

## Taking Charge: A Two Step Process

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Of the great spirits who visit me, one stands out: Henry A. Wallace. He was an agricultural expert, a botanist, a businessman, and Vice President of the United States from 1941 to 1945. Here's what he told me.

"You're one short step away from the abyss. This is your last chance to take charge and avoid catastrophic..." his voice trailed off.

"How can that be?" I asked.

He thought for while. His handsome face tilted slightly as if to ask whether I had the capacity to understand what he wanted to tell me. After a time, he said, "If I had to boil down the essence of your emergency to one word, that word would be *gain*."

"Who doesn't prize gain?" I replied.

"For many," he responded, "gain is only the first piece of information. Before making a decision, Iroquois chiefs sought to know whether that decision might bring harm to the seventh generation."

"That always stuck me as a foolish limitation."

"No," he said quietly but forcefully. "Foolishness was destroying the miracles of seed, sea, soil, and spirit before you even came close to understanding them. Foolishness was heating the Earth. Foolishness was altering this planet's natural patterns."

"Well, that can be changed," I said, "as soon as we all begin to understand the consequences."

"I'm sorry," he responded. "You have enshrined gain into the fabric of the nation. As a result, bringing about change will be difficult unless you consider the matter deeply."

"I'm not sure I understand."

"That's clear."

He paused. "Alright. Just think of my Iroquois friends. Imagine their reaction to your having created corporations." He looked at me closely to see whether I was able to process his suggestion. "Now imagine their reaction to your having given corporations the rights of citizens."

"Okay, so thinking matters through to possible effects on the seventh generation?"

"Becomes, instead, planning only to the next economic quarter," he responded.

"And foregoing profits to consider long-term impacts?"

"Becomes totally unlikely. Actually, illegal," he said. "Your laws require managers to maximize profits for the benefit of present day shareholders."

I was quiet for a time. The idea of needing to reconfigure or get rid of corporations—the perceived workhorses of our economy—had overcome my sense of political reality.

"Louis Brandeis," Wallace said, "tried to warn us. He described them as Frankenstein monsters that will steal our very last freedoms."

"By God," he continued, "they monetized the ugly realities they created. Then they controlled what you were allowed to think about what they had done."

Wallace paused for a moment and then asked, "Let's recall some personal history. When you were a child, Michael, in the 1940s, do you remember any other children experiencing obvious signs of autism?"

"No."

"Cancer?"

"No."

"Allergic reactions to peanut butter so severe that teachers had to inject adrenaline to keep your classmates alive?"

"Never. All my friends ate peanut butter all the time," I said.

"Well, cancer, asthma, and autism became our fate as a result of the Chemical Age. Massive numbers of cases were brought down upon you by corporate America. And rather than just stopping the harms, they cashed in by selling expensive pharmaceuticals and by building pediatric oncology hospitals. That meant jobs, profits, government grants, and a stepped-up medical industry."

"I know that to be true. Friends in academic research," I told Wallace, "said there was no real effort going on to find cures for cancer. There's too much money in treatments that just go on and on."

"Yes. That's your Frankenstein monster accomplishing its role in fact and in law. Extending profits into the next quarter and the next quarter after that."

"Leaving us with death, debt and autism."

"When you were born, Michael, autism occurred once in maybe five to ten thousand births. And now?" he asked.

"It's happening in every seventy or so births," I responded. "And some researchers are saying that the numbers will increase if we don't do things to stop what's causing it."

"Which means," he said, "that ending corporate dominance must happen, but unless you're clear about how far-reaching their power has become..."

"Well, once people understand..." I responded.

Wallace sighed. "That's true, Michael, but people need to know how firmly entrenched is their power. At present, they control the media, your representatives, the United States government, and the world."

A heaviness came over him. "They have kept us at war continuously since 1945. Why? So they can control resources around the world. And they make tons of money by keeping us fighting."

I remembered reading how vociferous Henry Wallace was in 1945, when he criticized President Truman's assertion that the Soviet Union had to be battled as an evil force in the world. Not true, he thundered, as he called for the rights of all people everywhere to be free to create their own political and economic systems.

