Observations 2017 03 01

The WSJ noted that viewers watch YouTube videos one BILLION hours a day. It will soon eclipse the total hours spent watching television.

> *Warren Buffett's company now owns $18 billion worth of Apple. Not bad for a guy who shuns high tech.*

Tyler Cowen's recent The Complacent Class (downloaded not yet read) is the newest of books that seek to explain our economic stagnation in terms other than bad policy. The Rise and Fall of American Growth by Robert Gordon attributed it to changes in structural dynamics. Cowen attributes it more to a spiritual shift against risk taking. He notes the decrease in the number of eligible workers who work, and the sharp drop in startup companies. This may greatly frustrate old policy prescriptions if this is true.

> *Trump's bombastic persona attracts conflict. I wonder if the same cabinet picks and the same actions would be received differently if it came from a President Marco Rubio or a President John Kasich.*

Why don't we see self-checkout lines in the office supply stores?

> *Given the ease of ordering online why do the bricks and mortar stores add to the hassle of a checkout? Too few registers, requests to donate to THEIR favorite charity (the epitome of commercial virtue signaling), the need to enter your rewards card number or the correct phone number to access it, and the checkout clerk's push of some new product in the store are all starting to become annoying. When you charge it you now need to enter an e-mail number or chose that venue over a paper receipt. Who needs one more e-mail?*

How about I give you the money, you give me the paper clips- deal done. Remember the alternative to this is one-click-shopping; the greatest shopping convenience ever. This is why my garage is filled with Amazon boxes.