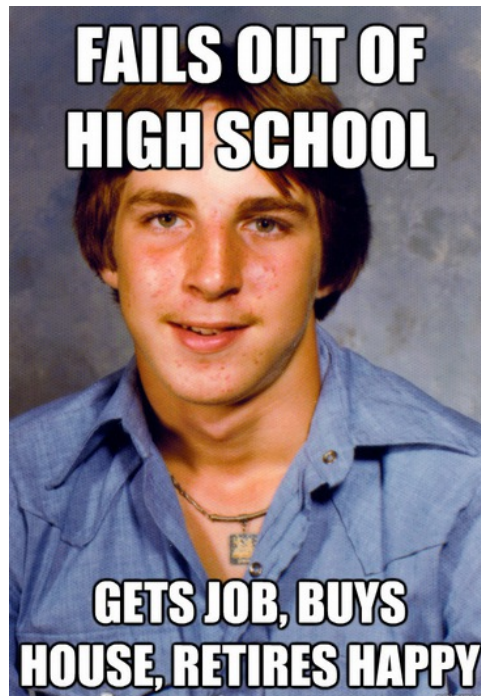


OLD ECONOMY STEVEN



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Good to see the CIA is keeping busy over at Quickmeme.com. We know this is CIA, because everyone from Getpocket to the *The Atlantic* is commenting on this propaganda. What is it? It is the spooks pushing discord between the old and the young, or between Millennials/GenYs and Baby Boomers. Old Economy Steven is a fake guy who supposedly graduated high school in the late 70s. Millennials are allegedly then making fun of his cluelessness in the face of his own privilege and luck. But if these are Millennials making up this stuff, they are Millennials at Langley—who we should be sorry for, but not because of lack of privilege. Because of lack of creative opportunity. It is this or *The Onion*.

So you can see why I am taking this a bit personally. In a lot of ways I *am* Old Economy Steven. I graduated high school in 1981 and had a friend named Steve McCutcheon who looked a lot like that. I never thought of myself as a Baby Boomer, since Boomers were born before 1960. I was born 1963, and we never really had a category.

But like Old Economy Steven, I ate whatever I wanted and never gained weight. I paid very little for college, since the tuition was about 1/20th what it is now. I had no student loans, though my wife did. Compared to the totals now, yes, hers were fairly low. Nonetheless, she had not paid them off by age 35, because it simply wasn't possible. I don't know if she paid them off later. [I didn't have any because I tested out of about two years, which saved a lot of money. And my parents paid for my in-state tuition, which indeed was very low at the time.] I never lived with my parents after high school, though my brother did on and off until he was about 30. Although I graduated *Summa cum Laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*, I got no office job after graduation, and still haven't 36 years later, since I never

applied for one. Like aspiring actors, I waited tables for while, before achieving a small amount of success as an artist.

But although I could complain until the cows come home about lack of opportunity, and have, I am not here to do that. I *admit* I had it better than young people today. I feel very sorry for Millennials and am grateful I am not one. Things have gotten steadily worse since the 1950s, and every decade the spiral down continues. I look back on the 1970s and early 80s with HUGE amounts of nostalgia, despite the fact that several of those years were not good for me at all. Junior high (1976-78) was a misery for me for very personal reasons, but even so I can see that the decade was far less stressful for most people overall. The popular music was far better, the propaganda was large but not monstrous, the fake events hadn't completely taken over society, there were no cellphones or computers, and—despite what we are told about Old Economy Steven—fashions back then weren't even close to being as stupid as they are now. Disco and New Wave were corny, but I will take them any day over the low-riding pants and the tattoos and the grunge we see today. Anyone transported from the past into the present would think they had transported on Halloween, or into a horror movie.

But as I said, I am not here to ramp up the invective. I am here to suggest to Millennials that they not fall for the propaganda, blaming us average older people for the way things are. Do you really think I had anything to do with crafting public policy in the past 40 years? No, like you, most of us have been swept along on the decisions made by a few people at the top; and like you, we aren't happy about it. We never have been. We didn't like the unfairness back then, and we like it even less now. Yes, a few people played the system and cashed out big, but by and large they were from the same families that are doing it now. So nothing has changed in that regard. What has changed is the extent to which the lower and middle classes are getting screwed by those families.

So let's go down some of the comments on Steven and unflip them. We start by reminding ourselves that these comments were crafted by some team hired by the very wealthy to create confusion. In short, they want our eyes on eachother instead of on them. They have always prospered by creating division. They want the old fighting the young, and the blacks fighting the whites, and the men fighting the women. They even push class warfare, but always manage to leave the very wealthy out of it. The very wealthy are always sold as heroes and philanthropists. Instead, they want the middle class fighting the lower class, which is why they love to trash the unions.

