

GLEANINGS II - 741
Thursday December 28th, 2017

MEA CULPA : NO GLEANINGS LAST WEEK. MY LEFT HIP WAS GIVING ME TOO MUCH TROUBLE AND I WAS TOO BUSY, HAVING VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR A COUPLE DOZEN LADIES IN THE BUILDING & A FEW OTHER GUESTS (IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO THE HELP I GOT FROM MY EX-WIFE AND MY NO.1 GRANDSON & HIS GIRL FRIEND.

Canadian spending on marijuana - A December 18th StatsCan report estimated that in 2015 Canadians spent \$6.2BN on pot vs. \$7BN on wine & \$9.2BN on beer (the midpoint of an earlier Deloitte estimate of between \$4.9 & 8.7BN), with two-thirds thereof accounted for by the 25+year age group & only six percent by the 15-17 year age cohort.

Cost of the UN to US taxpayers - In 2015 the US contribution to the UN's regular-, & peacekeeping-, budgets was US\$3.02BN, while according to Penny Abeywardena, New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs, the presence of the UN Headquarters in the city accounted for US\$3.3BN in economic output. In her 2016 Report she was more specific : its contribution to the city's economic output had risen to US\$3.69BN, it accounted for 25,040 direct & indirect jobs (with an average wage/salary in excess of that what almost two-thirds of New Yorkers make) & the income generated by the UN for the city coffers marginally exceeding the cost of its presence - *This may understate the total cost to the US from its UN membership, for its regular & peacekeeping' budgets account for only one-third of the UN family's total expenditures, although some of its thirty or so members have, in some cases significant, outside sources of income and the US has quit paying for the Paris-based UNESCO (because of its "anti-Israeli bias"), & the New York-based World Population Fund (it promotes birth control).*

Current GDP growth rate - The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow rate hit 4.5% in early November & has since fluctuated between 3.5% & 2.7%, and at last report was 2.8%. But more importantly, its consensus forecast of private sector economists 'flatlined' in the last two months, & their range recently declined, despite the passage of the 'tax reform' bill, from 3.2%-2.5% to 3.1%-2.3%.

Much to do about little - Canada's federal-, provincial-, & territorial governments recently engaged in a public cat fight over the divvying up of the \$1BN in new tax revenue expected to be generated by the legalization of marijuana, despite that amount being mere 'chump change' compared to their aggregate \$700BN in annual expenditures. But this was driven not by the money involved than by the fact that the Trudeau government in setting up the program had carefully downloaded most of its financial cost onto the junior governments.

This week's Amtrak derailment near Seattle was its tenth since mid-2011 (the previous nine of which killed 19 people & injured over 330 more) - But in six cases they were third party-driven : on June 24th, 2011 a truck slammed into a Chicago-California Amtrak California Zephyr train 112 kms. East of Reno, Nev. & killed six people, on October 2nd, 2012 one of its Oakland to Bakersfield, Cal. trains did so after colliding with a semi trailer (*that presumably had no business being on the track*), on June 23rd, 2014 one of its trains hit a vehicle traveling on the train tracks 40 kms. Southwest of Boston, killing all three people in it (but injuring no passengers), on March 9, 2015 an Amtrak train traveling from North Carolina to New Jersey derailed after hitting an 'over-sized' tractor-trailer stuck on the tracks, on October 5th, 2015 an Amtrak train from Vermont to Washington derailed after hitting rocks that had fallen from a ledge on the track & on March 4th, 2016 an LA to Chicago Amtrak train derailed after a cattle feed truck train had earlier hit the track & warped it 30 cms. out of shape. Only three were speed-

related: on October 21st, 2012 two locomotives & a couple of cars of an Chicago to Pontiac, Mich. Amtrak train derailed after the train “lost contact with the track” near Niles, Mich., on May 12, 2015 Amtrak train 188 was traveling at twice the 80 kmh speed limit as it entered a sharp curve near Philadelphia, keeled over in the river alongside, killing 8 & injuring over 200 others &, finally, on April 3rd, 2016 two maintenance workers were struck & killed by an Amtrak train going over 160 kmh near Chester, Penn.

