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[Economy-Letters to President, 1991]

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*Speech writers*

# PITCAIRN

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November 4, 1991

President George Bush  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In response to your letter of October 28, 1991, the most important thing to do before your "decision whether or not to seek the Presidency for a second term" is tell the American people you are very concerned about the economy. The American people would welcome the news that you and Secretary Baker are so concerned about the economy that you are postponing work on all International problems for the time being and concentrating all your efforts on our economic recovery. I have talked to good, loyal Republicans across our country and, without exception, we all sense that the International situation is more important to you and Mr. Baker than our economy. Millions of Americans are really hurting. We were thrilled with your leadership in the Desert Storm victory, but that victory is fast fading because of the blinding hurt of our economic lives.

My family and I have been loyal supporters of the G.O.P. all our lives. My Father played an active part in persuading General Eisenhower to run for the Presidency. In 1966, Mrs. Eisenhower and Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon attended my Father's funeral.

When the cabin loses pressure in a commercial airplane and the oxygen masks drop down, the recommendation is to put on your mask first so you can better help your wife and family. The U.S. economic pressure is seriously low. We have to tell the world that it is time for us to put on our own economic mask now so that we will be able to help the world later. If we don't hurry up and get some economic oxygen, we could all die in the process of trying to help the world now. Then who is left to bail out the world? I remember the Great Depression.

Four weeks ago I was in Reno for Honda's New Car Show. Except for those from a few pockets of economic stability, the dealers across the country say that their customers have little or no confidence in our recovery. Many are afraid things are getting worse. Three weeks ago in Orlando, at Volvo's New Car

Show, dealers were even more depressed at the lack of confidence the American people have in our recovery.

Even though I hate to even associate your good name with FDR, Mr. President, we need you to give some fireside chats on T.V. Forget the International situation and show us that you are putting all your efforts into a speedy economic recovery. Rebuild your credibility with the American people and the World by letting everyone know how concerned you are about our stalled economy. Don't worry about what the Democrats will say. All types of Americans are looking to you for leadership. We want to hear that you know that millions of Americans are really hurting, and that, starting today, you and Secretary Baker are going to put all your efforts into energizing our economy. Give us your plan.

Talk to Ross Perdue. He may tell you some things you don't want to hear and that your advisors are unwilling to tell you, but they are the truth and are the things that must be tackled if we don't want to slip into a depression.

As one of thousands of GM Dealers, I believe that if only General Motors had fired Roger Smith and made Ross its President, GM wouldn't have lost one billion dollars last quarter and our economy would be better off.

In your letter you write, "I am happy with the progress we've made." If someone has lost their job, their home, and their business, they don't see any progress. If there isn't an up-turn in the economy in the next three months, hundreds of thousands of us will go bankrupt and that will mean millions of more unemployed people. Obviously you have no idea how many businesses are on the verge of folding, and, yet you are asking us for contributions. Mr. President, go out in the streets and byways. Talk to people. They don't see "the progress we've made." They are scared to death.

President Nixon wasn't willing to admit there was a problem. The rest is history. Lee Iacocca admitted the odometer mistake, apologized to the American public, did something about it, and the American public admired him for it. Mr. President please admit to the American public our economy is in trouble. A year ago you were able to lead the country to forget party politics and make sacrifices to win a stirring Desert Storm victory. Now this same type of leadership is needed for quick economic recovery. This leadership and recovery will give you credibility to lead the rest of the world out of its recession.

November 4, 1991

Unless the American people have some hope and confidence and go out and buy Christmas presents, many companies will go bankrupt before the end of the year. Our Country is in real trouble. If you don't believe me, go out and talk to almost anybody and you will hear there is vanishing faith in you and our Country.

Bite the bullet. Tell the people you know we're in trouble. Give us a plan, and if we all work together without politics, as we did in Desert Storm, we can build a strong economy that will be an example for the whole world to follow. Just making these statements will stop your sliding popularity and when people are sure you mean what you say, your popularity will reach higher plateaus than those after Desert Storm.

