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 D/B/A of Gary Meyers Realty, Inc., founded 1977.
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THE MEYERS REPORT Economic Notes In Honor Of Martin Luther King Day

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."
 — Martin Luther King, Jr.

T "Slavery and mass murders by Nazis and others cannot occur when the victims have access to weapons to defend themselves."
 — Anonymous

H "You cannot invade the United States. There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass."
 — Isoroku Yamamoto, who was Japanese Fleet Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War II. He planned and executed the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was an alumnus of the U.S. Naval War College and Harvard University.

O "We don't let them have ideas. Why would we let them have guns?" — Joseph Stalin, brutal tyrant and controversial Soviet leader from 1922 to 1953.

Case in point ...

"Our bankruptcy attorney had accomplished nothing in three years. We were about to lose our everything. The CCF team stepped in and turned everything around. They simply got the job done, using a mix of expertise that I had never before seen under one roof. They are extraordinarily effective. In my 20+ years as a developer, I have never seen an organization with their resources and impact."

K. W., developer

Challenges: Developer was within 30-hours of seizure by a very hostile bank and losing all of his assets from other properties, because an arrogant inattentive bankruptcy attorney had accomplished nothing. Moderate sized community shopping center in bankruptcy for three plus years. Recalcitrant former partner sabotaged previous refinance efforts, possible collusion with the bank. Receiver injured shopping center with weakened new leases that reduced rents and who took large chunks of cash out of the center.

CCF Action: CCF stopped the seizure in under 24-hours. In under three months, CCF analyzed income and expenses of the property to determine viability; opened new negotiations with the bank; fired bankruptcy attorney and brought in counsel; arranged workout plan; provided mezzanine DIP financing to allow the client to make short-term payments required under the plan; aided client to collect monies owed by existing tenants; found replacement for a difficult major tenant; reviewed leases and provided recommendations to strengthen; assisted in reorganizing management of the shopping center; and positioned shopping center for refinancing from the old bank lender.

Conclusion: CCF stopped the seizure; provided mezzanine DIP financing; reorganized bankruptcy proceedings with existing lender refinancing loan for three-year term to allow an orderly permanent refinance.

Bottom Line:
 Call CCF 224-513-5652.
 Chicago, IL

by Gary S. Meyers and Robert Genetski, Ph. D.

Legal, Stupid and Immoral

In the wake of the Newtown massacre, the *Westchester County (NY) Journal News* (owned by Gannett) published the names and addresses (with a map) of gun owners in two counties. We believe it was a poor and dangerous idea for several reasons.

1. Privacy. Just because it is legal, the information still is private. As such, how people choose to protect their homes and what hobbies they have is private information. In response to the newspaper's article, some people published the names and addresses of the papers editors and writers, along with their children, grown and young, as well as where they went to school. This also is legal, but it too is wrong.

2. Targeting gun-owners. In the *Journal's* print market, crooks now know where they can go to steal weapons, because the paper told them.

3. Endangering police officers. The list also includes police and corrections officers that work in Rockland and Westchester counties. Because of this list, the bad guys now can find out more easily where the cops live and target their families.

families. Needless to say, law enforcement people are furious. They fear for the safety of their families when they are doing their jobs.

4. Targeting non gun-owners. Any police officer or burglar will tell you that in picking a target, burglars avoid homes where the burglar might get shot. Nine out of 10 burglars prefer victims who cannot defend themselves.

"Personally, I am upset at what the paper did. It was a cruel publicity stunt," said one Michigan non-gun owner. "I do not have a weapon in my home nor do I want to (have one). But the idea that burglars should know this makes me a target and that's wrong."

The bottom line: Did the newspaper serve the public? We think not.

Postmortem: At least two burglaries have been identified to the paper's handiwork where the objective was to steal guns. New York State has since enacted a law to prevent the printing of the information.

It's Not About Hunting ... from two interviews: One is with an active duty Chicago Police Officer and the other is with a retired Chicago Police Commander.

"When seconds count, the police will be there in minutes," said the retired Commander, formerly with a gangs unit. "While the media reports the acts of a few crazy people, they never report the literally thousands and thousands of times where crimes are prevented because a good person has a gun on his person. We see this all the time."

"Two days after Newtown, a man went into a San Antonio restaurant and headed toward a theater, firing along the way," said the officer. "A few people were hurt, but no one was killed because an armed female employee at the theater had a weapon and wounded the shooter. I guess since there weren't any killings, and therefore no sensationalism, the national media didn't cover this."

the local media covered it." The City of San Antonio gave the woman a medal.

"In the Colorado theater-shooting, the shooter sought out an out of the way theater that had declared itself a "gun-free zone," said the Commander. "Shooters are generally cowards. The moment the police showed up, he turned the gun on himself."

"Too many people fear guns, because they have no true familiarity or training with them. They fear what they do not know. Gun ownership should require a demonstration of proficiency. As police, we know that where gun ownership is prevalent crime is lower than it otherwise would be."

The point is, "the best thing to stop a bad person with a gun is a good person with a gun," said the police officer. "The national media is treating incidents like San Antonio as though it never happened. Only

"If a law were enacted to confiscate American's guns, 90% of the police I know," said the police officer, "would never enforce it, because they swore an oath to defend the constitution."

Newtown Disaster ... from a First Responder

One of the authors of this newsletter has a relative who was a police first-responder at Newtown. "It was the worst tragedy scene of my entire career," said the Connecticut cop. "Most of those responding were physically sick for days over what happened. However, much credit has to be given to the school principal and the staff. They were well prepared and trained and reacted courageously. Had they not done so, dozens of more would have been killed."

However, he went on to say, "These guys are the ultimate cowards. They attack the unarmed and at the first sign of resistance from the police or an armed citizen, they turn their gun on themselves."

Ironically, these were the "exact" same words used by an active duty Chicago policeman as well as a retired Chicago police commander (see above). They made a point of saying that had the principal or any of the teachers had access to firearms, the killer would have been stopped in his tracks.

Robert Genetski's Weekly Financial Update & Stock Impact Gauge

| | Fundamental | Actual | Immediate Outlook |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|
| Fixed-income: 10-yr Treas. | 5.0 | 1.88 | heading higher |
| Equities: S&P 500 | 2000 | 1481 | heading higher |
| Equities: Dow Jones | 16,000 | 13,596 | heading higher |

Although there wasn't much movement in stock prices, they broke through a key resistance level raising the odds they will move still higher.

Market Outlook Stock prices moved modestly higher over the past week with most key indexes up less than 1%. However, after having paused close to a key resistance level, the S&P 500 rose above 1475 Thursday to overcome resistance.

With the latest upward move, technical indicators became more positive and the 1475 resistance becomes support. Trading volume remains a potential concern. Although trading volume increased with the latest upward move, it has not increased above its average level. Ideally, we would like to see above-average volume on upward moves. Nonetheless, since my recommendation has been for equity portfolios to be at maximum invested positions, there is no need to make any further moves.

Longer-term interest rates were essentially unchanged this past week. Even so, as the chart above shows there is a definite upward momentum to longer-term rates. Odds are this upward momentum will continue in the period immediately ahead.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---|
| Short-term Monetary Policy | 8.0 | > |
| Stock Valuation | 7.0 | — |
| Psychology | 6.0 | > |
| Short-term Econ Fundamentals | 3.0 | — |

Ratings for 10 is best
forces — means no change
impacting > change for better
stocks < the other direction