

Most Americans missed the party

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THE economic party is winding down and most working Americans never even got near the punch bowl.

The Census Bureau reported on Tuesday that median household income rose 0.7% last year — its second annual increase in a row — to \$48 201. The share of households living in poverty fell to 12.3% from 12.6% in 2005.

This seems like welcome news, but a deeper look at the belated improvement in these numbers — more than five years after the end of the last recession — underscores how the gains from economic growth have failed to benefit most of the population.

The median household income last year was still about \$1 000 less than in 2000, before the onset of the last recession. In 2006, 36.5 million Americans were living in poverty — about 5 million more than six years before, when the poverty rate fell to 11.3%.

And what is perhaps most disturbing is that it appears this is as good as it's ever going to get.

Sputtering under the weight of the credit crisis and the associated drop in the housing market, the economic expansion that started in 2001 looks as if it might enter the history books with the dubious distinction of being the only sustained expansion on record in which the incomes of typical American households never reached the peak of the previous cycle.

It seems that ordinary working families are going to have to wait — at the very minimum — until the next cycle to make up the losses they suffered in this one. There's no guarantee that they will.

Overall, the new data on incomes and poverty mesh consistently with the pattern of the last five years, in which the spoils of the nation's economic growth have flowed almost exclusively to the wealthy and the extremely wealthy, leaving little for everybody else.

Standard measures of inequality did not increase last year, according to the new census data. But over a longer period, the trend becomes crystal clear: the only group for which earnings in 2006 exceeded those of 2000 were the households in the top 5% of the earn-

ings distribution. For everybody else, they were lower.

This stilted distribution of rewards underscores how economic growth alone has been insufficient to provide better living standards for most US families. What is needed are policies to help spread benefits broadly — be it more progressive taxation, or policies to strengthen public education and increase access to affordable healthcare.

Unfortunately, these policies are unlikely to come from the current White House.

This administration prefers tax cuts for the lucky ones in the top 5%. — © (2007) The New York Times

THE USA IS A CONSPIRACY THEORY!

SEASONS GREETINGS FOR FISCAL OCCASIONS

How much is that zoggie in the window?

The one with the long paper-trail.

How much is that zoggie in the window?

I do hope that zoggie's for sale!

Don't worry, kid, they're all for sale. That's why we have the best government money can buy.

Yes, Virginia, there is an Abramoff.

US scare-mongering

Cape Times, South Africa

FEAR-MONGERING, arrogance and bureaucratic bullying. By such tools, Donald Rumsfeld became one of the most powerful, most unpopular and ultimately most unsuccessful Pentagon chiefs in history. Any doubts about that judgment have been removed by the publication this week in the Washington Post of a selection of his "snow-flakes" — the short memos the former defence secretary was wont to fire off daily in scores to his staff. They pestered, they irritated, and on occasion they terrorised their recipients. Together, they give a depressing snapshot of the modus operandi of their boss, as he presided over the debacle in Iraq.

"Keep elevating the threat. Talk about Somalia and the Philippines," Rumsfeld urged in April 2006 as Iraq fell apart and former generals demanded his resignation. "Make the American people realise they are surrounded in the world by violent extremists."

Not least the snow-flakes underline the mendacity inherent in Rumsfeld's style. Whenever pushed into a corner at a Pentagon briefing, he would wriggle free by claiming that he was not involved in a particular decision, that he had not had the time to read an embarrassing article or leaked report. Any mistakes, he implied, were made by underlings. In fact, as the memos prove, he was an obsessive micro-manager, who knew everything that was going on.

Most depressing, however, while the man himself has gone, his methods remain. Rumsfeld was forced from his job in November 2006, after the Republican midterm election defeat for which his mismanagement of the war was largely responsible. His successor, Robert Gates, has a low-key, cautious and thoughtful style, far removed from the abrasive Rumsfeld. But the scare-mongering continues. Be it the use of torture or the threat posed by Iran, this White House (still featuring Rumsfeld's ally Dick Cheney) trots out the same justification: America is in mortal peril, and all means are justified.