US Tax Reform - On this issue ‘I am from Missouri’ as to its effect on the economy & the 2018 mid-term elections. But there seem to be almost endless potential risks for the GOP in the next 10½ months. The partial reversal of Obamacare hidden in the nearly 600 page bill will cause 13MM people to lose whatever healthcare coverage they had. Another 47MM people to find that the interest on their US\$1.2TR in student loan debt will no longer be tax deductible; so here will be 60MM people who may disinclined to vote republican. The turnout of-, & unprecedented all but 100% anti-Republican vote by-, Afro-Americans in the recent Alabama special election is not a good omen for the GOP. Stock market valuations have signaled for months that investors expect managements to flow the lion’s share of the benefits of their tax cut windfalls through to them, rather than use them to boost wages or hire more people (& moves like that of AT&T to pay US\$200+MM in US\$1,000 bonuses to its employees “in response to tax reform” are little more than tokenism; for with an annual federal income tax bill in the US\$6.5BN range, it is just passing < 10% of its tax windfall on to its employees. And the way the stock market works, much, if not all, of the actual benefit of tax reform for corporate balance sheets is already “priced in” its current “nose bleed” high price levels & it will need more ‘good news’ to keep its momentum. Finally, the odds are that the Third Quarter’s 3.3% annualized GDP growth rate will prove to have been an inventory buildup-driven interim high rather than a springboard to still higher levels¹, especially so if the Fed (& other central banks) were to continue nudging monetary policy ever so slightly more tightly. And while the Atlanta Fed’s latest GDPNow number is not particularly bullish, according to CNBC/Moody’s Analytics economists have slashed their median Fourth Quarter GDP growth forecast by 0.3% to 2.4% due to the weakness of consumer spending in October.

4 winners and 4 losers from Republican tax bill - This is the title of a VOX article that’s worth reading in its entirety. It says the winners are a) corporate America, b) those at the top of the income tax scale incl. Donald Trump & his family (from the lower personal income rate for those making > US\$418.000 & from the more generous treatment of ‘pass-through’ income &, in due course, from the higher estate tax exemptions), c) individual tax payers (but in the short term only) & d) tax accountants (for the bill did little to simplify the tax code), while the losers are a) individual tax payers (over the longer term), b) fiscal conservatism (because of its impact on the deficit (& hence the national debt), c) “Blue” states (12 Republicans in the House, all but one of them from New York, New Jersey & California, actually voted against the bill), & d) Obamacare market places.

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U.S. AUTO DEMAND TO SLIP INTO LOW GEAR AS ELECTRIC CAR RACE STARTS TO HEAT UP (Bloomberg, Esah Dey)

¹ In the 27 quarters from January 1st, 2011 to September 30th, 2017 the average annualized quarterly growth rate was 2.3% & the 3% rate exceeded just 8x (two of them this year)

- The tepid 2017 US car sales may well have signaled the onset of a 'new normal'. *Improved* technology for self-driven-, & electric-, vehicles will continue to dominate the headlines as the players strive to stake their claims in this fast-moving landscape & car sales remain on the "eroding plateau" trajectory of the past year. While auto parts retailers expect a good year as a result of tax reform and of the aging of the national auto fleet triggering demand for replacement parts, car dealers may see weakness after the recent storm-fueled surge in demand.

While most analysts are expecting a slowdown in demand, few are as negative as Morgan Stanley's Adam Jonas who expects US auto sales to drop 5% to 16.5MM units. And this may also have a (minor?) negative impact on the GDP growth rate; for the industry as a whole accounts for about 3.5% of US GDP growth

TRUMP SIGNS TAX REFORM BILL (AP, Laurie Kellman & Jonathan Lemire)

- He did so just before leaving the White House to fly to Florida for the holidays to celebrate a much-needed political win. Starting next year it will give big tax cuts to corporations & wealthy Americans, and more modest ones to other families. And while polls indicate that the bill is hugely unpopular with the hoi polloi, Trump keeps pitching it as a "win for the middle class" & maintaining that "the numbers speak for themselves", telling reporters that "I don't think we are going to have to do much selling".

Nobody is blinder than those who don't want to see. While this involves the largest tax cuts since 1986, it is far from "the biggest in American history" as the President claims & will add to the nation's debt, something long anathemous to the GOP.

