergo.

But so long as you do not surrender, and quit, it is yet possible to achieve most goals. “CAN”T never accomplished anything, and you will never find your limits to achieving freedom if you don't at least try. And so, I tried, again, and again and again. I survived two bad recessions in this county in the last three decades by working terrible hours – often from midnight to dawn. Mostly as a Security Guard, studying for my tests and classes on the job.

For almost three years, in a more robust economy of the 70's I could find no work meeting my needs as a young adult than Cashier in a virtual dive – seven days a week with no time off for three years. In college I spent my undergraduate days working in resort work in Yosemite Valley , for the Curry Company, in food services. Doing everything from dishwasher, to bus boy, to bar tending. At little over a dollar an hour, and often for eight to ten days straight without a day off.

But this struggle seeking the ‘American Dream’ in the last century was not without its accomplishments. At one point working under guidance of a company Controller, as their “Budget Analyst” to establish the firm's first fiscal budget after a start ten years earlier on a shoe string.

I went on to establish three non-profit organizations seeking to provide educational outreach, support for the disabled in Silicon Valley, and a 'skunk works' as a think tank to examine divided opinion on the nature and purpose of the economy in a modern Democratic Republic.

In each case, after completing the task, I would move on to 'seek a Newer World' as Robert Kennedy once advised; hitching my star again and again to education and the fruits of the labor of learning. Thereby furthering my understanding and knowledge of man, and mankind in the Social Sciences, and acquiring four degrees in Economics or History.

Yes, I was asked to head up a research group in Washington for the Department of Labor of the 'exodus of American Industry Overseas' in the mid 80's that would have made my career a certain success - but I lacked even the airfare, and could not raise it from friends or family. Had I organized my Campaign for City Council a year earlier, and gained Susan Hammer's support, rather than her competition, I may yet made a career out of politics in the community.

I was accepted to Claremont Graduate School for a path leading to a Doctorate in Intellectual History, but did not want to live in the LA Basin on the Disability payments I was then surviving on in the mid'90s. But for the most part, opportunities of a real 'break through' nature have been pretty much rare and elusive. I might have become a mountaineer guide, had I not decided to quite rock climbing in my mid 20s much to the disappointment of many friends, and certainly as an athlete, missed the opportunity to compete on Bud Winter's Track team as an undergraduate.

These are the things, looking back on the past, that one grieves over in quiet moments when considering how much of life one has missed out on, given how very much of life one has experienced. Few things can be accomplished today alone, and I have followed that path about as far as I intend.

Now I invite you, my neighbors and friends, to join me in this great enterprise to 'go where no man has gone before,' and explore with me the 'life of the mind,' as a life long pursuit, much as Dr. Robert Clark preached when he presided over San Jose State College and set it on a path of distinction and a major and formidable establishment of Higher Learning.

Please HELP!! The end is still in doubt, as we enter the unknown and peril of world events as a focal point of human endeavors. That in itself demands sober judgment and serious thinking - now and in the future. But let the word go forth. The race can be run, and the victory can be won. And so my friends and associates, this is not so much a beginning as closing the door on a major chapter in my life.

But it need not be the end, but merely the interlude and new start - celebrating the commencement and resolve to ever greater achievements and in the annuals of mankind, and our fellow Americans as we pursue our personal lives and

endeavors. I bid you good day, and good morrow. As Joan Baez once closed a personal note two decades ago, wishing 'The wind always be at your back, the sun shining on your foot steps, and your path always a sure and certain one.'

Sincerely,

Tim K Fitzgerald,

Candidate, San Jose Unified School Board

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now I'm found

Once blind but now I see.

Sung by Judy Collins, 60's folksinger

'That is the way it was, it was a day, just like any other day, only YOU were there.'

(Walter Cronkite)