FAREWELL TO JCT

2018-9-5

Thank you for coming on this hot hot day.

Today is a farewell to JCT for me but also a farewell to America. I know you were expecting me to lobby for mark to market, or to lament that we didn't include it in tax reform last year, but I'm happy it was left out so I'll have something to do when I come back.

So I’m not going to talk about that. I'm going to talk about America. My great grandmother Mali was born in New York in the 1880s and she was gassed and incinerated at Auschwitz in 1944.

I came to New York as a child in the 1980s and I fell in love with the city so much that I had to come back to live there, and it was even better than my dreams. Then I came to Washington which is a drama and a fairy tale altogether.

When people say to me, oh I wish I could come with you to Australia and get away from all this, I tell them, there is no getting away from America. There is not a segment of this sphere the earth that is not touched by America.

When the great Britannia ended itself in the trenches of western Europe, America was there, despite itself, and has led the world for one hundred years. When people talk about the passing of America to the next world power, I tell them: there is nowhere else to go. Where America goes, there the world goes too. The values we call human, of autonomy, of freedom, a place where discarded persons are welcomed, and can flourish, that is America.

I decline to accept the end of America because I have nowhere else to go. None of us does.

When it is reported on the news that the U.S. is to shut down in a budget skirmish my parents in Sydney tremble as my forefathers trembled in Nazi Europe when Roosevelt died. We hang on to every one of your moves. We are counting on you.

And so I have a favor to ask you. Take care of America for me. You, who are its guardians. The discarded of the earth have founded and lead America’s greatest empires - Facebook and google and apple and those who came before them, but none of that could exist without a government of singular individuals who hold fast to the principles the founders held to be inviolable. I trust you to be what I know you to be - people of the highest integrity - and to watch over America for me, and for yourselves, and for all the earth.