

Thoughts on How to Perpetuate Democracy

By Mike Harris

History says what I am thinking is never going to happen. Nature is unstoppable. Yet we made it to the moon. We have made this planet our habitat. Dinosaurs and monsters have become extinct. The law of tooth and claw has given way to man. We own this planet and have the capacity to destroy ourselves and leave this potential paradise a waste land.

I believe fervently Democracy is worth trying to perpetuate. The progress of the last one hundred years, which happens to equal my lifetime, has come about because we have learned that man has the capacity to overcome insurmountable barriers. I believe that within my grandson's lifetime two hundred years old will become just ordinary, especially since there is already a company that feels it is on the way to controlling sickness and epidemics by programming them to extinction. We are already making new limbs to replace worn out parts of the body.

Now if we could get smart enough to stop trying to tell others how to run their lives and continue to make the progress we have made in the past we could be half way there.

This business of getting something for nothing does not work. We were the envy of the rest of the planet, our standard of living was the highest on the planet. The world all wanted to come to the golden America. Some came and exploited our generosity, others came, rolled up their sleeves and proceeded to achieve the good life, but we have not yet found a way to get rid of the free loaders. I am sure we are smart enough to learn how to do that too. I know from reading and history that protective isolationism also does not work. Maybe it is time to start thinking in a new direction, we know what does not work.

History teaches and we either learn or repeat the mistakes of our forebears. The great powers that evolved up to now, are only history, EGYPT, BABALONIA, PERSIA, GREECE, ROME, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, all followed a similar pattern that resulted in similar failure. We are following the same pattern and unless we change will also fail.

We have to learn from those that failed, lest we too fail. Let it not be because we were afraid to try a different path. Here is where the learning starts. Let us analyze the past failures. What made them temporarily dominant? When did they fail to make the right decision, where did they make the wrong decision? We have in our midst scholars, analysts and just smart people. Let us beware of those who have a private axe to grind, the smart ones have pointed the way. After World War II, Eisenhower warned, "Beware the munitions industries," meaning they have their personal interests not necessarily for the benefit of anyone except themselves. In following the path of absolute failure we have dissipated our strength and resources trying to force our beliefs on people who do not ask or want to accept our ways. They want to find their own paths! Let them be! This could be a beginning. Let us not be afraid because it is a different path. Have the courage to digress from the path of certain

failure.

Enough exhortation, stop! Think! We can!