

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

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Wild Cards

During the past few hundred years mankind has passed into several new ages. Economically these ages have expanded our resources from the solely agrarian age, to the industrial age, and into several scientific ages including the present nuclear and computer age. I point out that we have passed *into* these ages -- not *through* them or *out* of them.

There are, for example, some people who speak of a "post-industrial society". They suggest that we have passed beyond the industrial age. They seem to believe that, to the extent we still need farm and industrial products, these needs will be supplied by other countries -- countries that are anxious to provide us with living standards much higher than their own in return for our giving the world an unlimited supply of paper-shufflers. They are wrong. We shall reap, for their efforts, not a "post-industrial" society, but a "*pre*-industrial" one.

This sort of foolishness is partially responsible for our numerous economic difficulties today. We are becoming a nation of speculators -- all caught up one way or another in a mad, computerized scramble for a larger part of the steadily diminishing commodity and industrial resources which we still possess. A scramble for the remaining economic substance which was built by the hard work and sacrifice of previous generations of Americans.

The end result of this mania will be economic suffering. This is not new. Foolish manias followed by economic suffering have occurred over and over in history -- including