

TRUE CONSERVATISM

Some ideas from a thoughtful Conservative ...

by Vic Berecz

Not having any *guest rants* offered during my two weeks away, I was planning to forego postings until I read the November 16 issue of **Forbes**. The *Current Events* column is one of my favorites, especially when the piece is authored by Paul Johnson or Lee Kuan Yew. Johnson's thoughts in this issue titled "Looking for a True Conservative" hit me very close to home. Here are the two paragraphs that really made me sit-up-and-take-notice:

A true conservative today should stress construction, encouragement, moderation and understanding instead of destruction, prohibition, extremism and slogans. A conservative thinks in terms of countless minor corrections and improvements based on experience and experiment rather than in terms of a universal uniform solution based on theory and enforced by inflexible law.

A conservative, in the best sense, sees the world and its inhabitants as an interdependent organism, comprising innumerable local communities and territories, each adapting to particular conditions. A conservative is someone who goes with the grain of humanity and the nature of the physical world, rather than trying to regiment and fashion a utopia through force of law. And, needless to say, an acceptable conservative is not one who thinks all the answers are obvious but is a modest person who admits that problems are not easily solved, that perfection is unattainable in this world and that it is often necessary to admit mistakes, change one's mind and start again.

His point is so clear that I won't add a thing ... except that maybe I'm really a "true conservative" or maybe he's a true moderate! In either case, his message is important to ponder, and ...

... almost a guest rant.

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*Happy Thanksgiving,
and remember we all have much to be thankful for.*