"they represent the power not of the natural persons which make up the nations’ peoples nor of their elected representatives but of the paper persons recognized in law, the corporations themselves then are the new sovereigns. And in their efforts to be treated in law as equal as to the citizens of each separate state, they call this National Treatment, they would travel the sea and wherever they land ashore, they would be citizens here and there. Not even the Privateers of old would have dared impose this will upon the nation-states."

Can we claim to know today what this rapid progress of global transformation will portend for democracy here at home? We understand the great benefits of past progress; we are not Luddites here. We know what refrigeration can do to a child in a poor country, what clean water means to everyone everywhere, what free communication has already achieved. But are we going to unwittingly sacrifice our sovereignty on the altar of this new God, progress? Is it progress if a cannibal uses a knife and fork?

Can we claim to know today what this rapid progress of global transformation will portend for national sovereignty here at home? We protect our way of life, our children’s futures, our workers’ jobs, our security at home by measures often not unlike our airports are protected from pistols on planes, but self-interested ideologies, private greed and private power? Bad ideas escape our mental detectors. We seem to be radically short of leadership where this act of participation in the process of diffusing America’s power over to and into the private global monopoly capitalist regime, today pursued without questioning its basis at all.

An empire represented by not just the WTO but clearly this new regime is the core ideological success for corporativism. The only step remaining, according to Harvard Professor Paul Krugman, is the finalization of a completed Multilateral Agreement on Investment, which failed at OECD. According to OECD, the agreement’s actual success may come through not a treaty this time but by corporate governments itself quietly being hatched out at the IMF and the World Bank as well as OECD. We are not yet the united corporations of America.

The WTO needs to be scrutinized carefully, debated, hearings and public participation where possible. If there is any issue upon which Congress must hold extensive and detailed public hearings, this is it. Yet few are planned that I know of.

We all know, as author Christopher Lasch notes, peer inward at ourselves as well, when he argued, the history of the 20th century suggests that totalitarian regimes are highly unstable, evolving toward some type of bureaucracy that neither fits the classic fascism nor the capitalist model. None of the pre-existing powers will be safe to democracy, only that the threat of democracy comes less from totalitarian or elected movements abroad than from the erosion of its psychological, cultural, and spiritual foundations from within.

Are we not witness to, though, the growth of global bureaucracy being created not out of totalitarian or collective movements but from autocratic corporations which hold so many lives in the balance? And where shall we redress our grievances when the regime completes its global transformation, when the people of each nation and their state find that they can no longer identify their rulers, their true rulers, when it is no longer their state which rules?

The most recent U.N. Development Report documents how globalization has increased inequality between and within nations while bringing them together as never before.

Some are referring to this globalization’s dark side like Jay Mazrur recently in Foreign Affairs. "A world in which the assets of the 200 richest people are greater than the combined income of more than 2 billion people at the other end of the economic ladder should give everyone pause. Such islands of concentrated wealth in the sea of misery have historically been a prelude to upheaval. The vast majority of trade and investment takes place between industrial nations dominated by global corporations that control one-third of the world’s exports."

With further mergers and acquisitions in the future, with no end in sight, those of us that are awake must speak up now.

Or is it that we just cannot see at all, believing in our current speculative bubble which nobody credible believes can be sustained much longer. We miss the growing anger, fear, and frustration of our people. Believing in the myths our policy priests pass on, we missed the dissatisfaction of our workers, believing in the God “progress” we have lost our vision.

Another warning, this time from Ethan Kapiloff in his article “Workers on the World Economy” (Foreign Affairs: Vol. 75, No. 3):

"While the world stands at a critical time in post-war history, it has a group of leaders who appear unwilling, like their predecessors in the 1930s, to provide international leadership to meet economic dislocations. Worse, many of them and their economic advisors do not seem to recognize the profound troubles affecting their associates. Litigation, the defenses, the legalism, the dismissal mounting worker satisfaction, fringe political movements, and plight of the unemployed and working poor as marginal concerns compared with the unquestioned importance of a sound currency and balanced budget. Leaders need to recognize the policy failures of the last 20 years and respond accordingly. If they do not, there are others waiting in the wings who will, perhaps on less pleasant terms."

We ought to be looking very closely at where the new sovereigns intend to take us. We need to discuss the end they have in sight. It is our responsibility and our duty.

Most everyone today agrees that socialism is not a threat. Many people feel communism, even in China, is not a threat. Indeed, there are few real security threats to America that could compare to even our recent past.

That was it. It may, when we speak of global market economy free enterprise, we massage the terms to merge with manage the competition and planning authorities, all the while suggesting we have met the “hidden hand” and it is good.

We need to also recall what Adam Smith said but is rarely quoted. “Masters are always and everywhere in a sort of tacit but constant and uniform combination not to raise the wages of labor above their actual rate. To violate this combination is everywhere a most unpopular action and a sort of reproof for a master among his neighbors and questions. We seldom, indeed, hear of this combination because it is usual and, one may say, the natural state of things. Masters, too, sometimes enter into particular combinations to sink wages of labor even below this rate. They are always conducted with the utmost silence and secrecy till the moment of execution.”

And now precisely, whose responsibility is it to keep an eye on the masters?"