"And the reason," Wallace continued, "that corporate America could keep the United States at war continuously for over seventy years is that there is no international order. None."

"The United Nations," I responded.

"None," he repeated. "Because of our veto power in the Security Council, there was no United Nations that could stand up to Harry Truman and say he was wrong when he falsely charged the Soviet Union with intending to conquer the world by military force in 1946."

“And there was no one who could stop the United States when we participated in the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the first elected Prime Minister of the Congo. Why? Because the U.N. was a sham, and we wanted their diamonds and minerals.”

“And no one to stop us from bringing down Salvatore Allende, an elected president of Chile, because the United Nations was a mere facade, and Allende had called for the nationalized of their copper mines.

“And no one to stop us from encouraging Suharto in Indonesia to murder hundreds of thousands of his opponents because there was, in fact, no international order, and his opponents were more democratic than he allowed.”

“The list goes on and on. Into the thousands. Murderous incidents all over the globe. Year in and year out. Did I mention that there was no one to stop the United States from bombing Guatemala until their democratically elected government stepped down? And do you know what their crime was, Michael?”

I tried to remember the details, but could not.

“They,” he responded, “had the temerity to put limits upon the power of the United Fruit Company, a corporation of the State of Massachusetts.”

“So,” he continued, “we are at the very edge of the abyss. We have one last chance to take the world back on behalf of the people. You’re a lawyer, Michael. Do you know by what legal theory the people and the nations of the world can create real governance and thereby find peace?”

I was embarrassed by the question. I should have known the answer, but I was clueless.

“Take your time,” he said. Moments passed. “Let’s go back to your law school days. What if a number of people enter into a contract, but the purpose of the contract becomes impossible to fulfill?”

Remembering the law of impossibility, I told him that each of the signers of the agreement were then at liberty to withdraw if fulfillment became impossible.

“So, if peace is impossible under the agreement that created the United Nations—because of the existence of the Security Council—aren’t its signatory nations permitted, under the law of impossibility, to withdraw from membership so that they can form a new international body, one that’s capable of bringing peace?”

“Well, yes,” I said.

“But isn’t the case even stronger?” he asked.

“Stronger?”

“Are not the nation states required to withdraw? Isn’t remaining within such a futile structure a death sentence for a world that’s now drowning in war and lawlessness?”

“Yes,” I said, “and if they do not withdraw, than the United Nations becomes...”

“A suicide pact,” he said.

I sat back in my chair, feeling sad that something so simple had been overlooked for so long. The United Nations had not only been a trap politically, it had been a black hole where ideas were concerned. There was no search for truth. What came out in the end were simply loud expressions of authority trumpeted by the nations that held power. And because truths had been so marginalized, they lost all meaning. In fact, we had not budged from the eras of warring regions and nation-states thoughtlessly throwing armies at one another in the course of building empires.

We sat quietly for some time, thinking through how ideas could again be hallowed and how there will be searches for abiding truths. We thought also about how the manacles of international finance, the IMF and the World Bank, would be dismantled and how their hold over human needs could be stopped.

“Identification will change,” Wallace said, “and that will be the beginning of an uprising that can echo from the Poles to the Equator and back through every sea and land mass.”

“By identification, you mean?”

“By people of this Earth connecting with one another. They won’t be joining anybody’s army. We will all be brothers and sisters.”

I laughed. Not sure why. What Wallace said was so simple, so pure. It had to be true, but the concept felt as though it had merit in some other galaxy. Not here. But why not here? I asked myself.

“Now, that’s only half of the work to be done,” he said. “Within the United States, corporations have to be corralled, and the missions of your institutions, public and private, need to be altered so that healing and survival are first priorities. Michael, only by using the civil emergency provision in your Constitution can that ever be accomplished.”

“The civil emergency provision?” I responded. “Well...I never...”

Wallace shook his head slowly from one side to the other. “You never heard of it?”

“No. Why is it so important?”