Anyway, one of the first comments is that Steven gets an entry-level position after highschool and works his way up to CEO. That doesn't happen, except in fake bios at Wikipedia. It doesn't happen now and didn't happen in the 1980s. You may be told that CEOs worked their way up from the gutter, but if you look closer you always find it is a lie. Most of them waltz right into the top position from another top position. Very few work their way up from anything, and those that do, work up extremely fast due to their family connections.

Then we come to the one about Steven bragging that he paid for college with his summer job. The Millennial points out that tuition was \$400. True. . . ish, but I have never heard of a Boomer making such a brag. Old people know tuition is way too high, since they are the ones paying it. If the Millennial is going to college, his parents are most likely paying for it, or a large part of it, so they aren't doing any bragging one way or the other. And rather than pointing the finger at eachother, the Boomer and the Millennial should be attacking those responsible for the 20x tuition hike—which would be those behind the very wealthy investment groups who have bought up the university system, and the world. You may think the colleges and universities are State owned, but that is just another front and shunt. Even the “public” ones are now owned by the very rich, one way or another, and you

can sure they have found a way to profit from it. Tuition didn't rise 20 times due to inflation, teacher salaries, land prices, or anything else. They rose that much because the Phoenician navy saw a way to create another capture-and-gouge economy.

But just like everything else, you don't have to go along with it. It exists only with your participation. So stop participating. Stop buying the product. Boycott the colleges and universities. They tell you that you can't get a good job without a degree, but that is true only to the extent you buy into it. If everyone boycotted the universities, they would either have to lower the tuitions to a reasonable rate or start hiring people without degrees, wouldn't they?

While you are thinking about that, you might want to read [this 2016 article](#) from Money.cnn.com. There you will find that the tuition to Oxford is about \$11,500 a year, or less than ¼ what it costs to go to Harvard or Stanford. Tuition at Harvard this year is about \$48,000. What you will find if you research further is that until recently, [tuition at British universities was . . . free](#). The UK didn't start charging tuition until 1998. In that year normal students began paying about \$1300 a year, with poor students still paying nothing. In 2003, the incoming Labour Party led by Tony Blair raised that to \$3900 a year. That after campaigning on a promise to take tuition back to zero. Blair and others claimed this was due to huge funding shortages, and that universities couldn't even afford to pay staff. This while the UK continued to spend gargantuan amounts of money on defense, defending itself from . . . whom, exactly? The French? The Germans? The Norwegians? Malta? The UK annually spends about \$50 billion for planes it doesn't need, bases it doesn't need, bombs and missiles it doesn't need, etc. And that figure doesn't include Intelligence funding, which is off the books. How much does the UK spend on Intelligence? Another \$50 billion? Just think how many teachers and staff that would pay.

The US spends **13** times more than that, also on stuff it has no need for. By itself, the US alone spends about 65% of what NATO spends *altogether*. The US outspends Russia by 11 times. It outspends China by 5 times, and China has 4.7 times more people than we do. The US defense budget is around \$700 billion annually, and again that doesn't include Intelligence, most of which is off the books. How much does the US spend on its various black-budget agencies? Who knows? \$200 billion? \$500 billion? A trillion? No wonder we have no money left for anything real, like real art, real education, real science, real history, or real social programs. We only have enough in the federal budget left for drug pushing, poisoning the water supply (fluoride), poisoning the food supply (Monsanto and others), poisoning the air, and turning the lakes, rivers and oceans into dumps.

So if you want to be mad at someone, don't be mad at Old Economy Steven. He doesn't want that any more than you do. Why don't you and Steven get together and boycott the universities for a start, and follow-up with a boycott of the chemical companies, the military, Intelligence, and the entire system in general. Next time someone asks you if you support the troops, say fuck no, I support spending federal taxdollars on things we need. We don't need a bunch of jacked-up cowboys riding around burning gas, shooting everything that moves, and tearing the hell out of the countryside. We need free education that teaches something besides propaganda, we need art that isn't just a money laundering front, we need science that isn't just a steal-from-the-treasury project, we need literature that isn't just a conduit for wannabe writers at Langley, and we need music that isn't just an Illuminati nightmare of handsigns and onanism. We need a system of farming that isn't just an excuse for a huge chemical dump and an excuse to waste more gas. Until you stop putting up with the current world, you are going to keep having to put up with it.

