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The New American

Printed in the U.S.A. • ISSN 0885-6540
P.O. Box 8040 • Appleton, WI 54912
920-749-3784 • 920-749-3785 (fax)
www.thenewamerican.com
editorial@thenewamerican.com

Rates are \$49 per year (Canada, add \$9; foreign, add \$27) Copyright ©2018 by American Opinion Publishing, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Appleton, WI and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send any address changes to THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912.

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THE NEW AMERICAN is published twice monthly by American Opinion Publishing Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society.

Constitutional Convention

I get mail requesting donations to hold a constitutional convention by the states. I must refuse because it is trouble.

I believe constitutional convention groups cannot assemble a majority of good delegates because a great percentage of our citizens have lived in government housing, had government food, gone to government schools, and been indoctrinated to support government controls and rules — not freedom with no government rules.

Notice the lack of quality in many congressmen and senators getting reelected. Americans presently vote in ignorance, not for a candidate, but for a party choice.

Citizens even believe this is a democracy, and do not realize they still pledge allegiance to a republic, while Communist Russia pledged allegiance to a democracy.

TOM FUSCALDO
Sent via e-mail

Character of the Constitution

I cringe when I hear people say that our constitutional republic was established around the belief in the rule of law. Actually our republic was established after revolting against King George's or the English Parliament's rule of law. I can guarantee you that is why you do not see the rule of law mentioned in our Constitution.

Historically, my favorite founder, Thomas Jefferson, was considered soft on the rule of law, but strong on promoting liberty and justice for all. Adolf Hitler was a staunch supporter of the rule of law (his rules; his laws), but really did not care at all for liberty and justice for all. Jefferson mentions the way to achieve liberty and justice for all in the Declaration of Independence when he mentions juries. Colonial juries routinely did not enforce King George's or the English Parliament's rule of law. In other words, these juries were engaging in what is called jury nullification today.

Criminal juries today still have this power. The problem is that today trial-court judges tell juries that they must follow the law. This is not just unconstitutional, but is a baldface lie on the judge's part. The only thing a properly functioning jury must be, according to the Sixth Amendment, is impartial. Following the

rule of law is not part of its duty. In this era of politically motivated prosecutions, I believe it is even more reason for those impaneled on a jury to realize this.

DR. W. DAVID HERBERT, ESQ.
Billings, Montana

Is the Constitution Dead?

The Constitution of the United States of America is null and void — unless our nation prosecutes Hillary Clinton and others for their crimes.

As secretary of state, Clinton and various staff members utilized her private e-mail server for official government business. Transmitting classified material over unsecured and unauthorized devices is a federal crime under the Espionage Act. Committing the act is sufficient for conviction; criminal intent may be considered when sentenced. Prosecution must start before the statute of limitations places them beyond reach.

Besides Clinton, those who should be punished include presidents who have used drones and rockets to kill persons they designated “enemy combatants.” The Fifth Amendment states, “Nor [shall any person] be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” Those presidents (and the members of their chains of command) should be prosecuted for murder. Congress has not declared war since WWII, so those killed are neither “enemy combatants” nor collateral damage of war. None received “due process of law.”

We have allowed the federal government to usurp power to the point where then-President Obama once claimed he could kill American citizens within our borders. God is the only single authority who should determine life or death. Even He is a Trinity.

AL KUCHINKA
Cullman, Alabama

CORRECTION: In the article “One Man's Fight Against the Global Trade Order” (November 19 issue), Senator George Malone's middle name should be “Wilson,” not “Walter.”

Send your letters to: THE NEW AMERICAN, P.O. Box 8040, Appleton, WI 54912. Or e-mail: editorial@thenewamerican.com. Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

The Bill of Rights

First Ten Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II. A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

Amendment III. No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of

life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII. In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.



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Euro-globalists Pursue EU Military for “Empire of Peace”

Top officials in France and globalists from across the region want the European Union to develop its own military so it can become an “empire of peace,” as French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire put it in a November 11 interview with the German paper *Handelsblatt*. Le Maire argued that the EU should be a “green” empire that could stand up to both the U.S. government and Communist China.

Le Maire talked as if Europe already were a unified empire, rather than a collection of sovereign nations where the populations have consistently rejected further surrender of sovereignty. “Europe should no longer shy away from displaying its power and being an empire of peace,” the “Economics and Finance” minister said. As an example of this empire displaying its power, he called on the EU to ignore U.S. government sanctions on the regime in Iran by continuing to do business with Tehran. Le Maire also called for the EU to wage war on legal tax avoidance, which he dangerously and dishonestly referred to as tax evasion.