“Because,” he paused for emphasis, “it gives the people *war powers*. Let me repeat that. It gives the people *war powers* to deal with the civil emergency created by corporations. They’ve made this world toxic, and they’ve taken us to the very edge of being on an uninhabitable planet.”

I must have had a blank expression on my face. “Look,” he continued, “the whole Constitutional Convention of 1787 hinged on that provision. The delegates demanded and created a central government with the power to protect the people against violence, whether by an invasion or from within. The harm that we would do to ourselves was called domestic violence.”

“So that clause...” I began to say.

“Was the central focus of the Convention. Rebellion had broken out in Massachusetts the year before. The central government under the Articles of Confederation was no stronger than a debating society. It had no power to protect the people from harms they would be doing to one another. And now, the founders would have you use that provision to stop the harms being done to you.”

I was beginning to understand what Wallace was saying, but not fully. “Wait here,” he said. “I want you to meet Rene Dubos.”

Wallace walked toward an older gentleman who was short, bald, and dressed in a white lab coat. The two of them spoke briefly, looking in my direction. Then they walked over to me.

Extending his hand, Dubos spoke first. “I understand that you may not fully appreciate the harms that we have done to ourselves.”

“Rene is a microbiologist,” Wallace chimed in. “He tried to warn us long ago about what was happening.”

“It’s easy to recognize,” continued Dubos, “that diseases like cancer and autism and Alzheimer’s have skyrocketed, but something far worse than those plagues is occurring. Exposure to toxins is distorting our mental and emotional attributes. The result is...” He took a long breath. “...that we are developing into a form of life that will retain little of true humanness.”

“Not even human?” I said, stuttering.

“And nothing near what we had been before the imposition of the Chemical Age that had been foisted upon us. Exposures begin in the womb, once considered a sacred place, and they follow us every step thereafter. The result is this: Our children learn less easily, and they retain less. Michael, the ability to control impulses has been compromised. In a phrase, consciousness itself has been dimmed. At one point, soon perhaps, the capacity to experience empathy will be fully eroded. I see signs of that now.”

“But our environmental laws, haven’t they been protecting us all this time? You know! The laws we put into effect beginning in the 1970s?”

Dubos frowned. “In the United States,” he said, “those enactments have been a mockery. Only a small number of items out of the hundreds of thousands in use every day have been banned. None have been rigorously tested for their effects on human behavior. None have been tested for their combined effects.”

He looked to see if I had been following him. He continued, “And exposures hit us by the hundreds and by the thousands at the same time, all multiplying the ill effects upon us by factors beyond our capacity to imagine.”

“So your regulatory systems,” Wallace said, “are fairly useless.”

“And, in addition, they will never catch up,” Dubos piped in. “You are stuck in an old paradigm, one that says dosage determines ill effects. In fact, dosage is less significant than the timing of an exposure.”

“I’m sorry,” I said.

“Apologies are all mine,” Dubos said. “You see, business-driven science likes to think simply. It comes up with what it wants to be a safe level of exposure, and that should be the end of all regulatory activity. But in fact, there are critical times during which all of us humans are acutely sensitive. For example, in the womb, during brain development, a relatively small exposure can interfere with the sensitive mechanism by which neurons find their proper places in a child’s brain. That small exposure at a critical moment can interfere and bring about a miswiring in brain circuitry which impairs that child’s functioning for the rest of her life.”

“In short,” said Wallace, “your corporate Frankenstein monsters, capable of thinking no further than the next quarterly profit and loss statements, are bringing harm to every American living today in ways they do not wish to acknowledge.”

“And in the process, they are creating,” added Dubos, “a society that will retain little of true humanness. Just look around. Wantonness. Willfulness. Lawlessness. It’s all well underway.”

I suddenly remembered the words of historian, Barbara Tuchman. The article was “A Nation in Decline.” She decried America’s “deteriorating ethics, poor performance, poor thinking, and lawlessness,” saying that “it does seem that the knowledge of a difference between right and wrong is absent from our society, as if it had floated away on a shadowy night after the last World War.” Fitting what she had observed into the framework provided by Wallace and Dubos, Barbara Tuchman was describing insanity.

