

Haves & Have Nots

by Mike Harris

The Economy includes each one of us individually and spreads to family, city, state, country, and world.

Since the beginning, division in the economy that has plagued mankind from day one, and has as far as I know never been resolved, is "That there are more have nots than haves."

Since primitive societies the haves usually dominate their groups and are on the defensive to keep what they have, not given to generous sharing. This pattern exists in as small a group as a family or worldwide, creating dissention and strife on the planet.

From the very beginning mankind was forced to live in groups, for in numbers there is strength, and thus the division and value of who contributed the most to the group came about. Leaders stepped forward and unequal distribution of physical assets appeared. While in small groups the discrepancies were generally accepted, even here there appeared discontent.

Malcontents joined forces and wrongly or rightly demanded more equal distribution of goodies, which of course was resisted by the haves. Since those who sit next to the pot always seem to get a lot, the malcontents probably had some grounds for the way they felt.

With the passing of time, barter gave way to trade, and new ways of making deals called for new instruments of finance. An acceptable form of exchange evolved called money, and credit. Actual wealth was stored in impregnable buildings and letters of credit in large amounts were circulated when deals were closed. Trade led to the establishment of cities where concentrations of dealers created trade centers. Countries shopped in these centers for what they needed and paid with letters of credit. Of course there were still many countries who were known as have nots, and so could not participate in this abundance, and piracy and wars flourished.

Certain countries soon got reputations as explorers, England, Spain, France and Holland became maritime powers, and established colonies all over the planet. Explorers brought scarce products from afar that soon became in abundant demand. The lands of Europe had been wastefully abused, forests destroyed and their resident animals consumed and not replaced. With the discovery of a virgin continent trade to and from the Americas boomed and the maritime nations of Europe became contending powers.

No person, organization, or government can continuously live beyond their means and survive! The laws of economics are immutable. "Live within your means or disappear."

For about the last fifty years we have on this planet broken that rule. The planet is in terrible shape. Our scientists keep warning us but we are not listening, we are profligate and wasteful. I cannot give you an exact date, but we will pay the piper. Meanwhile we are living high and handsome. Do not say that you were not warned.