But let's back up a bit. Remember I said that, like Old Economy Steven, I could eat whatever I wanted

and not gain weight? That is because of what I ate, of course. Back in the 80s the food wasn't as poisoned as it is now. Except that, I can *still* eat whatever I want and not gain weight. Why? Because I don't want to eat modern garbage food. I don't want to drink sodas, eat Doritos, or do anything else the TV tells me. I do all my scarfing at the organic market, which is like eating in the 1970s. Well, you can do that, too. You don't have to eat whatever Nabisco or Nestle or Taco Bell is shoveling in front of you. You will say you can't afford to shop at the organic market, but I don't buy it. The one thing that has lagged far behind inflation is regular food prices, and that is because the ingredients have gotten cheaper every decade. Production has risen due to various kinds of adulteration, so bad food is generally *underpriced*. Therefore, though you might think you are paying too much at the organic market, in general you aren't. You are simply paying real food prices instead of fake food prices. I think of the regular market like I think of Walmart. At both you are getting bargain prices, but for shoddy products. The difference is, you aren't putting the Walmart products in your body (in most cases). You are putting them in your house for a few months, where they fall apart. You then put them in the dump. Walmart might as well drive their trucks directly into the landfills or the oceans, and send you the bill for it.

Next, we are told that Old Economy Steven has it better than his parents, *and* his kids. But the Millennials at Langley don't really have their history right here. I admit I had it better than Millennials, in most ways. I *don't* admit I had it better than my parents. My parents led a far more sheltered life than I have lived, *especially* psychologically. To simplify it for easiest consumption, my parents got to live 52 years before 1990, whereas I had lived only 27 years before the floor caved in, in around 1990. My parents got married in 1962, before the war by the government on marriage, women, men, and happiness went into overdrive. I might have had it better than my grandparents, in some ways. Financially, things were easier for me. They lived through the Depression and two big wars. But they also lived through the 50s, which were fairly cush. But psychologically, times were simpler back then. No one had any idea of the Matrix they were living in. They had never heard of AIDs or trannies or cult murders or fake Moon landings or cellphones or computers or 1000 channel TVs or gender feminism or poststructuralism or postmodernism or LGTBQIA+ or whatever it is up to today. When they thought of the President, they thought of FDR, a spook, sure, but a very educated and polished man. When I think of the President, I think of Reagan or Bush or Clinton or Trump. Nuff said. When they thought of the military, they thought of doughboys or liberators of Paris. I think of guys shooting puppies in Afghanistan and throwing them off cliffs. I think of fake Seal teams pretending to kill Osama bin Ladin. I think of copter teams napalming innocent Vietnamese villagers to *the Ride of the Valkyries*.

The next one is very weird. It says "Has 2.0GPA, abuses alcohol and cocaine, can't hold a job. . . elected President of the United States". That's not Steven, that's George W. Bush. And does anyone think he was elected because he was born in the 60s? No, he was elected because he was a Bush. Or, no, wait, he wasn't elected at all, was he? Gore gave him that election, didn't he?* Why? Because he was born in the 60s? I don't think so.

The next one about Steven is that he has a great union job but thinks unions are ruining the country. What? Who is coming up with these? This committee in Langley needs to try a little harder. It isn't union workers who think unions are ruining the country. It is wealthy company owners and the media they own who think that, or pretend to think that.

The next one is even worse: "It was easy to get a job in my day. We didn't have to compete with women or minorities". So the Langley committee is getting bored with its limited assignment of starting a feud between Millennials and Boomers, and decides to pull in women and minorities as well.

Anything to keep your eyes off the real bad guys here.

And it continues to deteriorate: “Things were better before Socialists ruined this country. Back when we had strong unions, financial regulations, and a top income tax rate of 80%.” Wow, that's a convoluted piece of propaganda there, isn't it? First of all, none of those things are Socialist. They are Republican. The first two especially are just ways for the government to help protect the little guy against predation from the very rich. Same with the third one, since in a truly Socialist country, you wouldn't have the very rich and therefore wouldn't have a top income rate at all. But it is all moot, since the US hasn't been Socialist in any way, either before 1980 or after it. It has always been fascist, with top-down control to benefit the very wealthy. The only difference is that after 1980, the vacuuming of resources by the wealthy has become evermore brazen. After 2000 it has become truly awe-inspiring. What is going on is that the billionaires who hired this Langley committee to put this together want you think financial regulation is Socialist, and therefore bad. Why? Because they don't want to be regulated, of course. They want to continue to be free to steal from you and the treasury with no oversight.

