

Chauncey Gardner Exposed

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In *Being There* Chauncey Gardner was a clinically perfect non-entity. That meant that his condition along with his love of TV watching developed a person with a perfect pitch of mainstream Americanisms. And being unaware of his accomplishments because he lacked the means to discover them the perfectly selfless Chauncey spoke platitudes with such perfect honesty that they were mistaken for the most profound truths.

But Chauncey Gardner is not our president. Instead of a TV watcher in the White House with an affinity for tending flowers we have a TV performer with a fine tuned taste for twenty one dollar hamburgers, and as for that perfect emptiness, we have one in office who is serenely full of it.

At first plutocrats were delirious with joy; they had one of their own in power who promised to give them the store as long as they promised to use its resources for the betterment of the American people (*suppressed laughter*). They were so captivated that they ignored his idiotic rudeness and crudeness even though it led to ugly controversies over inconsequential issues. This week they woke up.

The awakening manifested itself on Tuesday with the biggest market downturn since the election. The pent up wrangling over kicking people out and preventing others from coming in, and the failure to get Obamacare replaced along with other issues, led to the sudden realization they their leader is a perfect dipshit.

The markets had their worst week since the election. Trump is now like the scary friend who can kill with his attempts at kindness. Since the election speculators have run up the market until it's now moving ever so close to being the most overbought market in history. Earnings Per Share for the S& P 500 in the first quarter came in under \$100 for the ninth quarter in a row. Earnings were just 6.8% higher than they were in the first quarter of 2012 when the DJIA was 13,000 and the S&P almost a thousand points less. The market value ratio to earnings is now 23x.

Oil prices reached as low as \$47 a barrel threatening to expose the fallacy of the Fed reflation claim. If wages and inflation decline with oil as they both rose with its increase, then the Fed accomplishments are not only nonsense but proof that current Fed policy is functioning only in the minds of its creators.

Chances of a major market correction have greatly increased. That's bad news for the individual investor, but a catastrophe for public pension funds. Such funds were only \$297 billion underfunded in 2007. Ten years later they are in a \$1.9 trillion hole. In 1952 the average public pension fund had 96% of its investments in bonds or other cash equivalents. Now it's only 27%. Low interest rates have made safe investments unprofitable, thus the shift to anything with a promise of a good return.

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