

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Friends & Relatives,

1991 was a year of change.

The Soviet Union dissolved and Yugoslavia entered a tragic civil war. 140,000 are dead, 2 million homeless.

Japan fell deeper into the worst recession it's seen in 50 years; it's stock market collapsed, property values have plunged, and it's electronics industry is in real trouble.

Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki ravaged Florida and Hawaii. Once again man is reminded that, in the end, Mother Nature is in firm control.

L.A. burned; it's like the city just committed suicide.

Lee Iacocca retired from Chrysler. Congratulations are in order for Mr. Iacocca on an outstanding career.

The Vietnam memorial turned ten years old. It took three days to read the 58,183 names on the wall. God Bless the souls of the men who gave their lives for our ideals.

Ross Perot forced the national debt out into public view. This is a *real* problem people, if the debt is not eliminated, we will perish.

Warlords ravaged Somalia; the place looks like a "Mad Max" movie.

The Church of England ordained women as priests while the Vatican, still in the stone age, is encouraging population growth in the third world countries where overpopulation is, in fact, a threat to survival.

There was a change at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave: Millie the Dog is moving out, Spot the Cat is moving in. The animals will take their respective owners, the Bushes and the Clintons, with them.

All this has happened while the U.S. meandered through its second year of recession. Don't get discouraged, we're still in an outstanding position to compete internationally. After all, who can claim inventions such as the airplane, the light bulb, the telephone, the PC, the microprocessor, the VCR, and the airbag? There is no nation in history that has changed civilization as much as we have and yet political and corporate arrogance and complacency has prolonged our current cyclical recession. We need to concentrate on new industries where future growth will be; industries like communications equipment, software, satellites, aircraft, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and entertainment. Fortunately, we are already world leaders in all of these fields.

In order to maintain our national prosperity, we must improve our advantage in the future growth industries by promoting R&D, supporting exports, and providing high quality education for a skilled work force. Simultaneously, we must reduce the national debt by controlling the wild growth in government entitlement programs, cutting discretionary spending, and scaling down our defense of Europe and Asia.

It is our job to ensure that the new administration stays focused on these priorities and doesn't get wrapped up in the endless array of relatively unimportant issues such as Haitian refugees, gays in the military, and religion in the classrooms. If you want the address of your political representative or President-elect Clinton, let me know.

As for myself, I'm presently pursuing a second baccalaureate in electrical engineering and will graduate in May 93' (rest assured that if you're in a related field, you will receive a resume). I'm still at the same address:

Mark A. Cottrell
398 S. 13th St.
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 297-2131

There is not one person who will receive this letter who does not have the conviction, determination, vision, and persistence to effect enormous change. Remember: the cowards never start, the weak die on the way, only the strong survive.

Henry David Thoreau once said, "What a person thinks of himself, that determines his fate". Americans are the most innovative people I've ever met, we are the best; maintaining such an attitude is a prerequisite for success.

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy 1993

Mark A. Cottrell