They also like to remind you that we used to have a steeply graduated income tax, with top earners supposedly paying 80% or more. Except that. . . they didn't. That was all just on paper, but in fact the top earners usually paid. . . nothing. See the Pecora hearings after the stock market crash in 1929, where J. P. Morgan admitted in Congressional testimony that he and his major partners had paid no taxes in 1931-2. That wasn't an isolated case, it was just one of the few times over the years that it has been admitted on paper. We now have a top bracket for those making over \$500,000 at 37%, except that they still aren't. The more money they make the less likely they are to be paying any taxes, since they have access to all kinds of dodges. Equally shameful is that those making less than \$10,000 a year are still expected to pay 10%. We aren't told how they can afford to do that, since of course they can't. But they have to do their part in buying bombs and billion-dollar fighter jets and fake SpaceX rockets, as well as in subsidizing the bankers.

The next one is, “Causes all manufacturing to move overseas. Wonders why you can't find unskilled jobs”. That's true, but it isn't Old Economy Steven who did that. The heads of big corporations did that, which is just a few thousand people from a limited number of old families. So if you want to be mad at someone, make a list. You could actually do it: the list is that small.

The next one is, “His parents didn't hand him everything in life. Life handed him everything.” Really? You think the little Millennials surfing the web will believe that? Does life hand Boomers everything? Well, yes, some people from very rich families, but not Old Economy Steven. He is supposed to be just some average guy who graduated high school in 1979. Life only hands you everything if you are from the right families, and that is just as true for Millennials as it was for Boomers. Even more so, since those families are *even richer* now than they were in the 1970s. Around 20 to 50 times richer.

The next one is “Got \$10,000 from his father to buy first home. It wasn't a down payment. Bought the entire house”. First of all, that isn't true, which just means we are dealing with a Langley committee of Millennial babies here, who know nothing of history. You couldn't buy a house for \$10,000 in 1982. That's more like 1962. You could get an ugly house in 1982 for about twice that. And people buying houses at age 22 for \$20,000 in 1982 weren't having Daddy buy them. If Daddy was rich enough to buy you a house outright, you were getting a better one than that. In 1982 my parents' house was worth about that, maybe a bit more. There was never any question of them buying me a house, or even making a down payment on one. Even when I got married at age 25, there was no question of that. And we were not poor. I would put us a bit above middle class at the time. My grandparents had

helped my parents financially, but nothing like buying houses; and my parents helped me out, but again, nothing like buying houses or cars. I did get a couple of hand-me-down cars in my twenties, but they were small older model cars not worth a great deal. Nonetheless I was very grateful to get them, and never acted like they were my due. I never asked for one. But the point here is that even to extent this blurb is true, which is not much, it isn't the fault of Old Economy Steven, is it? It is the fault of the big banks, since they are the ones that really own all the houses in this country. If they are greedier than they were forty years ago—and they ARE—then address your complaints to them. There is certainly no reason for that greed, since they too are around 50 times richer than they were back then. If anything they ought to be 50 times more generous now.

The next one is very easy to see through: “They don't make 'em like they used to. YOU MADE THEM.” Sounds kind of cutting on a first reading, I admit. So do a second reading. I myself say they don't make em like they used to, because it is true. They don't make em like they used to. They now make everything disposable, so they can sell you another one next year. But did I make them? No. I don't make anything of that nature. In fact, as we saw in a previous meme, all the manufacturing jobs are now overseas, so no one is making anything here. And your average Old Economy Steven isn't using foreign labor for anything. Only the big dogs are doing that. So again, someone needs to focus.

The next one is interesting: “Accuses those making Old Economy Steven memes of being lazy and entitled. IS LITERALLY OLD ECONOMY STEVEN”. Hmm. That's called trying to predict your enemy. Doesn't really work, does it? But notice that is not what I have done regardless. I am not accusing these people of being lazy and entitled. I am accusing them of being Langley writers working for the man. They forgot to predict that one, didn't they?

The next one is good: “Saved money at a bank. WAS ACTUALLY PAID INTEREST”. But again, that is not Steven's fault, is it? It is the bank's. The bank finally figured out you are such a big pussy you won't demand to be paid interest, so why do it? You will sit there and take it in the ass all day long, so don't complain when that happens.

Same for this one: “Worked overtime. GOT OVERTIME PAY”. Yeah, well maybe its time for a general strike then, eh? Maybe its time to do something other than right memes.

Here's a head scratcher: “Drove a V8 for four decades. Wonders why gas is so expensive”. What? Gas *isn't* expensive. It hasn't even kept up with inflation, and is barely taxed at all. Ask a European.

And another one: “Steven says Save your money. MONEY BACK THEN WAS BACKED BY GOLD”. What? I thought Steven was supposed to be a disco era dude. We went off the gold standard in 1971.

*If you check your history books, you will see that Gore, as VP, cast the tie-breaking vote in the Senate, confirming the results from Florida.