

22 November 2016

Hard to believe. It's been 53 years since the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and almost a century since the end of World War I. Yet here we are dealing with many of the same kinds of problems that faced us then.

Battles continue to rage in the Middle East. Friction continues between the major world powers. And many of our fellow Americans remain confused about the direction in which the country is heading.

The U.S. has become increasingly diverse. Some jobs have moved abroad to take advantage of cheaper labor and even more have disappeared as a result of advancing technology. Workers continue to be displaced by machines. Those who have made efforts to increase their skills are in good shape. But those who performed the same rote task on assembly lanes are now on the roster of the unemployed.

Despite the protests of the naysayers, climate change appears to be real. For those focused on alternate energy sources as well as efforts to reduce carbon emissions, there are increasing numbers of opportunities, both for folks working in these fields and for investors.

And then there's the country's infrastructure, which used to be the nation's pride, but has turned into an embarrassment. Virtually all facets of our transportation system are becoming outmoded. Our bridges and roads are failing. It's shocking to realize that the Interstate Highways were largely a product of the Eisenhower era, some 60 years ago.

If there's good news, it's the thought that increasing attention and investment will be turned toward this area. And this, in turn, may open new opportunities for growth. The flipside of this equation is the availability of funding, far too much of which has been wasted on excessively costly defense projects that serve little or no purpose.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish you a most enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.