TRUMP OUTLINES FOREIGN POLICY PLAN (Daily Telegraph, Ben Riley-Smith)

- In his first national security strategy pronouncement, on December 18th, he identified four "pillars" of security : protect the American people, promote American prosperity, preserve peace through strength, and advance American influence. He chastised his predecessors for their "complacency" since the demise of the Soviet Union, and called for a new, Cold War-style approach to US foreign policy by framing Russia and China as competitors, stressing the importance of America's nuclear weapons that, he said, were "the foundation of our strategy to preserve peace and stability", calling for "significant" new investment therein. More specifically, the document noted that Russia & China are trying to "challenge American power, influence and interests" & to "erode American security and prosperity" & warned against "engagement" with rivals since the belief they could be turned into "benign actors and trustworthy partners" had been proven wrong. For years, he said, "Washington politicians presided over one disappointment after another, Obama & George Bush ... entered into "disastrous" trade deals & "shortchanged the military" but "with the strategy I'm announcing today, we're declaring that America is in the game *again* and America is going to win", pointing to foreign policy wins that included victories against jihadists, sanctions on North Korea & more defense spending among NATO allies. While the last national strategy document by Obama in 2015 had declared climate change to be an "urgent and growing threat to our national security", the Trump document dropped it as a national security concern, although, while it did set a goal of being an "energy-dominant nation, it also said that the US "recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship."

A clear case of talking the talk but not walking the walk, except where nuclear weapons & defense spending is concerned. For he has been 'sucking up' to the presidents of China & Russia like no other US President, American power & influence abroad is undermined by his being the laughing stock of the global political arena & he fails to grasp that America's power & influence in global affairs has long been leveraged by its relationships with other countries.

US PLACES SANCTIONS ON TWO NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS **(Reuters, David Brunnstrom)**

- On December 26th the US announced sanctions on two North Koreans in its ballistic missile program (Kim Jong-sik is a key figure in its switch from liquid to solid fuel-, & Ri Pyong-chol in its ICBM development-, programs). This is the latest in the US campaign to force North Korea to end its weapons program aimed at developing nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the US. According to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin his Department is "targeting leaders of North Korea's ballistic-missile program as part of our campaign ... to achieve a fully denuclearized Korean peninsula" and it follows the new UN sanctions on oil imports & workers' remittances announced on December 22nd in response to North Korea's November 29th testing of an ICBM that according to Pyongyang will put all of North America within range of its nuclear weapons.

Not surprisingly North Korea declared this to be an act of war & tantamount to an economic blockade while Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Russia was ready & willing to do what it could to clear the way for a de-escalation of the dispute, while on the other hand, Chinese trade data showed that in November it had exported no oil products to North Korea (although the South Koreans on December 29th 'arrested the Hongkong-flagged 11,253 tonne oil tanker, MV Lighthouse Winmore, alleging that it had been engaged in the transfer of oil on the high seas to North Korean vessels).

POLL SHOWS PESSIMISM (AP)

- A new poll by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that less than a quarter of Americans think Trump has made good on his pledges to voters. Even among Republicans only half say he has kept his promises (which included vows to overhaul his predecessor's healthcare law, to withdraw the US from the nuclear accord with Iran & to invest billions of dollars to fix the nation's aging infrastructure, none of which have been acted on). *And just 30% of Americans say the US is heading in the right direction while 52% says the country is worse off since Trump became president.*

Some of his promises-, & much of his base's expectations-, were unrealistic² (thus in a December 17th TV program on how Kentucky hardscrabble residents felt about Trump's performance, most were disappointed, one woman because her husband, who had once made US\$40 an hour, still hadn't been able to find a better job than that of a security guard at US\$14. And while he has acted on some, withdrawing from the TPP & the Paris Accord, and reducing regulations &, now, recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, these are not the bread & butter issues that had attracted-, or matter much to-, his 'core' supporters.

²

Reminds one a bit of South Africa after the end of apartheid, but before Mandela had taken over, when one African woman being interviewed said she now expected to have electricity in her house 'within two years' (for which she is likely still waiting, 23 years later).