Your first fireside TV chat must be before Thanksgiving. I have great faith in you and soon all America and the World will too.

Very truly yours,



Garth Pitcairn

GP/wjr

cc: Vice President D. Quayle

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Sylvia L. Ramsey  
Route 2 Box 381  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
October 14, 1991

George Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C. 20500

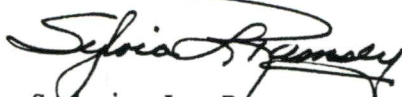
Dear Mr. President:

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As a teacher, I am very aware that education is in the maelstrom of a crisis in our country. As a response to what is occurring at this time, I wrote a short story titled "The Little Red Schoolhouse: A Fable?". It is currently being circulated in Missouri. It will appear in the December issue of the Missouri Peer Helpers Magazine and a variety of newspapers.

I am enclosing a copy of this short story in hopes that it will help to open the eyes of the people who refuse to remove their blinders. If you feel that it may be helpful, please feel free to use it.

Sincerely,

  
Sylvia L. Ramsey

Sylvia L. Ramsey

### The Little Red Schoolhouse A Fable?

Once upon a time, there was a little red schoolhouse that was filled with children and had only one teacher. This little red schoolhouse was located in the middle of a small community. The people who lived in this community believed that what happened in the little red schoolhouse was an important part of their lives, and the lives of their children. They felt that this was so important, that each member of the community had a responsibility to share in the role of seeing that it was the best it could be. The purpose for the little red schoolhouse was to educate children. The reason was to provide a better life for all of the people.

The children were expected to learn all they could while they were in school. Parents kept in contact with the teacher to know how their child was progressing. If Johnny and Jane were not trying their best, the parents helped to correct the problem. When things for the little red schoolhouse were needed and money wasn't available, the community pulled together to get it. If repairs or improvements were needed, the people of the community pitched in and helped. Money was not always spent to make repairs or improvements because the people would often gather at the school on a Saturday and do whatever was needed.

Good manners, respect, and work ethic were the order of the day, and these things were taught at home. Children were expected to behave properly at home and at school. Parents gave children responsibilities at home to teach them basic life skills. They taught their children morals, values, and self-respect. Parents saw that children did their school assignments before they played. It was understood and believed that an education was a privilege, and a valuable possession. Children were taught by role models that man had a responsibility to his fellowman, his community, and his nation.

The children reflected the beliefs of this community. They knew that obtaining an education was work, but a worthwhile pursuit. They understood that obtaining the best education they could get would be the key that would open doors to a better life for all.

Then one day, the values of the community began to change. The people became complacent because life was good. The investment they had made in their children had paid great

dividends. The children had become inventors, scientists, and doctors. The children created new technologies that had made jobs plentiful and had raised the standard of living for everyone. Life began to change and everyone wanted the things that the new technology had created. There was an increased demand for products and services provided by those who did not necessarily have a higher education. Soon these people were receiving a larger paycheck than the people with higher levels of education. However, the people with the higher levels of education were expected to continue maintaining and improving the life style that everyone else took for granted.

The people quickly forgot why life was so good. They became more self-centered, and wanted the little red schoolhouse to take on more and more of the responsibilities that had once been theirs. Finally, the little red schoolhouse was expected to provide almost all the needs of the children that had at one time been provided by the parents and the community. They wanted to reap the rewards of a skilled and educated society without investing any money or effort. They happily lived for the moment enjoying the fruits of their ancestors' earlier investments. They ceased to make an investment in their children's future at the little red schoolhouse.

The number of people who depended on rewards of previous investments in education had increased. The number of educated people had decreased. The little red schoolhouse was sad because the people no longer believed in it or supported it. The "good" life began to disappear.

The children stopped believing in the little red schoolhouse. The children had too few role-models and the little red schoolhouse could not do everything without help and support. The children's behavior began to reflect what was happening. They no longer used good manners, showed respect for themselves or others, or believed in the work ethic. They no longer believed it was important to get an education. They began to drop-out of school at an earlier and earlier age. Society began to show symptoms of decay as the instances of drug abuse, violence, and multitude of other problems with the youth increased. The people began to get upset.

