

ECONOMIC REALITY

SEPTEMBER 2002

I don't read many novels. My preference is definitely non-fiction. However, I have a soft spot for anything that Tom Clancy writes. About ten years ago, Mr. Clancy wrote a book about Japanese terrorists crashing an airplane into the capital building the stock market. In the book as well, these same Japanese terrorists meticulously crash our stock market purposely.

I was thinking about all of the disturbing events of the past year, starting obviously with September 11th, moving on to anthrax, accounting scandals, Wall Street scandals, the war on terror, and now Iraq. Our reality is much worse than any fictitious storyline Tom Clancy could ever imagine writing about.

Envision it is June 2001. You have access to a crystal ball that warns you of all the terrible events to come. At that point in time what would you think would be the overall economic condition in September 2002? If you are like most people you probably have a blank stare on your face right now. It is truly incredible what we have been through and how well we have responded. It truly is an American miracle. God, most definitely has a soft spot for us.

If you have been watching any business programs or listening to this year's election debates you have been exposed to a great deal of misinformation and negativity.

Unfortunately, the forever wrong economists and politicians continue to tear apart our current economic situation and are not seeing the forest for the trees.

This is the bottom line folks! Wal-Mart is still crowded, and Michigan football still packs in 100k+ attendance at home games. Auto sales are up and home sales are still breaking records. Our current situation is most certainly not ***"Grapes of Wrath part II."***

Are things as bad as everyone is telling you?

I certainly do not think that is the case. Our economy was over inflated and running on lies, greed and manipulation from 1996 throughout 2000. The misappropriation of capital that characterized the second half of the 90's is a cancer that we, as a country, are working our way through. We are not going to be able to rectify the mess overnight and there will be a lot of foul tasting medicine to stomach along the way. However, we are unequivocally the greatest, most resilient country that has ever existed and we will get through it.

I firmly believe that 20 years from now economists will be looking at the post September 11th period as one of the most amazing in history. Timex has nothing on us! (Take a licking and keep on ticking.)

I am not looking at life through rose colored glasses, I am well aware of the many problems that this country faces, Social Security, government spending, war, trade deficits to, as well as the stock market which is still incredibly overvalued. Life in the United States is good, plain and simple. Try to open a small business anywhere else in the entire world. I am sick and tired of all whiners complaining about our current situation. They offer no advice, no ideas, and no solutions, only grievance.

To these wimps of America I offer some advice:

Stop watching Oprah and Dr. Phil. Rent a John Wayne film, join a gym, hang a flag outside your home, read the constitution, Bible and federalist Papers, play with your children, visit a war memorial, spend time with your significant other, and be proud you are an American.