Part of the effort to make the EU empire “sovereign” is the emergence of a full-blown EU military. The week before Le Maire’s comments, French President Emmanuel Macron declared, “I believe in the project of a sovereign Europe. We won’t protect Europe if we don’t decide to have a true European army.... We have to have a Europe that can defend itself alone. We have to protect ourselves with respect to China, Russia and even the

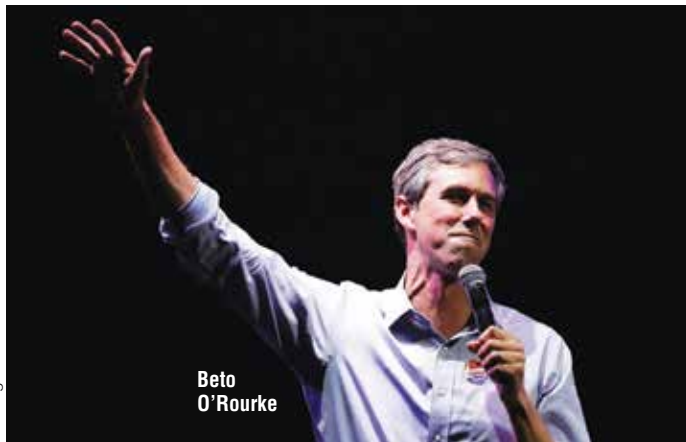
United States of America.” Speaking November 13 to the European Parliament, German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised “European unification” and joined the call for an EU army.

U.K. Independence Party (UKIP) member Nigel Farage could barely contain his disgust: “This is a European Union that wants to become an empire, a militarized European Union.... An undemocratic European Union, a European Union that seeks to continually expand to the east, a European Union that has launched a new Cold War against the United States of America.”



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Democrats See Another Obama in O’Rourke



AP Images

The next president of the United States could be Beto O’Rourke, if you believe the chatter after the Democrat’s loss to incumbent Senator Ted Cruz November 6. O’Rourke, apparently, is the next star to which Democrats want to hitch their wagon because he got so close in the race against Cruz. Such is the affection Democrats have for the new progressive darling that they’re calling his loss an Obama-like moment he needs to seize before it’s too late.

Almost as soon as the election was over, the chin-wagging began about Robert Francis O’Rourke, widely known, like Cher, by one name: Beto.

Democrats are desperate for a candidate who could launch a credible campaign against Donald Trump, particularly with the alarming claim from two of Hillary Clinton’s partisans that she’ll try her luck again for one more run against Trump.

Democrats, *The Hill* reported November 11, see a “silver lining” in O’Rourke’s close loss because “it means O’Rourke, who emerged in the midterms as a progressive star, is free to run for president.”

“If he wants to run, he should do it,” Democratic strategist Maria Cardona told the Capitol Hill newspaper. “He now has name recognition, a widely successful fundraising operation, a young fresh face with a sprinkling of woke, a cool persona, a new perspective, he speaks Spanish and would be an exciting and upbeat candidate.”

An unnamed Democrat “strategist” told *The Hill* that O’Rourke is the only candidate the Democrats have “that’s thrilling.” The strategist said friends were “calling ... to ask about him. I would overhear conversations about him. He’s generating the kind of buzz we haven’t seen since ‘hope and change.’”

The Hill noted that Republicans were surprised that O’Rourke lost by just three percent, and although he said he won’t run in 2020, another Democrat advised him to reconsider.

O’Rourke has already put down his foot to reject a run, as CNN reported November 8: “The answer is no.” Pressed again, he said, “It’s a definitive no.” But in politics, that means “maybe.”

High Percentage of U.S. Christians Embrace New Age Beliefs



NikkiZalewski/iStock/GettyImagesPlus

While over 70 percent of Americans self-identify as Christian, a new Pew Research study published October 1 has found that a large percentage of U.S. Christians also embrace New Age beliefs. According to the Pew study, 61 percent of Americans who identify as Christian also buy into at least one of the following decidedly New Age/pagan beliefs: astrology (26 percent), reincarnation (29 percent), psychics (40 percent), and that spiritual energy can be found in physical things (42 percent).

Among evangelical Christians, who traditionally have held a

strong commitment to Scripture (which is clear in its condemnation of such beliefs), 47 percent of those surveyed confessed to embracing one of the above New Age/pagan beliefs. And among self-identifying Catholics, that number stands at an overwhelming 70 percent.

Pew research analyst Claire Gecewicz noted that gender appears to play a role in the embrace of New Age beliefs. “For instance, just as women are more likely than men to identify with a religion and to engage in a number of religious practices, women also are more likely to hold New Age beliefs,” wrote Gecewicz of the survey. “Across all four measures — belief in psychics, reincarnation, astrology, and that spiritual energy can be found in objects — larger shares of women than men subscribe to these beliefs. And overall, seven-in-ten women hold at least one New Age belief, compared to 55% of men.”

Writing at Beliefnet.com, faith and religion monitor Stephanie Hertenberg speculated that the increasing embrace of New Age beliefs by those who identify as Christian “appears to be linked to the ever increasing number of Americans who do not identify themselves with an orthodox religious group. Many of them instead state that they are spiritual or claim to believe in a higher power even though they do not practice a specific religion. That said, New Age beliefs are also being combined with orthodox religions by younger members of the faith.”

Democrats Plan Attack on Second Amendment

The Democrats are coming for your guns, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* reported November 9.

The new majority of angry leftists, which includes open socialists and economic illiterates such as former barmaid Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, openly discussed their plans for tough gun control they mistakenly believe will stop mass shootings.

The details are vague, but the goal is not: blow a hole in the Second Amendment, which protects the right to own firearms.

According to the *Journal*, the Democrats still think, contrary to the evidence, that a mandatory universal background check will stop shootings, or at least stop lunatics from getting guns.

“Democrats ousted at least 15 House Republicans with ‘A’ National Rifle Association ratings, while the candidates elected to replace them all scored an ‘F’ NRA rating,” the *Journal* reported, and leftist Representative Mike Thompson, who represents California’s Fifth District, promises a strong attack on guns.

Thompson is chairman of the House Gun Violence Protection Task Force, a gaggle of anti-gun Democrats. “This new majority is not going to be afraid of our shadow,” Thompson told the *Journal*. “We know that we’ve been elected to do a job, and we’re going to do it.” Thompson told the *Journal* a bill to mandate universal background checks is job No. 1.

Democrats hope public support will help the gun-grab, the *Times* reported. A Gallup survey found that 61 percent of those polled “want stricter gun laws, and there is even more support for universal background checks.” Whether that finding is an

accurate reflection of public opinion is of course questionable. But beyond question is the fact that, regardless of intent, gun-control laws lead to more crime, not less, since they disarm the law-abiding while also empowering the state.

One of the main forces behind the push is anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City. A group founded by former Democratic Representative Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona and Bloomberg’s Every Town for Gun Safety pumped \$37 million into the 2018 midterms, the *Journal* reported. ■



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Austria's Leader Acts Sensibly About Migration

"There are some points that we view critically and where we fear a danger to our national sovereignty. Migration is not and cannot become a human right."

*Refusing to sign a UN global compact seeking to control migration, Austrian Chancellor **Sebastian Kurz** insisted that agreeing to it would compromise his nation's independence. Hungary joined neighboring Austria in refusing to accept the pact.*



Sebastian Kurz

AP Images

Commemorating Stalin-era Victims Now Allowed in Russia

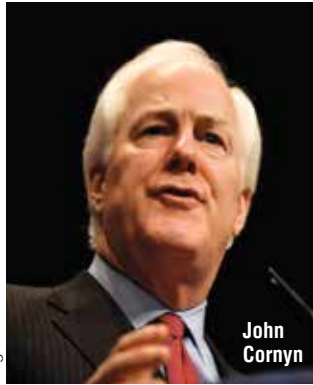
"During the years of Soviet rule, 1,250,000 people were sentenced to death across the Soviet Union. People were shot to death in secret — we will make their memory public."

*Moscow city officials reversed their decision to bar the human rights organization Memorial, led by **Yelena Zhemkova**, from having its annual ceremony honoring the victims of Joseph Stalin. The ceremony was held at a location close to the former headquarters of the KGB.*

Senators Call for Revoking Hillary Clinton's Security Clearance

"When individuals mishandle our country's most sensitive information, they jeopardize national security and shouldn't be trusted with such an important responsibility."

*Speaking for himself and Senator Cory Gardner (R-Col.), Senate Majority Whip **John Cornyn** (R-Texas) introduced a measure to take away security privileges from Hillary Clinton and some of her closest aides.*



Gage Skidmore

John Cornyn

Finding Jurors for "El Chapo" Trial Not Easy

"What scares me is I read that his family will come after jurors and their families."

*When questioned about serving on the jury that will hear the charges against Joaquin Guzman Loera (known as El Chapo), an **unidentified woman** noted that the Mexican drug cartel leader has two sons who are still at large.*

Federal Judge Creates New Problem for the Keystone Pipeline

"The pipeline has passed every environmental review conducted for it. In fact, a total of six assessments by both the Obama and Trump administrations concluded that it is safe to build. Calls to conduct identical environmental reviews make no sense and are a waste of tax dollars."

***Robin Rorick**, a vice president at the American Petroleum Institute, noted that one of the reasons for the latest ruling by Montana-based Judge Bryan Morris is the unwillingness of the Trump administration to consider the effect the project would have on climate change.*

Gridlock Coming? Bring It On!

"With Democrats about to have the majority in the House, Trump becomes the sixth president in a row to face a Congress in which at least one chamber is controlled by the opposite party. Divided power has become the norm in Washington. Hallelujah!"

*Boston Globe columnist **Jeff Jacoby** believes that the harder it gets for either party to get its way, the better off the nation is.*

President Chides Speaker Over Birthright Comment

"Paul Ryan should be focusing on holding the House majority rather than giving his opinions on Birthright Citizenship, something he knows nothing about."

*Only a few days before the 2018 elections, President **Donald Trump** fired back after House Speaker Paul Ryan criticized the president's position on ending birthright citizenship for infants born to non-citizen women. ■*

— COMPILED BY JOHN F. McMANUS



Donald Trump

AP Images



After the Elections

WHAT'S NEXT?

With Democrats retaking the House, but Republicans gaining in the Senate, Democrats are expected to reject any actions Trump wants done – but they don't control things.

by Steve Byas

Some have dubbed the midterm elections a “split decision,” with the Democrats picking up almost 40 seats, enabling them to regain control of the House of Representatives, while the Republicans not only held onto their slim majority in the Senate, but actually gained seats.

It certainly was not the Blue Wave the Democrats had hoped for. By comparison, in the “red wave” elections of 1994 and 2010, the Republicans gained 52 and 63 seats, respectively, in the House, along with good gains in the Senate. Had the Republicans actually gained seats in the House in the midterm, it would have gone against the history of the past century. Since 1914, the party holding the White House has picked up seats in the midterms only three times.

The Democrats greatly outspent the Republicans. In the Texas Senate contest between incumbent Ted Cruz and Democrat challenger Beto O’Rourke, O’Rourke’s campaign had raised \$69 million and spent \$59 million as of October 17. These amounts were significantly above the \$40 million raised and \$34 million spent by the Cruz campaign. All in all, about \$5 billion was spent in the 2018 midterms.

Almost two-thirds of political donations went to the Democrats in this cycle’s House contests, with in excess of 90 percent of House Democrats in competitive races outspending their Republican opponents.

Generally, the reason that any political party holding the presidency loses seats in Congress in the midterm is that the supporters of the party having the White House tend to be more satisfied. The party shut out of the White House, on the other hand, tends to be unsatisfied, even angry, and anger is a more powerful motivator than satisfaction.

Each election, however, has its own nuances, and each congressional district has its own issues and demographic changes affecting the outcome. Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson argued that the three biggest issues of the midterms were immigration, the economy, and nationalism — which Carlson defined as placing the interest of one’s own country over that of any other nation.

President Donald Trump certainly

Almost two-thirds of political donations went to the Democrats in this cycle’s House contests, with in excess of 90 percent of House Democrats in competitive races outspending their Republican opponents.

defined the issues of immigration and nationalism (as opposed to globalism), at least for most voters. Many commentators were curious as to why the good economy did not help the Republicans more than it did. With the unemployment rate the lowest it has been in almost 50 years, it is a good question. The best answer is that the mainstream media, which clearly despise Trump, have chosen to give little coverage to the economy. Had the economic numbers been this good while Barack Obama was residing in the White House, does anyone doubt that the media would have given them much more coverage? The main power of the media is in setting the agenda — telling us what is important, in their mind, anyway — and the hard reality is that very little of what helps Trump and the Republicans is going to be on their newsworthy agenda.

Still, the Republicans could have done better implementing the agenda the country voted for in 2016. Despite having a Republican in the White House and controlling both houses of Congress, they failed to deliver on their promises to repeal ObamaCare and control immigration — which no doubt left many Republicans less than enthused about working hard to get them reelected.

Art Thompson, the CEO of the constitutionalist John Birch Society (the parent organization of THE NEW AMERICAN), said that many of the losing Republicans were those who chose to reject “the American First agenda.” In Oklahoma, for example, Representative Steve Russell “ran against the national message of the party,” according to Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt. Russell opposed much of Trump’s immigration agenda, and lost a seat that



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Not to be taken sitting down: Voting is a serious matter. Citizens need to be better informed, not only about the candidates, but also about the issues and even basic principles of limited government.

has been in Republican hands since 1976. Carlos Curbelo of Miami, the co-founder of the House “climate change caucus” and a “moderate” Republican, also lost.

Thompson placed much of the blame for the losses in the House on the poor leadership of Speaker Paul Ryan and his fellow RINOS. Other than the tax cut, there was not really much for the House Republicans to run on in the way of accomplishments. If anything, Ryan actually fought Trump on issues such as building a wall. And the failure to repeal ObamaCare — other than the ditching of the individual mandate, admittedly a good thing — had to depress Republican enthusiasm.

With many of those who opposed Trump’s “America First” agenda ousted from Congress, Thompson noted, Trump’s agenda might actually get a shot in the arm.

The Kavanaugh Effect

The Senate, however, was a different story, with Republicans adding to their slim majority. The “Brett Kavanaugh Effect” appears to have played a major role, as Democrats in Missouri, Indiana, Florida, and South Dakota who voted against his confirmation to the Supreme Court lost. In stark contrast, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia was the lone Democrat to vote for Judge Brett Kavanaugh, and he won. According to Fox News’ Britt Hume, Manchin closely examined polling data during the hearings, which convinced him that “he was done” had he opposed Kavanaugh’s confirmation.

Trump spent the last two days of the campaign staging rallies in five states — Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri — states that had important Senate or gubernatorial contests, or both. In Tennessee, Representative Marsha Blackburn won the open Senate seat over Governor Phil Bredesen, who argued

The mainstream media, which clearly despise Trump, have chosen to give little coverage to the economy. Had the economic numbers been this good while Barack Obama was residing in the White House, does anyone doubt that the media would have given them much more coverage?



AP Images

Helping hand: Usually the party that does not control of the White House is more motivated in the midterms. But the savagery of the Democratic Party and media attacks upon Judge Brett Kavanaugh during the Senate confirmation battle are believed to have energized the Republican base in several close Senate contests.

that his problem was the “brand” of the national Democratic Party. In Indiana, Democratic Senator Joe Donnelly lost to businessman Mike Braun, while Republican Josh Hawley ended the tenure of Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill.

Trump also supported incumbent Republicans, such as his 2016 primary foe, Ted Cruz, which demonstrated that he was willing to put aside their past differences to advance his agenda — which, of course includes immigration, healthcare, putting America First, and the like. Interestingly, what was almost totally absent from any of the contests in the Senate or the House was mention of Vladimir Putin and the alleged “Russian collusion” story.

The Democrats evidently decided that bringing up the largely discredited Russia probe was not going to win them any more votes than they already had, but with the Democrats regaining control of the House

of Representatives, we can expect them to do all they can to resurrect that as an issue.

With a compliant media and control of several House committees, it is expected that the Democrats will use their committee investigative powers to attack the Trump administration, probably on a daily basis. As House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, expected to resume the role as speaker of the House that she lost after the 2010 “red wave,” told PBS, the Democrats will “certainly honor responsibility as [providing] oversight of the executive branch.”

During the campaign, Democrats opted to downplay talk of impeachment of Trump (although Representative Maxine Waters was not shy about uttering the “I” word), presumably believing it would be counterproductive to their chances of regaining the House. But a reporter, Mollie Hemingway, traveling on an Amtrak train from New York to Washington on the day after the election, listened as Democratic Representative Jerrold Nadler spoke on his phone about what the Democrats had planned in the next Congress.

According to Hemingway, Nadler, who will chair the House Judiciary Committee (which would initiate any impeachment hearings), said to an unknown person on the other end of the line that the Democrats were “all in” on impeaching both

Trump and Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Nadler was apparently unaware that a reporter for *The Federalist*, a conservative blog, was listening to his conversation.

It takes a simple majority of the House of Representatives to impeach the president, and the Democrats are now in the majority. Of course, it is uncertain if all Democrats in the next House would go along with such a plan, and it is doubtful that any Republicans would, unless there was a good reason to do so. And even if the Democrats did impeach Trump or Kavanaugh, it is highly unlikely that the Senate, in Republican control, would produce the two-thirds vote needed for conviction.

According to Hemingway, Nadler assured the person to whom he was talking that the investigation would not be called an impeachment probe at first, so as to not alarm the public. Concerning Kavanaugh, Nadler speculated that he could be charged with perjury — lying under oath — but added that Trump would probably appoint a replacement “just as bad.”

Were the Democrats to actually pull the trigger and impeach Trump, without any good reason other than they just do not like him, the American people could be expected to take note and punish the Democrats at the polls in 2020, especially if they blamed the Democrats for a slowdown in the economy as a result. Nadler even expressed that concern in his phone conversation.

Even a president who actually did do something wrong — Bill Clinton — and got impeached faced no actual prospect of conviction. But it did lead to the Democrats gaining seats in the House of Representatives in the 1998 elections. A groundless impeachment would certainly infuriate the Republican base, driving them into increased political action in 2020.

Democrat Mischief in the House?

But an impeachment effort is not the only mischief that the House Democrats are expected to launch next year. For example, Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland is expected to take over chairmanship of the House Oversight Committee. He has indicated that he wants to subpoena the secretary of commerce to testify under oath about adding a ques-

tion about citizenship to the upcoming 2020 census. In the past, Democrats have argued that he lied about his reasons for including the question.

Democrats are also expected to challenge Trump’s executive actions on ObamaCare, including his decision to relax the mandate for full coverage of contraceptives. The president’s tax returns are collection of documents the Democrats have long wanted to see, and they will probably craft some excuse to demand to see them. And of course, the Democrats will no doubt continue their “investigation” into the alleged Russian interference into the 2016 presidential election, even if Special Counsel Robert Mueller issues a report largely exonerating Trump.

With all of these anticipated investigations, along with others, most Republicans and quite a few constitutional conservatives are understandably nervous and disappointed. After all, how could it be a good thing that radicals such as Jerrold Nadler, Nancy Pelosi, Adam Schiff, and Maxine Waters are going to be setting the agenda of the House for the next two years?

But there is a “silver lining” in all of this.

For one thing, the Republicans still hold the Senate, with gains. It should be much easier to confirm federal judges, including members of the Supreme Court. The resignation of Attorney General Jeff

Sessions is a powerful illustration that it is critical that Trump be able to name Cabinet officers who are loyal to him and his agenda, without worrying that a Republican such as Susan Collins might vote with the Democrats and sink the appointment. Fortunately, the Democrat House will have no say in either judicial or executive appointments.

Certainly, the Democrats will control the House, but this will enable the American people to see clearly just how radical their leaders really are. Republicans will be more motivated to stop such extremists from seizing the White House and the Senate in 2020. Had the Republicans actually kept the House, many Americans would have been more inclined to become too satisfied, perhaps leading to a bigger loss in 2020.

The Blessings of Gridlock

Some fret, however, that “nothing is going to get done, legislatively” over the next two years. While such gridlock will certainly preclude any meaningful legislative action on a true free-market healthcare reform, or in shoring up the border, the wise words of former President Calvin Coolidge are very relevant to this issue. He said that it is better to kill a bad bill than to pass a good one. In other words, while Republicans will be stymied legislatively for a couple of years, it also means



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Impeachment: The day after the elections, Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) was overheard telling someone on his phone that the Democrats were “all-in” on impeaching not only President Donald Trump, but also Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Nadler is in line to chair the House Judiciary Committee, where any impeachment inquiries would begin.

The Democrats evidently decided that bringing up the largely discredited Russia probe was not going to win them any more votes than they already had, but we can expect them to do all they can to resurrect that as an issue.

that the Democrats cannot get much done with their agenda, either. But over the two years, the Democrats will cast a lot of votes on their agenda, giving their constitutionalist opponents plenty of material to use against them in the next election.

It is not clear what effect, if any, the Democratic Party control of the House will have on the dangerous “free trade” agenda. While many conservative-minded Americans hear “free trade,” and think “free enterprise,” these deals with foreign countries are anything but “free market” agreements. On the contrary, they are government-managed trade deals, and they transfer the constitutional power of Congress over commerce (trade) to an international body instead. In short, America’s national sovereignty is sacrificed on the altar of free trade.

Historically, Democrats have often quibbled about these various trade agreements (probably to please labor unions), but as Thompson said, they usually wind up voting for them after negotiating for some changes. Unfortunately, the changes invariably make the deals even worse. For example, in 2007, President George W. Bush gave in to Democrat demands to add language favorable to unions and more regulations on the economy, including draconian environmental standards. “The Democrats are not going to make it easy for political reasons,” predicted Bill Reinsch, a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

As Celeste Drake, a trade policy specialist for the AFL-CIO, explained, “We’re

fighting to say this isn’t over and there are still gains to be had.”

AFL-CIO leadership is much more of an ally of the Democratic Party than its rank and file, many of whom cast their lot with Trump in 2016, a large part of the reason that he defeated Hillary Clinton. Four states that Mitt Romney failed to carry in 2012 — Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin — Donald Trump did carry in 2016, thanks to his being able to pick up the “blue collar” vote that Romney could not. Trump’s reelection may very well depend on keeping these states in his column in 2020, but except for Ohio (which elected a Republican governor in this election to replace the RINO John Kasich), all three are now in the hands of a Democratic governor. A particularly unfortunate loss was the defeat of Scott Walker in Wisconsin.

Ohio is critical to Trump’s 2020 chances. No Republican has ever won the White House without carrying Ohio. It has been the ultimate swing state (now generally called a “purple” state) ever since the Civil War. Governors have often been instrumental in helping their party’s candidate win the state because of the political organizations they have put together. In addition to Ohio, Republicans won in the swing states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and Florida.

Of course, electoral votes are won by winning some of these key states, but in states such as Pennsylvania, Republicans tend to win the rural areas (without Chicago, for example, Illinois would go Republican), and the Democrats win the cities. But in recent years, Democrats have increased their vote in the suburbs, at one time a bastion of strength for the GOP.

Republicans have also lost states over the past few decades that they used to win on a regular basis, such as California. The flood of immigration that turned California from red to purple, and finally, blue, has also taken its toll on Republican chances in places such as Colorado and Nevada. Republicans are becoming increasingly nervous about Texas, as the recent close contest for the Senate illustrated. Immigration threatens to move Arizona from the Republican column to the Democratic column.

This is the principal reason that Democrats are so fond of immigration. They



Mad Maxine: Democrats generally downplayed any impeachment talk before the election, but Representative Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) refused to follow that script. Instead she publicly promised that she would push for impeaching Trump.

AP Images

need a supply of poor, low-income voters dependent upon the party of government — the Democrats. Unfortunately, many corporate Republicans and globalists also view high immigration levels as desirable, which explains much of the never-Trumpers within the Republican Party.

One ethnic group that is exhibiting signs of reducing its slavish devotion to the Democratic Party is African-Americans. A Rasmussen poll released on October 29 had Trump's approval rating among black voters at an astounding 40 percent. Just a little over a year ago, the rating was a mere 15 percent. The good economy, with record-low unemployment rates among blacks, is one obvious explanation for this. Another possible reason is that while globalists and Democrats like immigration, many African-Americans hold a different view.

A reporter in Georgia approached a young black man on election day and was taken aback when the young man told the reporter that he was voting for Donald Trump. He explained that he liked Trump's opposition to "open borders." The young man added that he did not like illegal aliens voting in our elections, and he was quite adamant in arguing that it was wrong for illegal immigrants to use our welfare system.

Whether this rising support for Trump will actually translate into a marked increase in black support in 2020 is speculation. But in states such as Michigan and Florida it could be very important. Today, the Democratic Party could not win a national election without the almost monolithic support of black voters. That is why blacks who dare stray from the Democratic Party fold can expect severe criticism, and it explains the unfair vitriol leveled against such notable black political figures as Clarence Thomas, Herman Cain, and Dr. Ben Carson.

This potential loss of a good percentage of the black vote for the Democratic Party could radically change American politics.

For those who think this is impossible, it should be remembered that at one time, the Deep South was solidly Democratic, and African-Americans gave most of their support to the Republican Party. At one time, New England was the base of the Republican Party (Maine and Vermont were the only two states to vote Republican in the 1936 Roosevelt landslide).



AP Images

Dumped on by Democrats: Among black Americans, there are rumblings of discontent for the Democrats. Trump's approval rating has spiked to about 40 percent among blacks. That is the principal reason why black Republicans such as Ben Carson, Trump's housing and urban development secretary, receive mostly negative coverage in the liberal mainstream media.

We Need an Informed Electorate

Whether a person lives in solidly Republican Alabama or reliably Democratic California, that person needs to be an informed voter. Recent lamentations from the Left that the Republicans remain in the majority in the Senate, despite more votes being cast nationally for Democrat candidates, betrays a basic misunderstanding of the very purpose of government. Government does not exist to implement the will of the majority in all matters over the minority. The Founders believed, and Americans with basic moral standards should also believe, that the purpose of government is to protect an individual's right to life, liberty, and property, rather than just provide for a way to implement the tyranny of the majority. That is why the Founders established a republic, not a democracy. When asked what type of government the men at the constitutional convention had given us, Benjamin Franklin replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." With a republic, we are in the business of respecting religious liberty, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. In a pure democracy, all of our rights are just up to a vote.

One important lesson that this election should teach us is that we must be wise, as well as sincere, in our efforts to keep our republican form of government. An idea that has been put forward as a way to "rein in" the out-of-control federal government is that of a national con-

vention to consider amendments to the Constitution, also known as a convention of states, or a constitutional convention (Con-Con). While some conservatives have sincerely bought into this Con-Con, it is a terrible idea.

So far, all 27 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by Congress and ratified by the states. A second method, another constitutional convention, has never been used. In fact, James Madison, whose work on the Constitution was so great that he is often called "The Father of the Constitution," expressed fear for the future of America if a second constitutional convention were ever held.

Basic logic should tell us that an American electorate that produced a House of Representatives like that given us via this past election is not going to produce delegates to a hypothetical constitutional convention that would be much different. Do we really want to take the chance of calling a convention now, and putting all of our rights up to a vote? As the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia once said, this would be a bad century in which to write a new constitution.

Tinkering with the Constitution is fraught with peril, as with the recent push for a "National Popular Vote" to replace the Electoral College system of presidential election. The possibility of voter fraud in the midterms in places such as Florida only adds more evidence

for keeping the Electoral College, which Founder Alexander Hamilton described as “excellent.” Under the Electoral College, vote fraud is troublesome, but can one imagine a presidential election, such as in 1960, when only about 100,000 votes separated Nixon and Kennedy? Considering the likelihood that several thousand (perhaps as many as 200,000) non-citizen aliens cast ballots in Florida, a national presidential election determined by a national popular vote, rather than a state-by-state popular vote, as with the present system, would be courting disaster. Does anyone really believe that in our present toxic political climate we could survive a national presidential election, determined by the national popular vote, with one candidate winning by anything less than hundreds of thousands of votes?

The composition of Congress illustrates how difficult it is for solid constitutionalists to get elected to Congress when the electorate is so badly uninformed in the basics of the very purpose of government. After all, many of the Democrats who were re-elected or elected for the first time, such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, are out-and-out socialists.

And many of the Republican members of Congress are neoconservatives, as opposed to constitutionalists. But that said, the Republicans defeated in the midterm elections were also generally neoconservative, an exception being David Brat of Virginia. Ultimately, to restore constitutional government and salvage our national independence and our freedoms, we need to create sufficient understanding and apply informed pressure on our elected officials.