The basic definition of insanity is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. And she said it began after the Second World War ended. That was when we allowed the invasion of our minds and bodies by an onslaught of toxins in the corporate-driven Chemical Age.

“So,” Wallace continued, “Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution requires that the United States protect us, the people, against both invasion and domestic violence. And it’s clear that we’ve been harmed by domestic violence in a manner far worse than any invasion might possibly have brought about.”

“I don’t understand how that can be so,” I said. “Domestic violence being worse than any invasion by foreign troops?”

“An invading army,” said Wallace, “typically will do harm during an attack and then it usually imposes order and stability. General Douglas MacArthur did exactly that in Japan after the surrender.”

“But harm being done by resident corporate America?” I asked.

“The harm is denied,” he responded. “And worse. It goes on unabated because the regulatory system, being corporate controlled, is both condemned and not properly funded. Research becomes skewed. Grants never go to studying the real harms that are occurring. ‘All is well’, say the corporate owned newspapers. That false message is shouted out every day.”

“And all the time,” Dubos said, “every family in the United States is being affected by the resulting diseases, disabilities, and diminutions in mental functioning, like difficulty with impulse control and challenges to consciousness itself. God weeps for us.”

“And the human spirit,” added Wallace, “which was meant to grow and mature with every life lived, withers when people are robbed of the ability to learn from one life encounter to the next. Yes,” he continued, “God weeps for us.”

Without words to direct us, we three joined hands and quietly prayed. I imagined my immortal soul urging me take action.

“What’s to be done?” I asked.

Wallace responded. “The Constitution says that upon application of the state legislatures, the United States shall protect us from domestic violence. That means all of us, every American family, needs to call upon every legislator in every state and demand that the federal government do it’s job—that means do everything necessary to protect us.”

“But the federal government is controlled by corporations. You said that yourself.”

“True,” he responded, “but an outpouring that can occur when nearly every American family petitions every state legislator, as I’ve suggested, will be overwhelming. That outpouring will create a movement that can, no doubt, shake up the federal government and make it act responsibly.”

“And that will happen because?”

“The clamor will be deafening. It will reflect a massive shift in identifying the causes of our difficulties. All the diseases and disabilities, mental and physical, that we once thought were attributable to bad luck, bad genes, or God’s will, instead, be understood to have been caused by corporate selfishness and short sightedness. That shift in understanding will put the people in charge. And Michael, once the mechanisms of

control over us are loosened, we'll be seeing truths clearly and expressing them as never before."

Dubos pulled his hands away to wipe tears that had begun to run down his cheeks. "People will finally find the courage," he said, "to speak out against one of the largest poisoning atrocities ever conducted against mankind. Do you even know what I'm talking about?" he asked me.

"I'm not sure," I stammered.

"Aircraft crisscross the skies," he said, "leaving plumes of nanosized particles of aluminum and other metals. They spread out across the horizons from coast to coast. Those particles are neurotoxic. They rob us of our health and of our consciousness. With every breath," he said, shouting that last phrase.

"The newspapers say that's just vapor from airplane exhausts," I countered.

Dubos shook his head in the negative. "Vapor from exhausts would be water that quickly evaporates. Those particles don't evaporate. They spread out. They remain aloft. Blankets of destruction, they descend slowly, impairing humans and poisoning oceans and soils."

"And corporate misbehavior," shouted Wallace, "is bringing shame throughout the universe. It was the moving force behind the destruction on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Those acts were the ultimate in domestic violence under Article IV, Section 4. It will be harder for them to cover up their roles when people will finally be able to speak the truth about what happened on that fateful date."

"Wait," I said. "What are you saying? From what I hear, only nutcases talk like that."

"Michael," Henry Wallace said slowly, "Two steel-constructed buildings in New York City were struck by airplanes. A third suffered office fires. All three fell at the speed of gravity, perfectly within their own footprints. There's only one explanation for how such a thing might have happened."

"A preplanned controlled demolition," said Rene Dubos. "Anything other conclusion is unworthy of rational consideration."

