

Things in Motion ...

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice. --Heraclitus (540?-480?)B.C.

CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES

People tend to slip into habits, beliefs, and customs that are easiest and most comfortable for them. This tendency is not necessarily bad, however it may well result in annoying surprises for those who forget that change is a constant where life is concerned. As a simple example, the grocery store which for years held special sales and offered price discounts on Friday of each week suddenly changed those features to a different day of the week and upset the long established weekly routine of dozens of its customers. The fact is that many of us just assume that what we grow accustomed to is not going to change—bad thinking! Even when something that we know will change, such as the annual switch from standard time to daylight saving time occurs it gives many of us an unpleasant few days; we seem to dislike change, especially when it disrupts our customary expectations.

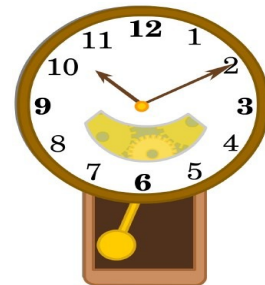
There seems to be a tremendous increase in the rate of change now as compared to that rate seventy years ago. Our way of life in the first half of the twentieth century seems incredibly different from that of today when technology joins new theories and new practices in all phases of our speeded-up existence. While the older generations find it

difficult to assimilate the changes that come steadily, the youngsters are not intimidated and take the modern pace in stride. How long will this be the case? Probably for as long as society as we know it exists. Humans adapt well to change, however much it may annoy some of us.

As a generation ages, it seems to resist any change to those beliefs and customs that were for so long practiced by it and which it found to be acceptable and comfortable. One change that we find difficult to accept now is a sudden decline in a healthy economy—its effects are often devastating and hindsight may well indicate that we should have looked ahead in past years and prepared for a change that we should have known would come. Complacency is one of the monkeys we carry on our back. To those who are concerned with education, the alarm bells have been ringing for years—yet we are making little progress in bringing our standards up to those of other nations. Our political stability is in shambles and terribly in need of strong, competent leadership to restore integrity and economic prosperity. Our tendency toward “letting someone else do it” is threatening to turn us into a second-class society.

Perhaps we need to begin expecting that change absolutely will occur, then taking steps to assure the change is beneficial. The accumulated wisdom of older generations is wasted when it isn't incorporated into what's happening today.

THE CLOCK IS
TICKING..



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