BLOG BH: A doomsday scenario.

4/6/17

*Think of this as a note, put away in a secure location to be opened in the year 2020. I hope, beyond hope, that I am completely wrong.*

“It was Michael Moore who said in the summer of 2016 that Donald Trump would be elected in a spasm of hatred by the right, a hatred held by the Republican base and a large handful of unaffiliated rural voters against liberals; he followed it up by saying Trump will be the last president of the United States.

The last part of that opinion that really caught my attention. He was correct on the first part, and I’m very concerned that his words will be just as prescient on the last. Not just because of Trump’s personal shortcomings, which are bad enough, but because the population of this country is losing its equilibrium, like a spinning top that is gradually slowing and beginning to wobble. It has spun more or less smoothly for the past 250 or so years, but has taken on an erratic turn in the last 20 or 30, and its rate of unbalance increasing exponentially with the arrival of the internet, social media and cable news. Now the two sides aren’t just estranged, they are in different worlds entirely, each one self-selected, and the top is swaying drunkenly towards the edge of the table. Nothing good can come of this. It is entirely possible that by 2020 this nation will break apart. Maybe we’ll have two presidents, or maybe just one over a broken democracy with one faction under the gun of the other. I have no idea what the machinery of enforcement will be, but it will not be democratic. In any case, the “president” will not be one in the historical sense. We will have lost our exceptionalism among nations, and most likely our fortunes.

The scenario is like this: Trump and the Republicans lose heavily in either 2018 or 2020 after they do not produce the promised jobs but have managed to wreck our health care and entitlement systems. They deficit climbs as a result of lowered taxes, the cost of a Mexican wall, and much higher defense spending. Unemployment spikes, in large part due to artificial intelligence and robotics, not foreign competition. The best and brightest immigrants and students are now going to other countries.

The losing side, though, is convinced by its preferred sources of information that the vote was fraudulent and that they actually would have won had the left not stolen the election. Trump and his family refuse to leave the White House and manage to inspire his base to take up arms to “give their lives to protect our freedom” all the while quoting Jefferson about the necessity of watering the tree of liberty with blood.”

In our wisdom, we have elected a man who puts his own interests over that of the nation.