CHINA BLASTS U.S. SANCTION (AP)

- In 2014 Gao Yan was in charge of a Beijing district police branch that held human rights activist Cao Shunli who died after six months in captivity there, with her supporters claiming she requested, but was denied, treatment for tuberculosis & a liver ailment, and was repeatedly denied medical parole, until she went into a coma & died. In 2016 the US Congress passed the Global Magnitsky Act to punish human rights violators around the world & last week the US Treasury used it to slap sanctions on the 54 year-old Gao (who now is president of the Beijing Police College) & 51 other people & entities. On December 22nd China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that it 'strongly opposes' the Trump Administration's decision to sanction Gao for his role in Cao's death since this amounted to "interference with China's internal affairs & judicial sovereignty" & urged the US to "stop serving as a so-called judge of human rights" and "to correct erroneous acts" so as not to damage bilateral exchanges.

Sergei Magnitsky was a mid-thirties Russian lawyer & auditor (associated with Bill Browder, a one-time Putin admirer & an early & big investor in Russia until stripped of his Russian assets on trumped-up tax evasion charges) who had the audacity of investigating Russian tax officials for fraud. So he was arrested in 2008 & almost one year later was beaten to death in jail nine days before he could no longer be held without specific charges laid, in what the Financial Times called "part of the darker side of Putinism". And passage of the Act resulted in a number of Putin cronies being blacklisted by Washington & denied visas.

MACRON MAKES A SPECTACULAR RECOVERY (G&M, Konrad Yakabuski)

- France's President, Emmanuel Macron, swept to power last May despite breaking all the rules of French politics only to see his popularity plummet as voters realized he had an authoritarian streak & big plans to make their economy more productive. So by late summer, even before he had pressed ahead with the labour reforms that previous presidents too had promised but failed to act on in the face of protests, his approval rating had been cut in half. But while Nicolas Sarkozy & François Hollande never recovered from their fall from grace, Macron has made a spectacular recovery to the 50+% level in his approval rating, *seemingly* due to a feeling among French voters that he is willing to tackle any issue regardless of threats of paralyzing strikes by leftist leaders, no matter how badly his predecessors may have been burned trying to tackle them. In the process he is emerging as Europe's dominant leader, helped by the fact that domestic politics have hamstrung Angela Merkel & that Britain is retreating into isolationism. And he is expanding France's global reach, having acted as a mediator between Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince & Lebanon's Prime Minister after the latter's return home from Riyadh, & determined to make the Paris climate accord a success, and with plans to lead a peace process effort in Syria once the Islamist State has been defeated (which he insists will be the case by February).

Unlike Trump, his voter support is thus growing as he appears willing to take risks to make France "great again".

RUSSKI WARSHIPS RAISE TENSIONS (WP)

- Over the Christmas holiday weekend British war ships & a helicopter were sent out to monitor an "upsurge" of Russian naval vessels (*four of them*) in British waters. This came days after the head of the British military had warned of suspicious Russian

submarine activity near sensitive undersea data cables that carry Internet traffic between North America & Europe.

This is just part of Putin's ongoing testing of the West's military preparedness.

PUTIN FOE IN VOTE HOT WATER (AP, Nataliya Vasilyeva)

- As expected, on December 25th Russia's top election body formally barred opposition leader Alexei Navalny³ from running *against Putin* in next March's presidential election, prompting him to put out a video statement that among others said "Putin is terribly scared and ... afraid of running against me" & called on his supporters to protest by not voting in the election. The next day Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman wouldn't comment on this decision but did say that "calls for boycott ought to be carefully studied to see if they are breaking the law." (although Russian law doesn't specifically prohibit calling for a voter boycott) And that same day prominent law makers, film actors, musicians & athletes gathered at a Soviet era exhibition hall to endorse Putin after he had announced he would run as an independent candidate. And while Putin, who has been in power for 18 years & is expected to win handily hasn't started campaigning yet, Navalny has for a year already been aggressively seeking voter support, reaching out to the most remote parts of the country.

Navalny has been jailed three times this year alone.