The people blamed their leaders, they blamed the little red schoolhouse, they blamed the school board, and the government. They behaved like drowning men grasping at straws in the water by grasping at any solution that was available except the one that would save them. They refused to believe that what happened at the little red schoolhouse relied on their support, on their being directly involved, and investing in education to improve what was started long ago. They refused to believe that they were also responsible

for what was happening to the children. Because the people were not willing to do what was necessary to correct the situation, the problems increased.

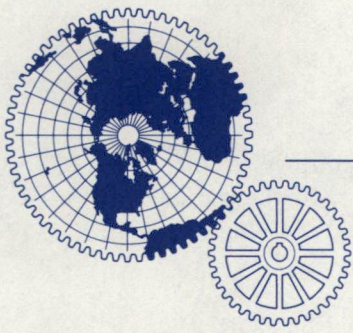
One day the little red schoolhouse closed its doors because no one believed in it anymore. Teachers became an extinct species. Time passed and the people begin to have less money to buy the things that made life easier. The number of people who had jobs decreased. The number of people who lived in poverty increased. More and more people became homeless. The world as the people had known it began to change.

Machines that made their life easier began to break down, but no one knew how to fix them. New ones were needed, but no one knew how to design or build them. People were ill and needed doctors, but they were a vanishing breed. Only a few wise men were left, but they had been so ridiculed for their preoccupation with learning that they had gone into isolation, and no one knew where they had gone. Various individuals of the community tried to solve the problem, but without success because there was no one was left who knew how.

The "good life" became a myth, a fairy tale, that all the people longed for again. However, because the people had waited too long and did not take the steps required to change the course in which they were headed, life did not get better. Eventually mankind returned to the dark ages. The "good life" existed only in the stories told to the children around open fires. These stories were about a time when the world was full of wonderful magical, mysterious things, when man lived in beautiful houses, had machines that did menial work, traveled through the air, and even walked in space.

The how and why such a wondrous world had ever existed were gone forever. The only thing left to remind man of a time that had existed was an odd little red building that had been called a schoolhouse. No one remembered that magic had occurred in this little red building. No one remembered that in the "middle age" of man on earth the people had believed in the little red schoolhouse. No one remembered that the magic was the people, the community, and the little red school house working together to create it. No one remembered that it took all the people working together to produce the magic of an educated society. The magic was gone, only the flicker of the open firelight and the memory of a better time remained.

\* This was the last entry in a journal found in a cave in the mid-western region of a country once called the United States.



# POLYECONOMICS, INC.

## Political and Economic Communications

### FYI: LETTER TO CUOMO

November 7, 1991

The Hon. Mario Cuomo  
Governor of New York  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Dear Governor:

I watched your hour-long call-in program last night and then called a few of my Republican friends in Washington to tell them you were soon going to announce your candidacy. Once you made the observation that the problems of the cities and states were not caused in the cities or states by Republican or Democratic mayors or governors, but was a national problem, I concluded you were not going to sit helplessly in Albany and watch our country go down the drain.

The Republican leaders I spoke to last night asked me if I thought your candidacy would make a positive contribution. I said I have always thought so, which is why I was disappointed when you did not run in 1988, although I now don't know for sure if I would have been rooting for you part of the way or all of the way. The American people will know who in the field of possibilities will make the best President. What the people need are *options*. As I've argued with you before, you should not have to confront that question yourself, except insofar as you are a citizen and you must be able to sense that when you enter the ballot box next November, you will vote for yourself. As long as you can imagine that happening, you owe it to your fellow citizens to offer them that option. Democracy cannot work if those who *know* they can be better leaders than those already in the field choose to sit out elections.