"And the airplanes," said Wallace, "that allegedly struck the Pentagon and the ground in Shanksville, Pennsylvania disappeared without leaving so much as a scrap of wreckage. By God," he shouted, "Airplanes are not much more than soda cans strapped together to form wings and tails. You're a smart man. When those wings and that tail assembly hit the Pentagon's flat steel reinforced concrete wall, why the hell wasn't there 200 feet of aluminum debris all along the bottom of that wall?"

I struggled to respond. "It all went into the hole? Well, that's what they tell us," I said, feeling uncomfortable with my words.

"Michael," Wallace said, "the wings and the tail would have immediately shattered into thousands of pieces. There's not a power on Earth that could have brought them all together in air and swept them neatly into a ten foot hole, leaving no trace whatsoever."

"So, they did 9/11 for what purpose?" I asked.

"To keep you at war," Dubos said, crying.

"War will be outlawed," Wallace said, "under the domestic violence clause powers in the new America you'll be building. And all resources will go to healing the sick and stopping the harms."

“But won’t the courts intervene on behalf of corporations that stand to lose their rights and their prerogatives?” I asked.

“No,” Wallace said. “Think about the civil disturbances in the 1960s. Federal troops, pursuant to the domestic violence clause, patrolled in a number of American cities. Curfews were in effect until the danger had been stopped. Courts were never asked to intervene on behalf of companies or individuals that may have wanted to remain open for business. It’s preposterous to think that courts would even entertain any such applications.”

Wallace, spacing his words out carefully, went on. “The United States Supreme Court has said many times that the domestic violence clause is a people’s clause. It is for the people to determine what is or what is not a condition of domestic violence. Further, it is for the people to determine what’s to be done to take care of their emergency. In the end, the people have the equivalent of war powers to do whatever is necessary. Using the power of that clause, the people can end corporate dominance entirely if they believe that planning only for the next economic quarter has proven to be the menace it has become.”

“The people,” Dubos said, “will then stop the destruction of seed, sea, soil and spirit. Natural methods will replace the foolish chemical dominance. The Earth will begin to cool. The normalizing of planetary patterns will bring stability to regions that are being devastated by droughts and floods. Habitability will be restored everywhere, as will love and concern for one another. So much will change.”

When Henry Wallace and Rene Dubos took their leave, I stood there with a vision of a United States and this Earth ruled, finally, by governance of the people, by the people, and for the people, as President Lincoln had imagined. I imagined a world in which we respect one another and work together to assure survival along with the blessings of life and liberty.

Passing a schoolyard on my way home, I thought of Dostoyevsk’s character in *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fr. Zossima. Do it for the children, the dying priest would tell us, because they are sinless and in our care.

And then I remembered my friend, John D. MacArthur, a noted science writer, long ago, pressing this message into my hand. It was from the writings of Theo Colborn. In one paragraph, she summed up brilliantly how we had attacked ourselves and where that attack is taking us:

"Peace begins in the womb. The newborn reflects this truth. Order is transferred from cell to tissue, to organs, to organisms, to families, communities, and nations. Unfortunately, when development is violated in the womb by man-made chemicals, the newborn is compromised. For animals in the wild, their survival is threatened. They can disappear without our ever knowing why. For humans, such exposure can lead to reduced intelligence, discontent, failure, and the inability to socially integrate. Man-made chemicals deprive societies of responsible leaders and thinkers. The social and economic impacts are incalculable. Widespread loss of security in the womb can lead to loss of stability at the national and international level."

It’s time, I said to myself. It’s time to take control. Two steps. For the children. Do it for the children, because they are sinless and in our care.

End

## Notes

WALLACE: In order to envision a better future, people will need to understand the worldview of Henry A. Wallace. In their *Showtime* documentary series and in the companion book, *The Untold History of the United States* (Gallery Books, 2012) Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick, pay continuing tribute to Wallace's efforts to bring about accord in the world. An excellent biography is *American Dreamer: A Life of Henry A. Wallace*, by John C. Culver and John Hyde (W.W. Norton & Co. 2001).

TRUMAN: On the other hand, President Harry Truman, lacking insight and seeming "oblivious to the implications of his words or actions...promoted an ideology and politics of Cold War confrontation" that set up limiting parameters to our own time. See *Another Such Victory: President Truman and the Cold War 1945-1953*, by Arnold A. Offner (Stanford University Press, 2002) at page 470.

BRANDEIS: Justice Louis Brandeis, in a dissent to the holding of *Liggett v. Lee*, 288 U.S. 517, warned about the threats to human freedom by giving corporations too much power. He referred to them in that opinion as "Frankenstein monsters."

CASHING IN ON DISEASES: Information about safe, inexpensive, natural cures is continuously suppressed. See, for example, *Second Opinion*, a 2014 documentary film by Eric Merola. It shows how Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center covered-up Laetrile's efficacy in stopping the spread of cancer. See also *What Went Wrong: The Truth Behind the Clinical Trial of the Enzyme Treatment of Cancer*, by Nicholas J. Gonzanez, MD (New Spring Press, 2002)

LUMUMBA: For a reference to United States participation in the murder of Patrice Lumumba, see *In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story*, by John Stockwell (W.W. Norton & Co., 1978) at pages 105 and 236-237.

ALLENDE: See *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability*, by Peter Kornbluh (the National Security Archive, 2003) pages 111-113, for details about United States involvement in planning the coup against the Chilean President, Salvador Allende, on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1973.

SUHARTO: For the overthrow of Sukarno and the encouragement given to Suharto to murder dissidents, see *Endless Enemies: The Making of an Unfriendly World*, by Jonathan Kwitny (Congdon & Weed, 1984) pages 278-285.

GUATEMALA: Bombing of defenseless cities in Guatemala brought an end to their democracy. *Bitter Fruit: The Untold History of the American Coup in Guatemala*, by Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer (Anchor Press, 1983), pages 177-178 and 182-184.

DUBOS: Rene Dubos' assertion about our descending into "a form of life that will retain little of true humanness" is in "The Limits of Adaptability," an essay in *The Environmental Handbook*, edited by Garrett DeBell (Ballantine Books, 1970), pages 28-29. See also *Only One Chance: How Environmental Pollution Impairs Brain Development and How to Protect the Brains of the Next Generation*, by Philippe Grandjean (Oxford University Press, 2013). See, as well, *Poison Spring: The Secret History of Pollution and the EPA*, by E. G. Vallianatos with McKay Jenkins (Bloomsbury Press, 2014)

TOXIC SKY TRAILS: One of the best sources of information about aircraft leaving toxic trails in the skies above us that are robbing us of our health and our

consciousness is GeoengineeringWatch(dot)org. Dane Wigington, creator of that site, deserves everyone's immediate attention.

9/11 ATTACK: Reliable information to the effect that the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 were a self-inflicted, inside job is compendious. Please start with the groundbreaking research of Richard Gage at Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth(dot)org. Richard is the founder. Some 2,400 professionally licensed architects and engineers have said that the official, government story cannot be believed.

ARTICLE IV, SEC. 4: The complete wording of Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution is as follows: "The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence."

FOR THE PEOPLE: The case of *Texas v. White*, U.S. Supreme Court (1868), made it clear that the guarantees in Article IV, Section 4 are for the benefit of the people. And Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, in *Colegrove v. Green*, 328 U.S. 549, at page 556, made it clear that those guarantee issues are matters for the people to determine. They are not for the courts to decide.

THEO COLBORN: See *Architects of Peace: Visions of Hope in Words and Images*, by Michael Callopy (New World Library, 2000) page 104.

**Michael Diamond's** legal experience involved protecting people who had been impacted by environmental harms. In an effort to change the focus away from waste and war, he wrote *If You Can Keep It: A Constitutional Roadmap to Environmental Security*, (1996). The book introduced readers to the domestic violence clause in the U.S. Constitution. Most recently, Diamond wrote a novel, titled *Impasse*, in which the protagonist finds a way to help end the destructive reliance on the United Nations, so that a new organization can be created to represent the requirements of the people for health and justice and to assure survival.