VENEZUELA EXPELS TOP BRAZILIAN AND CANADIAN DIPLOMATS (BBCNews)

- On December 23rd Deicy Rodriguez, the head of Venezuela's Constituent Assembly, announced this. While she accused the former of "violating the rule of law" & the latter of "interfering with Venezuela's internal affairs", the real reasons were that the former had recently complained that President Maduro had been "constantly harassing the opposition" & that Canada had imposed sanctions on senior Venezuelan officials.
- Both countries are among the many that have been critical of Maduro's move to convene a Constituent Assembly to replace the opposition-controlled National Assembly. And relations between Venezuela & Brazil have deteriorated ever since Brazil's left-wing President Dilma Rousseff was replaced by right-of-centre Michel Temer in what Maduro called a "right-wing coup", and those with Canada since Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza accused the Canadian ambassador of "permanent and insistent, rude and vulgar interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela", calling Canada's imposition of sanctions a "shameful and utter submission to the Donald Trump Administration".

President Maduro is up to his ass in alligators : oil prices are still way down from three years ago and, with PDVSA, the national oil company, experiencing crippling operational & corruption problems, oil production, that accounts for 95% of his country's FX earnings, is at a nearly three decade low, he is struggling to avoid defaulting on the country's foreign debt. And since Venezuela depends on imports for much of its supply of consumer goods & medicines, this has caused them be in short supply & resulted in an annual inflation rate in the 750% range. And it is doubtful that Maduro's brainwave to solve his financial problems by creating an oil-backed crypto currency called the 'Petro' will live up to his expectations.

³ Who rose to prominence in 2009 by investigating corruption & became a protest leader when 100's of thousands took to the street across Russia in 2011 to protest electoral fraud.

RAMAPHOSA SECURES ANC PRESIDENCY (Daily Telegraph, Krista Mehr)

- South Africa's ruling ANC (African National Congress) party has elected 65 year-old Cyril Ramaphosa as its new president (which will give him the inside track in the 2019 presidential election). One of the country's wealthiest citizens (*with an estimated net worth in the US\$500MM range*), he has in recent months styled himself as a reformer who will steer South Africa away from the corruption scandals *surrounding the incumbent Jacob Zuma* that have hurt the economy (& *driven his approval rating from the high 50's eight years ago & mid-40's three years ago to, at last report, 18%*). This ends a bitter election battle with 68 year-old Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Jacob Zuma's ex-wife, whose bid for the presidency was seen by critics in the party as potentially damaging to it, given her proximity to Zuma & the corruption scandals that have beset him in recent years.

Ramaphosa is a lawyer by training, 'made his bones' as a union leader, played a significant role in the country's exit from apartheid 25 years ago & was a favourite of Nelson Mandela. But after he was beaten in 1997 by Thabo Mbeki as Mandela's successor, he reduced his political activities to concentrate on making money (& not always without controversy), although he has been Zuma's Vice-president for the past three plus years. But the writer may be unduly optimistic when she suggests this marks the end of "a bitter election battle"; for, while Ramaphosa seems to have far more grassroots' support than Zuma's ex-wife (he was nominated for the ANC Presidency by 423 of the party's branches vs. her 61), he beat her by only a fairly narrow margin (2,440-2,261) & has not yet firmed up majority support in the ANC's Executive Committee, its highest decision-making body: for while 50 of its members are listed as being in his camp, vs 47 in her's, the problem is that seven of them are supposedly in both. And even he gets this sorted out (which seems likely since he has more grassroots support and more money) he may not turn out to be a 'reformer' than he has been promising (in fact his long association with Zuma may well make his presidency a case of "same shit, different pile"; for enroute to becoming one of the richest people in South Africa, his business dealings were apparently often on the shady side.

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ELON MUSK RESPONDS! (Human Transit, Jarrett Walker)

- Sometimes I have been hard on Elon Musk. Thus I have called him clueless when he talked about changing geometry (which no technology has ever done), when he said things that evidence how little he knows about how cities *really* work, and when he used his megaphone to advance the idea that our cities would be greater if we just could drive faster through them (his home town, Los Angeles, was designed on that very principle, and look how that turned out). His problem is that he is among the people who think they can design cities around their private needs & tastes & keeps saying things that are a perfect example of elite projection like "Public transit is a pain in the ass. That's why everyone doesn't like it. And there's like a bunch of random strangers, one of whom might be a serial killer. OK, great. And so that's why people like individualized transport that goes where you want, when you want."
- The company of "random strangers" is what cities are all about; for they are gatherings of people in limited spaces with not much room for everyone's cars. So I said/*tweeted* the obvious : "In cities, @ELON Musk's hatred of sharing space with strangers is a

luxury ... that only the rich can afford. Letting them design cities is the essence of elitist projection”, which prompted a Musk response/tweet : “You’re an idiot”.

