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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

“Kites ride highest against the wind..” Winston Churchill

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN:

Inspiring words in the above quote, but we are in such a perfect storm that they don't help much. Since issue 34 when disturbances were just beginning and were primarily focused in the Minneapolis, St Paul area, the country has literally exploded.

As I wrote in that issue, the murder of George Floyd was the match that ignited a huge amount of combustible material; resentments, distrust and injustices that had grown unchecked for decades.

So what have we seen? Think of all the tens of millions of African Americans who are hard

working, good decent people. What happens to them? The smallest minority, but the most visible, come in, trash, burn and loot their stores – attack their own people, because of George Floyd? No, because they needed an excuse to be who they really are – blatant hard core criminals. It was distressing to read in this morning’s paper that a couple of major retailers are saying they don’t blame the rioters, in essence, “We feel your pain.” Sorry, I just can’t buy into excusing criminal activity, which these statements give license to.

Sad to say, but watching these scenes on television over several days, all the violence, burning and looting I have seen has been done by these black hoodlums.

So many others, blacks, whites – virtually all races, have protested peacefully in trying to, and I think successfully so, let the country know that serious change has to be made.

The problem is, when the current fires burn out, will any of the causes that bred this conflagration be cured? History is not a hopeful guide. The Watts Riots in

1965, The Holy Week riots of 1968, following the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, jr., The L.A. Rodney King riots in 1992 and now this. Of the previous riots it can truly be said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." I would love to be corrected and be told how much better life is for black americans – how much better the educational opportunities, the job opportunities, the housing. I really don't see it. So many of them are stuck on the lowest rung of U.S. society.

When you think of how many black Americans have been on the front lines of the pandemic in the medical field as well as all those others who were in essential jobs where they had to show up for work and, as a result, suffer a much higher degree of infection than their fellow white citizens – think of them and then think of the vandals who have been looting and burning in the name of themselves, not, George Floyd.

These criminals have the potential to cause increased dislike, distrust and fear of all black people. Remember what happened after 9/11, it was hard to find anyone in the U.S. who

didn't have a negative view of Muslims. I guess it's just human nature, but people like to put other people in groups, and I worry that the actions of these black thugs will further injure black, white relations in the country.

So, what is a likely outcome of all of this? There will be words meant to comfort, some legislation, police retraining, Yada, yada, yada, but it would take years to bring good education to the inner city schools, improve work opportunities, improve health care and improve living standards. Perhaps we need a nationwide Marshall Plan.

Let me suggest the alternative to a U.S. Marshall Plan. In the 1960s I was an FBI agent in New York City assigned to the Espionage Division, which included internal security matters. Our unit was right in the thick of the issues created by the Black Panthers. There was genuine fear in the country, not just NY, of the threat this group posed. Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver, Bobby Seal, Bobby Hutton were all attempting to tear the country apart. Others, who were not as openly violent, contributed to America's fear; names like

Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown.

Through a combination of prosecutions, infiltrations and shoot outs, the Black Panthers were effectively neutralized, but what was the one tool, if they had had it, that would have enabled them to survive and grow stronger? Social Media- the internet.

Should new, strong influencers like Huey Newton or Bobby Seale come on the scene, their opportunities to attract adherents to an anti American, “Burn it down” ideology would be limitless. I can really see this coming.

So, America – what will it be, a Marshall Plan or a reborn and very deadly new Black Panther movement? Au Choix.

ANTIFA AND BOOGALOO- A PRIMER:

Turns out that both these groups are playing a role in the upheaval now in more than 140 cities. Federal Law Enforcement officers insist that far left groups, like Antifa are stoking violence while experts who track extremists

are seeing evidence of the far right at work, especially the Boogaloo movement.

Antifa is a loosely formed group that strongly opposes the ideologies of the far right. The name stands for anti-facism. Looked at in one perspective, it would seem some good things might be going on. “They campaign against actions they view as authoritarian, homophobic, racist or xenophobic.” Not such a pretty story when you turn the coin over. “Similar to anarchist groups, they have overlapping ideologies, as both often criticize capitalism and seek to dismantle structures of authority, including police forces.” Dressed all in black, they are not indisposed to violence or urging others to attack the enemies of the people.

The Boogaloo movement was discussed in a recent HH issue, but, in short, these are pretty bad people comprised of far right extremists, anti government and anti law enforcement groups as well as white supremacists.

Their focus is on advocating and planning for the coming civil war where the primary

enemies will be the far left, the Federal government and blacks.

As can be seen from these brief definitions, civil chaos is their cup of tea and, while not seeming to be out in the streets in big numbers, they are stoking their agitation through social media. An interesting current example was when Minnesota governor, Walz, was preparing with law enforcement on ways to diffuse the unrest, they were hit with a cyberattack before their operation kicked off, a very sophisticated denial of service attack on all of their computers, not done, said the Governor, "By somebody sitting in their basement." No one has been able to say this was done by Antifa, Boogaloo or a third party, but, for sure, both groups were delighted; the more mayhem, the better.

LET'S LIGHTEN UP A BIT:

And talk about some engaging thievery. Enter stage left one Octave Durham. He goes by "Okkie". Okkie is, or he will tell you, was, an art thief. In 2002 he walked into the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and in just a few

minute's time walked out with two Van Goghs - good security huh? He got caught a couple of years later and sent to jail for only 25 months - hard to figure such a light sentence, but Okkie's publically stated philosophy may have helped. "My number one rule is talk smooth, be cool, have a fast car and never harm anyone."

Asked to view and comment on security camera footage of a recent heist where the perp smashed the glass doors of the Singer Lauren Museum, grabbed a Van Gogh and was out in less than five minutes, Okkie sniffed, "His gear isn't even professional, you should be fully in black. He's got jeans and nike sneakers on. It was said that the recent thief was an "Okkie wannabe", But Okkie says he never would have done it that way. Here's the deal though, if you are an art thief, steal big. Since stolen paintings by big names can't be sold openly, you have to sell them to other criminals at 2.5% of market value. That's \$125,000 for a \$5 million dollar painting, still not bad for five minutes work.

**Your faithful scribe,
PB**