In other words, as the departed, unlamented master would put it: "Keep elevating the threat." — The Independent

13 DEC 07

Hail Chad! It was great to get your letter of 9 DEC 07, with the equally great news that your life under ZOG has improved. I think the last item I received in your name was a mail restriction notice from a mail thief known as "RB". I was afraid that this break in our correspondence may have signalled some kind of 'special mistreatment' to be directed at you by a frustrated WAZOGDOC, but your letter was a relief in that regard. Yes, it's good to have a typewriter at your disposal. I couldn't begin to keep up with my volume of correspondence without mine. Your zoggies get their jollies, apparently, by harassing you with cramped two-man ordeals, in one-man cells. Bad zoggies!

Your partner seems talented & competent, which I cannot say for most sheeple outside your gulag. Congratulations! Printing technology has changed immensely since I set type by hand, back in the 1950s. Letterpress has given way to offset & now it is computerized photocopiers. People must put in lots of hours learning new ways to do their jobs, as new technology is introduced into production processes. I'm learning how to use a new photocopier, which seems to be afflicted with mental problems. I asked the store clerk if monkeys are allowed to use the machine. He says that he hasn't seen any, but the machine is usually glitched up before I touch it. The monkey, er, customer will set a certain number of copies, &/or he will make as many single copies as he wants & then push the number buttons, then remove his master from the machine & leave. When I come in, the machine says that it has a 'held job' in its databank, but no master. It will not respond to my instructions, since the monkey has left his instructions in the machine. I then call for the witchdoctor, er, technician, who pushes many buttons to undo the monkey-business. Then the machine barfs out the copies of retained data, until it is clear. So far, it has been 2 days in a row that I've had this problem, & the new machine has only been on the premises for 2 days. As machines get more complicated, with minds of their own, monkeys can make more & bigger problems.

I still have the David Lane book, which consists of many single sheets of 8 1/2" X 11" paper, which makes quite a big package. I have lots of religious material of my own in less volume, so let's try sending some to James Garnett. Apparently the zoggies go for content, not volume. As you say, I never advocate violence, since that is silly, nor do I urge hungry people to go eat something. Ha!

I think you have a truly great book for your readers, in the form of your life story. An English professor said that we all have one book inside us: our biographies. I enclose a few tips for writers which I tried to send to a gulagnik, but his zoggies seized it. Is writing technique now subversive? ZOG only knows!

I don't know anyone else so informed on the subject of Gulagology as you. I'm sure there are many others whom I don't know, but who won't or can't pass on their observations. My idea, initially, would be to produce two books or one book in two parts: The 1st part would be a record of your personal experience. The 2nd part would be a treatise for academics & activists, in which you summarize & analyze your experiences in terms of social structure & political/demographic/economic goals of ZOG, i.e. a zogology for Goyim.

You & your zoggies may see you as an inmate, but it is in your power to become a researcher & reporter to the outside world, just as I was studying the Will of ZOG while I was a victim thereof. My personal discovery of ZOG was in its manifestations: First in its hypocritical bafflegab; then in its overt behavior. Obviously, I do not possess brilliant insights, for my parents taught me only to be a good Goy, one of ZOG's willing victims. My learning came through ZOG's words, which said one thing, & its behavior, which was something quite different. Who benefitted from ZOG? I figured it wasn't me, nor was it most Goyim I knew, but lots & lots of ungassed non-Gentiles seemed to enjoy power & profit from the ZOG, so I drew a logical conclusion.

Those Goyim who have suffered incarceration may not realize entirely why they are or have been incarcerated. The simple fact is that ZOG wants them incarcerated for reasons of policy. The Weimar Republic & the Soviet Union were run by & for the same people, so their incarceration of Goyim was similar. When Hitler took office in 1933 & ended the kosher-bankster depression by achieving full employment in 1935, German prisons emptied, for most Goyim were honest. The remaining 10% or so went to work camps, in which even they offered the possibility of redemption: "Work makes you free." The bankster mafia which ruled Depression Germany & Repression Russia were & are the same folk which ruled the USA before the aforementioned gulag-states, & who still rule the USA today. This is our context & our reality, under ZOG, a portion of which you have discovered. Since ZOG will not make its face to shine upon us in its entirety, our job is to describe the portions we can see, & make a composite picture, so we may be free. Good Yule. ORION! E.T.