

THE FLIP SIDE OF THE COIN, Part II

July 1, 2006

By Dr. Edward Lin

While trying to rush to you the May-June Issue of the Newsletter, and working past 1:30 a.m., my fatigued brain let slip some points I wanted to include in my short discussion about US-china relations. One of them is the fact that with the inflow of foreign capital and technology, China is making steady progress from a communist nation towards socialism (and hopefully democracy someday), from inefficient state-run enterprises to a market driven economy. These seas changes are displacing many tens of millions from their previously dependable state-guaranteed jobs to competitive meritocracy. Many tens of millions of rural farmers and urban workers have been affected and displaced.

While we are impatient to see more improvements and sooner, the real and painful impact on human lives as a result of these massive transitions and transformations must be done in a controlled manner in order not to set off socioeconomic unrest. Instability in China will ripple afar like a tsunami and adversely impact the rest of the world.

Americans can take comfort and pride in the realization that in the process of working with and helping China transition to a more democratic and market driven state, over two hundred millions people have been lifted out of poverty in the past decade. As the per capita income grows in China, we have cultivated the next generation of consumers for American goods and services. It is a win-win for all, even if in the process there are dyssynchrony, disagreements and growing pains.

What makes America the great nation it is are her people and the ideals they hold. Their generosity and altruism, resilient ideals and spirit, guided by the compass that is the Constitution make for an indefatigable nation. While any government or administration can at times engage in misguided or even dishonorable practices, our Constitution and the citizens' exercise of their guaranteed rights thereunder will ensure this great nation of ours ultimately sail through any storm and overcome any challenge.

As we enjoy this land of opportunity and remember our blessings, let us reflect on J. F. Kennedy's exhortation: "Of those much is given, much is expected." What we do to make the world a better place benefits all of humanity, and immediately benefits ourselves in the very hearts of our souls.

As we celebrate the upcoming July 4 Independence Day, let us reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by those before us in order that we may enjoy the liberties we have today. Make yourself a positive contributing member of this nation in your daily actions and show your pride by flying the American Flag in front of your home.

Prejudice and bigotry will always be around, but it doesn't mean we are helpless to change it. Do your part to show that Chinese Americans are as American as any other; that we have earned our rightful place in this nation and will do our part to help make her an even more perfect union. Let's work together so that there'll be prejudice towards none, and brotherhood for all.

In closing, I urge you to become involved in your Association and in your community. In making a better world, **we ALL can make a difference, and we must!**

Happy July 4!

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin

GCAA President

Encourage Inspire Empower

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi