

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

“The future is almost always uncomfortable for everyone except the leading risk-taker.” – Andy Kessler, Wall Street Journal, Feb. 26, 2018

In a paean to boldness and risk-taking, Kessler writes of “Elon Musk’s Uncontested 3-Pointers,” with references to Stephen Curry’s shooting of uncontested 3-pointers, Elon Musk’s success with X.com (which merged with Peter Thiel’s Confinity to form PayPal), and Musk’s later forays into SpaceX, Tesla, and Solar City.

Kessler says that the catch is that even an innovator has to be right in betting there’s a market for his innovations. It reminded me of my thoughts on this Page in 2013 regarding the resurgence in U.S. energy production and the pivotal role played by George P. Mitchell, whose engineers figured out how to properly fracture shale, thus stunning colleagues and larger competitors. According to his son, George Mitchell had the ability to take calculated risks based on a rational knowledge base, thought highly of our nation’s uniquely creative abilities, and believed the secret sauce is to think, create, persist.

“Here’s to the ones that dream; Foolish as they may seem.” (La La Land)

Innovation and technology alone will be insufficient to drive the growth and future of the energy industry in the 21st Century.

It will take boldness and risk-taking. And lots of both.

Respectfully,
Bob Fleishman