"JUSTIFICATION & JUSTICE," II:

BEYOND THINKING THE THINKABLE

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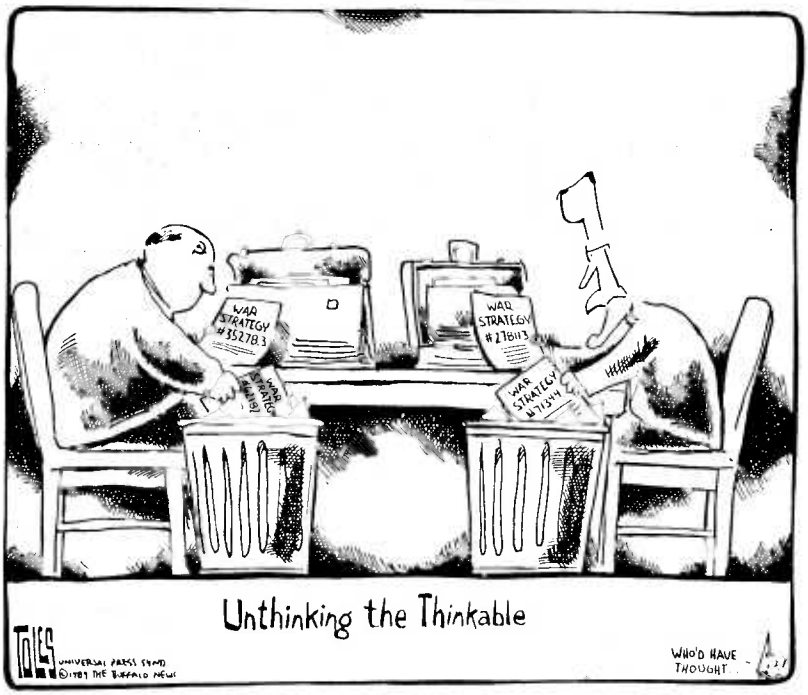
In the Vatican yesterday Gorby gave the Pope a mosaic head of Jesus and called him "Holy Father"! Unthinkable! Today Gorby & Bush sit down to figure out how Bush can help Gorby survive! Unthinkable! But when the unthinkable happens, journalists--not to be caught with their wordprocessors (formerly, "their pants") down--call it "inevitable." And it always in inevitable that they will figure out how the latest unthinkable was inevitable....On CCT OpEd today are these two clippings, a Toles cartoon & my letter on abusing Frost.....This Thinksheet is the second toward Craigville Colloquy VII.

1. Let's resort to our handy, helpful-to-thought-&-discussion grid:

	thinkable	unthinkable
thinking	A	B
unthinking	C	D



A's what's called rational, practical, realistic, commonsensical, down-to-earth. These good, solid, reliable words all lack truth in all situations calling for non-A thinking....**C** is where, properly & comically, Toles puts Gorby & Bush today: Cold War "War Strategy #___"--all of them--are inapplicable. The "justification" for Star Wars, eg, has disappeared, & its continued development has become, if it wasn't before, "unjust." What about the churches' traditional/current strategies for "justice & peace"? Where does unthinking now-questionable assumptions need to be done?....**B** is fresh thinking, indeed willingness to think, about what heretofore has been unthinkable (because of assumptions & inferences drawn from "received opinion," "established truth," etc.). Examples: (1) In light of the ecological crisis, how do abortion, euthanasia, & suicide look? (2) In light of the drug crisis, & the incarceration glut, how does capital punishment look? To Frost's neighbor, who "will not go behind his father's saying," it is, but shouldn't be, unthinkable that good fences don't, or may not always, "make good neighbors." Since he's also in position C, what differences does it make seeing him in B or in C? Or is that only a matter of the angle from which we're viewing him?....**D** sharpens awareness of the distinction between "unthinking" as a condition (ie, just not thinking; being unthinking, thoughtless) & as a task (viz, re-education, unlearning what's come to be seen as untrue--either by oneself, as in the intellectual aspect of repentance; or by others, as in communist "re-education camps"). In the torpor of nonthinking, the C/D distinction doesn't exist. But when one undertakes the task of unthinking-rethinking, much of what had been thought to be in B moves into A. To establishments, this movement is so dangerous that it's the main thing prophets get ostracized/killed for. Note that Frost is challenging not only his neighbor, but Gorby & Bush & the Colloquy participants to the task of **newthink**, a Godgiven task as I imply in this letter sermon on "the new world God is presenting us with." ("Unthinking" as being is a gerundive/adjective & as doing is a gerund/noun, the big thing Gorby & Bush have to do at today's summit. For one thing, they should unthink nukes into [D] unthinkability.)

2. Why do most Americans, even including keen columnist Rich. Spitzer, reverse Frost's meaning in "Mending Wall"? Because "Good fences make good neighbors" is a bit of folkwisdom so powerful in the American psyche --so "A," so obvious a "truth"--that even mentioning it to attack it, as Frost does, reinforces it! Our American mythology of rugged "Yankee" individualism, now its dark side increasingly visible, likes fencing neighbors off one's own turf, & needs to hear better Frost's affirmation in the poem's first line, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall": "frozen ground-swell," hunters flushing rabbits, "I could say 'Elves" to him,/But it's not elves exactly." But (repeated) "Something there is that doesn't love a wall,/That wants it down." I associate this with Kennedy's Berlin Wall speech: Frost was the poet at his Inaugural. "Before I build a wall I'd ask to know/What I was walling in or walling out,/And to whom I was like to give offense."

Frost's message on the wall

"Good fences make good neighbors" is not (contrary to Richard Spitzer's Nov. 22 column) "a concession to certain testy Yankee farmers." It's an attack on them.

In "Mending Wall," Robert Frost's voice is: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall." While repairing a stone fence with his neighbor, Frost fails to convince. The neighbor keeps repeating "Good fences make good neighbors."

Frost sadly concludes "He will not go behind his father's saying." That is a profound message for all of us in the new world God is presenting us with.

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