This makes Musk look like an arch-reactionary, 21st Century King Canute rather than a visionary. Ans Walker is right, times are changing; thus in Vancouver, where not many years ago the legal requirement for high-rise apartments & condos was to have two \$50,000 underground parking spots for every suite, today it is one-half unit; for developers have learnt that for young urbanites car ownership is not a priority⁴. At the July 16th - 18th 13th World Conference on Transport Research Alexa DelBosc & Graham Currie from the Victoria, Australia-based Monash University presented a paper entitled Why are Young People Less Likely to get a Driving License? After noting that in the US during the years 1983 & 2010 the number of 18 year-olds with a driver’s license had declined from 80% to 59%, for 19 year-olds from 86% to 68%, for 20-24 year-olds from 91% to 80% & for 25-29 year-olds from 94% to 86%⁵, it pointed the finger at, among others, education levels being higher & employment rates lower, people having children later & living with their parents longer, and the cost of car insurance, fuel & maintenance having grown faster than growing family incomes, the move to the inner city, and cars being less of a status symbol. And growing urbanization also plays a role in downgrading the value car ownership & upgrading the use of other means of getting around; in this context the Urban Millennium Report to the 2001 UNA Special Session on the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda provided some interesting data :

	PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION THAT IS URBAN			
	All	More developed	Less developed	Least developed
	-----countries-----			
1950	30%	55%	19%	5%
1970	38%	70%	25%	10%
1990	46%	75%	38%	20%
2010	50%	80%	46%	30%
2030	60%	84%	58%	45%

Walker makes his living as a consultant to public transit system planners & authored a book Human Transit - How Clearer Thinking about Public Transit Can Enrich Our Communities and Our Lives, and, as such, scoffs at rank amateurs like Musk who “thinks that if he can invent a service that meets his personal wants & needs, he’ll solve society’s transportation problems”.

HOW TO INTEGRATE REFUGEES INTO CANADA (Edmonton Sun, Tarek Fatah)

The five young men, all of them government-sponsored Syrian refugees, protesting outside the YMCA in Saint John, NB, illustrated everything that’s wrong with our policy of multiculturalism. Despite having been in Canada for two years, they claimed not being able to express themselves in English although one wonders who made up the signs

⁴ Four decades ago when we lived on a farm 35 miles South of Ottawa my twenty-something year-old niece from Holland was coming to visit us for a few weeks. So I told her it might be wise to get an international driver’s license only to get an impassioned lecture on the evil of car ownership. But after she had stayed with us for a while & learnt how it was to live where kids went to schools five, or more, miles-, & where the nearest grocery store or doctor’s office was twelve miles-, away, she had become less adamant when she went back home a few weeks later.

⁵ While the trend in Canada, Sweden, Norway & Great Britain was similar, albeit not as pronounced, the reverse was true in, among others, Finland, Israel, Netherlands, Switzerland & Spain.

they carried “Refugees need help they don’t need to be put down’ & “Making fun of our religious beliefs”. Instead of helping the Syrian refugees find work in places where they could mix with Canadians, the government is dealing with them in ways that enable them to mentally remain in Syria (*which, however, in many cases may be the right thing to do if, as is the case for many unattached young men, they expect/want to go back home in due course*). But compare that to the case of the young man & woman refugees that I helped flee for their lives from Balochistan (*likely the most unpleasant of Pakistan’s five province to live in*); when they came here in 2015 (about the same time as the Saint John Syrians) neither the man, Lateef Johar, nor the woman, Karima Baloch, spoke a word of English. Now Lateef speaks English fluently, has completed his Grade 12 education at night school, & plans to attend York University, while Karima recently addressed a community event in flawless English. This was the result of me, as their ‘uncle’, having set three ground rules for them : No ethnic radio or TV in their home, listen to the CBC morning news & to light rock on other stations & read a daily newspaper. My approach worked & the government’s *politically correct* one didn’t. QED.

*As a one-time immigrant myself, I couldn’t agree more; if newcomers don’t want to work at integrating into **our** culture, they should feel free to go back to where they came from or to a third, for them more congenial, country.*