

Problems that don't exist and mediocrity could slow the USA

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by [Randy Bright](#)



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At a recent Congress of New Urbanism meeting in Florida, New Urbanism guru Andres Duany identified two American conditions that he believed should shape how city planners think – “pervasive impoverishment” and the “psychological shifts of impending climate change.”

He said that a “national impoverishment” was the result of the recession, and that planners must begin to shape their thinking to a new normal of planning for people who have little or no money.

Duany also lamented the fact that so few nations are addressing climate change that there is a natural tipping point when climate disasters are virtually inevitable.

In Obama’s inaugural speech, he took a stance that was very pro-immigration. He said, “Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity, until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country.”

He also, like Duany, has identified climate change, saying “We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that failure to do so would betray our children and future generations. Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, and crippling drought and more powerful storms.”

In California, Governor Jerry Brown delivered his 2013 State of the State Speech, claiming that Californians must think big in order to reclaim their destiny. Preaching a sermon of fiscal responsibility, Brown said, “This means living within our means and not spending what we don’t have. Fiscal discipline is not the enemy of our good intentions but the basis for realizing them. It is cruel to lead people on by expanding good programs, only to cut them back when the funding disappears. That is not progress – it is not even progressive. It is illusion. That stop and go, boom and bust, serves no one. We are not going back there.”

On the other hand, Brown advocates spending on a macro scale, wanting to build a tunnel for water from the San Joaquin Delta to several areas in the state, converting a third of its power generation to solar and wind, and building high speed rail that comparatively few Californians will ride (even with subsidies).

Yet Californians are migrating on such a massive scale to escape high taxes and a high cost of living that Texas Governor Rick Perry is running ads in California encouraging their businesses to come to the state of freedom, low taxes and justice.

In all of these examples, there is a kernel of truth (which makes their beliefs acceptable and sellable), but in broad essence are fallible.

Duany is correct that there is a condition of “pervasive impoverishment”, but it is not our built environment that is causing it. Policies against a market centered environment, government spending and high taxes are its root cause. The reality is that as a result the failing economy is leading to the elimination of the middle class, which once eliminated will not return.

He is also correct that there are “psychological shifts of impending climate change.” It is true that there is climate change, but there is a long history of climate change long before mankind began using fossil fuels. Of course, sea levels will rise and fall. Of course, the Earth’s temperature goes up and down, but in direct correlation to the temperature of the sun. There should be no policies formed with the assumption that we can actually counter nature, only that we can learn to live with it.

Obama is concerned about losing the immigrant that might cure cancer, and environmentalists want to protect the rainforests because the next cure-all drug is there waiting to be discovered, but both have little regard for the human life being taken through abortion for similar reasons. How many geniuses were there in the 50 million lives that have been slaughtered?

And Californians? If they believe Brown, they’re in denial. California is well on its way to complete economic collapse, and Brown’s policies will accelerate it. The smart ones are getting out while they can.

Resignation to problems that don’t exist and an inevitable outcome of mediocrity are not only unacceptable, but immoral and a tribute to stupidity disguised as reason.

America can be great again, if enough of us are willing to speak up, just a Dr. Benjamin Carson did recently. The American experience isn’t over, it’s just getting warmed up. A free America is worth saving, and it can be done with proper premise.

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