



Just in case it matters to you:

- “EVERY STRATEGY RESTS ON SPECIFIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE WORLD.” Business plans can be obsolete before they’re even done printing unless assumptions are consistently reality-checked for validity. Perspective to always keep in mind includes: (1) What conditions and factors must be in place for expectations to work? What else should be considered? (2) How valid or probably is each assumption? If the estimate of likelihood is wrong, what is the impact on level of accomplishment – Diminished? Delayed? Destroyed? (3) Is the risk reasonable? Amenable to control? Management? Influence? Then, when strategy involves *CHANGE*, it’s critical to always remember that effectively implementing change is dependant on leadership – “motivating and inspiring, establishing direction and aligning people “ – more so than just on management – about “controlling, organizing and problem solving... since successful change is a result of interaction between top-down steering and bottom-up-involvement.” Effective change occurs when the ‘right’ goals are established – inspiring, focused and achievable, versus abstract or too broad – and when the time target is relatively short term. “For broad cultural change goals, which can take years to realize, it is better to divide the goal into parts and make it achievable in smaller manageable pieces,” so that employees can witness successful implementation and remain motivated to next achievable steps. These areas are among the core support services of DCG. We can help. [LAW PRACTICE – Apr/May 09]
- THE U.S. TREASURY LOSES OVER \$100 BILLION A YEAR IN TAX REVENUE from companies that legally ship their income offshore, including 83 of the 100 largest American companies – 14 of which have now received federal bailout money. (“Bank of America has 59 subsidiaries and Citigroup has 427 in various havens.”) About forty small countries have attracted some \$12 trillion in assets, under bank secrecy laws which enable depositors to “launder their money, disguising its source... Because their government budgets are tiny, the havens can afford not to tax foreigners who set up accounts or corporations in their territory. In return, the havens, while maintaining a “don’t-ask-don’t-tell policy...and stonewalling requests for information from other countries looking for tax evaders, get thriving banks, good-pay jobs, and higher living standards for their citizens.” Now, desperate for tax revenue, our government is supposedly launching a crackdown – by suing secretive banks and pressuring tax haven administrations – which shows promise of some success. [THE WEEK – May 8, 09]
- AMERICA IS “DECLINING AS A NATION AND A WORLD POWER, with mostly signs and shrugs to mark this seismic event... The decline started with weakening fundamentals...as our economy, infrastructure, public schools and political system have been allowed to deteriorate...and as our international power has been used so ineffectively, thus allowing our own and others’ problems to grow and fester – particularly foreign policy, which is common sense not rocket science, yet keeps getting overwhelmed by extravagant principles, nasty politics and the arrogance of power... The core problem is not American democracy or American ideals or American power,” it is politicians! “Democrats adhere to fundamental liberal beliefs about the value of negotiations and cooperation with other states...but convey uncertainty about about what they will do – which the public senses and then loses confidence in how they will manage national security... By contrast, Republicans exude nothing but conviction about the virtues of being aggressive, standing up to any possible adversary, painting the world in simple black and white, and forever proclaiming that they will never allow the U.S. to be pushed around... while the Moderates are reluctant to fight for the reasonable portrayal of problems and what can be done about them... Every great nation or empire ultimately rots from within. One can already see the U.S. beginning to decline in its leadership, institutions, and physical and human infrastructure, heading on the path to becoming just another great power... To restore all that is good and special about America, to rescue its power to solve problems, will require something that has not happened in a long time: that pragmatists, realists and moderates unite and fight for their country.” [FOREIGN AFFAIRS - May/June 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK:
“A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.” – George Bernard Shaw
The President’s \$100 million cut-back in 2009’s budget of \$3.5 trillion is a start – but a rather puny one. It represents .0029%, with impact equivalent to a \$3 reduction on a family spending \$100,000 this year.