In the same way, I am now trying to persuade at least one serious Republican political leader to think about entering the contest for the nomination, by challenging George Bush. The Republican electorate now needs an option to the President, who can only revive if he feels sufficiently challenged to make necessary personnel changes in his Cabinet, most especially at Treasury. The chance of the President firing Nick Brady, his best friend in government, cuts against everything we know about George Bush. He can't win re-election with Brady as his finance minister, any more than it was possible for Hoover to win in '32 with Ogden Mills, the Treasury Secretary who presided over the '31-'32 tax increases that turned recession into depression. (Andrew Mellon was Treasury Secretary in 1929-30, a holdover from Harding and Coolidge. Mills was the Deputy, as Hoover did not like Mellon and listened to him no more than Bush has to Jack Kemp, the only growth-oriented holdover from the Reagan years.)

President Bush was the best man to preside over the dissolution of the Soviet empire. Kemp was unprepared for that role, which is the chief reason I think he got nowhere in the GOP primaries of 1988 -- running against Gorbachev. With foreign policy now a slight consideration in the demands of the national electorate, the probability is extremely high the voters will turn to a governor in 1992. Someone outside the Beltway, with administrative skills built around domestic, economic concerns. The only seasoned governors who fit that need, at least by my estimate, are you and Jerry Brown on the Democratic side. On the Republican side, the only two governors I know who could make it work are Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin and William Weld of Massachusetts, although neither are seasoned

enough at this point. In the Congress, the only two men I think could seriously contest you are Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi or Rep. Vin Weber of Minnesota, i.e., I'd vote for either of them over you at this point if they were running, but I may have more confidence in them than they have in themselves.

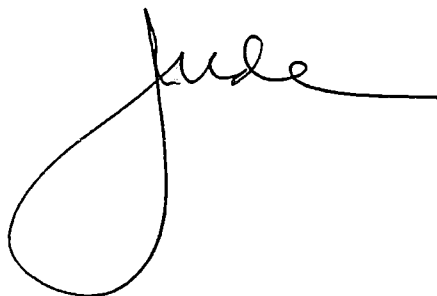
What the country needs is implied in the term "New Deal." The New Deal of FDR, though, had its intellectual roots in the state corporatism of Mussolini's experiment in Italy. Italy in 1932, after all, was the only major nation still seemingly thriving amidst the wreckage of the Depression. The "Big Government" approach, termed "fascism" in 1919, as Mussolini bolted the socialist cause in favor of state capitalism, underpinned the New Deal's "national industrial planning," the NRA and all the other alphabet agencies that grew into what we now call "The Beltway."

The new deal we need now might be called "The New Capitalism," a capitalism that tends to the have nots rather than the haves. Jesse Jackson says "Capitalism without capital is just an ism." Of course. For capitalism to succeed there has to be capital; the willingness of those who have, to invest in those who don't; a mixture of private and public investment. Your presentation last night, the several answers to the questions posed to you, easily fit into the general ballpark of this idea. You understand the essence of the supply model and I think you get the drift of my arguments about the crisis in entrepreneurial capitalism. Yes we need public works. Lots and lots of public works. But they can only be financed with a great outburst of private economic enterprise.

You told Maureen Dowd of *The New York Times* the other day that you wish making up your mind was as easy as it was for St. Paul, who got *hit in the tush* with a lightning bolt, as you put it. You are clearly on the right road to conversion, but you are not going to get hit with the persuasive lightning bolt of insight unless you get in the middle of the road, where it can get a clear shot at your tush. I've been pleased and encouraged to have these long conversations and communications with you *through your aides*. At least I can say that in the process I converted Brad Johnson, if not Vince Tese or Lee Smith. Third-party evangelism is not as effective as one on one, however. When you are ready for instructions, just let me know, and I will show up with my Baltimore supply-side catechism.

In any event, I was very happy to watch your presentation last night. I actually tried to call in with a question, but the lines were clogged, perhaps by the Forces of Darkness.

Sincerely, as always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse", with a large, stylized loop at the bottom.

cc: Clients of Polyconomics, Inc.