Weekly Update by Mark Armstrong - December 30, 2022

Greetings from Tyler,

Here we are, days after the most promoted holiday of the year, and stranded airline passengers are still trying to get home. Not that they ever got to their intended destination in the first place.

Canceled flights number into the thousands. People are throwing fits from coast to coast. Yes we know about the weather, but this is ridiculous. What's wrong with Southwest Airlines?

Notice that no one seems to be freaking out about global warming right now? What about global cooling (not that there is such a thing)? People are FREEZING to death, and places that are generally warm suffered an arctic blast. Temperatures are so cold in the northern states, you'd be dead in minutes if unprotected. It looks as though the global warming crowd has gone snow skiing, or maybe somewhere in the Caribbean Islands. That's where the pretender went.

We still probably don't know the extent of suffering and deaths caused by the cold snap. Maybe these international institutions need to figure out what's going on to stop people freezing to death. How do batteries hold up under such conditions? Asking questions like that will get you banned.

If you look at the claims just outside the mainstream, it appears that government agencies were heavily involved in defending the conventional wisdom. Whatever it was that day. Anybody who dared dispute the arrogant fear-mongering, was banned. Even highly educated well respected people, in some cases doctors were cut out of the debate. There was to be no debate, or "misinformation." Anything that varied from the official line, put out by the little doctor or some European institutions, had to be banned. The whole thing is at odds with the American ideal. Whatever happened to the First Amendment? We understand that you can't yell "fire!" in a theater, but since when were you forced to espouse some opinion or other because of "policy." We've not heard the end of it. Chances are we never will.

As the secret arrangements continue to be aired in public (thanks for that, Mr. Musk) a picture is taking shape. But there are other players (Facebook, Instagram) in the social media realm, and they were doing the same thing. Fact-checkers came into vogue, and wouldn't you know it? They've made the very term suspect. Curious that they always sided with the preachers of fear, as if there was no other opinion.

There is little doubt the lawsuits will be with us years into the future. Many businesses ceased to exist through no fault of their own. They might not have gone out of business, but the mandates made sure that happened, unintentionally we're sure. The "mandates" assumed authority that was certainly open to question. But here came the cops. Defiance of state authority became very expensive. We haven't even begun to hear about the fallout.

My Dad always said that the Beast power would emerge as the result of a worldwide economic crisis. You might have noticed, global stocks lost \$18 trillion in value recently. *Bloomberg* has a chart that dates all the way back to 2001, and the plunge in current values is deeper than anything we experienced in 2008 or 2012. Money has been so easy to come by, inflation is raging and interest rates are rising steadily in response.

You have to brace yourself before any news exposure. It's not easy watching the blessings of God being squandered by those who think they're smarter than the Creator. The Supreme Court apparently decided that Title 42 could continue a bit longer, and maybe that will help. But the scenes at the border will make you lose sleep. This isn't the first time we had leadership that blamed America for all the world's ills. We pray this one meets justice.

Mark