

Subject: On the Lighter side;

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE of a recent story about Bobby Fisher the American Chess genius who finally found a home.

Undoubtedly you will remember Bobby Fisher, the American chess great. He was the darling boy when he stepped up to the plate in a match for the world chess championship against the USSR in Iceland in 1972. Bobby played and won and even though his opponent Spassky was not in the same league as the later great Russian Kasparov, Spassky was still pretty damn good and the best the Russians had at the time. Spassky later claimed that the CIA tampered with the water which made him sick but this was never proven and could have been sour grapes. Anything is possible. One thing is certain Bobby was very clever and the US was celebrating his win as a great cold war victory over the USSR - America was grateful.

But Bobby had a falling out with the establishment first over Vietnam which was bad enough and later over Zbigniew Brzezinski's blueprint for US world conquest published under the name of "The Grand Chess Board" in which Zbigniew outlined the US plans for world domination beginning with Iraq and the Middle East. The book became a must read for every Moslem of which there are over one billion.

Things started to really go wrong when Bobby made his anti war views public and openly defied US bureaucracy. He was literally hounded by every American agency first and foremost by the CIA who never forgave him for his sins. He was denied entry into the US and for years was stateless and even homeless more or less. Even Japan where he had landed, under pressure from the State Department, put him under house arrest.

At last Iceland has given him asylum and shelter. They think they are lucky to have him despite American reports that he is sick in the head, which is a rather typical finding when somebody gives up money for principles. I have held similar views at times I confess. That there should be such a person is hard to grasp for many Americans who now go by the motto IN OIL WE TRUST which is a change from IN GOLD WE TRUST which was before the oil got so expensive.

For those with a background in psychology, the matter has become somewhat comical especially now that Fisher is out of America's reach. Like the fox and the sour grapes, US authorities and their paid hacks have now discovered that Fisher is nuts anyway so why would we want him.

In a recent "Time" story, Charles Krauthammer claims not only that Bobby Fisher is nuts but that all great chess players are or were nuts. The fact that there have been no American chess geniuses since Fisher may have something to do with it. My comments albeit not concluding are that Bobby may recall that when the Roman Emperor Claudius was accused of a similar affliction by some Senators - he replied "if I have accomplished what I have with half my wits, what does that say for you". Clearly Bobby although being accused of being nuts recognised much earlier than most other Americans that Vietnam would result in a checkmate for his country and that the same will happen in the Middle East. Bobby used simple chess logic, if a game is lost, quit. Also only a fool assumes that the guy you play against does not know what fools mate is.


To prove his case, Charles Krauthammer of Time who claims to also play chess albeit not like Fisher, states, that Paul Murphy, another chess genius, was mad too, having been overheard talking to himself. I think I

know somebody else who is nuts. Can you trust anybody these days? The famous Steinitz another chess whiz was worse. He claimed that he had played against God, gave him a pawn advantage and still won. That I can understand since when you win all the time and everybody says you play like a god you might just be vain enough to believe it.

As for the claim that Chess leads to nothing, I can only say what in Gods name is Soccer all about, a bunch of grown men running after a ball and kicking it like it was the tax collector. You have to have a peculiar psychological makeup to start shouting wildly should that ball finally end up in a space called net.

However, there may be some truth in another saying which goes like this "all chess players suffer from paranoia". Indeed when the great Kasparov, who beat the Big Blue at one time, was asked whether this was true replied I never thought about it but since you mention it, when playing an opponent I can never get rid of the feeling he is out to get me.

Ernie Crist

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