This needs to be done every year, not just at election time. And we need to keep in mind that needed changes in the electorate will cause elected officials to improve in order to keep themselves in office. Sometimes, informed voters might have to replace incumbents who will not respect the foundational principles of our country. But other times, enough informed voters



Playing with fire — and paper: James Madison feared for the future of America were we to have another constitutional convention (Con-Con). We should understand that the same electorate that put Nancy Pelosi back in charge in the House would also elect the delegates to any Con-Con.

can persuade a member of Congress of the error of his or her ways.

For years, The John Birch Society and other patriotic organizations have promoted the cause of America First and opposed globalism, which paved the way for the election of Trump. If enough Americans are awakened through being better informed of the concepts of limited government, most politicians will respond favorably.

An informed electorate would call for turning less over to the government in Washington, and returning more activities back to the states, local communities, and individuals. There is no

reason why greater population centers such as New York City and Chicago should be dictating social politics to farmers in Wyoming and Iowa. The Constitution gave us a federal republic, not a unitary democracy. The Founding generation seceded from the British Empire because they did not want to be ruled by a far-off distant government in London.

With all the violent mobs attacking public figures in restaurants and airports, and even at their homes, a restoration of allowing local communities to make most political decisions is the wiser course. As Jeff Deist of the Mises Institute recently said, “Federalism and subsidiarity, applied with increasing intensity, are the non-violent path forward. Insistence on universalism, decided by a slight majority and applied top-down from D.C., will fail here at home in the same way — and for the same reason — nation-building fails abroad.”

Elections are exciting, and at times, even exhilarating. But if Americans want to see our nation survive, with its independence intact and with our liberties secure, we cannot wait until

election season to get active. Several good organizations exist, but The John Birch Society has had a proven program of success since 1958 of getting citizens informed and directing them into non-violent but effective action.

Elections alone will not solve our country’s problems. As Samuel Adams said, “It does not take a majority to prevail ... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.” ■



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MIDTERMS

How Much Did the Partisan Fake News & Tech Giants Aid Democrats?



Big Media, Big Tech, and Big Money failed in their huge effort to create a Blue Wave, but they did help the Democrat-Left retake the House of Representatives.

by William F. Jasper

What impact did the anti-Trump, anti-GOP bias of the Fake News media complex, together with the leftward tilt of the Google-Facebook-Twitter complex and deep-pocket Democrat donors, have on the recent midterm elections? It's difficult to say with any precision at this point, since data regarding many aspects of these factors are not yet available.

But what is evident thus far is that Big Media, Big Tech, and Big Money dramatically aided the Democrats — and the more liberal-left Democrats, at that — in many races. Despite these huge advantages in the form of support from the “mainstream” media and the social-media titans, along with a historic fundraising frenzy that saw Democrats dramatically outspending Republicans, the party of Obama-Clinton-Pelosi-Schumer failed to pull off the “progressive” Blue Wave that many so-called experts predicted. Yes, Nancy Pelosi, Maxine Waters, & Co. are going to be back in control of the House of

Representatives come January, which is, undoubtedly, a frightening thought to millions of Americans. The Democrats picked up almost 40 House seats. However, considering historical precedents and the predictions of even bigger GOP House losses than actually occurred, President Trump was not out of line in declaring the results to be victory. It is more usual than not for the party in control of the White House to lose seats the House and/or Senate in the midterm elections. In the 1994 midterms, Bill Clinton lost 52 House seats, and Barack Obama lost 63 in the 2010 midterms. And this time around, the Trump GOP increased its Senate majority.

Considering the relentless demonization of Trump and the GOP by Big Media and Big Social Media, and seen in historical context, Trump's House losses are relatively modest. According to a tabulation of evening newscasts of the three major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC) during the eight-week pre-election period of September 1 through October 26, media coverage was overwhelmingly anti-Trump and anti-Republican.

“Not only was network coverage of Republicans far more hostile (88% negative) than that meted out to Democrats (53% negative), but we found nearly ten times more negative statements about Republicans and President Trump (97) than all of the Democratic candidates combined (10),” the Media Research Center (MRC) reported on October 30.

“In fact, coverage of the entire field of Democratic candidates would have been 67 percent positive if it hadn't been for negative comments in stories about Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren's DNA test,” the study noted.

Far from being surprising, these latest findings of extreme media bias not only confirm the daily experience of millions of news consumers, but also confirm the findings of previous MRC studies. On October 9, for instance, the MRC released a study under the title “Economic Boom Largely Ignored as TV's Trump Coverage Hits 92% Negative.”

The study reviewed “all 1,007 evening news stories (1,960 minutes of airtime) about the Trump administration on ABC, CBS and NBC from June 1 to September 30, tallying the coverage of each topic and all evaluative comments made by anchors, reporters and non-partisan sources (such as voters or experts).”

“The results show,” says the MRC report, “that, over the past four months, nearly two-thirds of evening news coverage of the Trump presidency has been focused on just five main topics: the Russia investigation; immigration policy; the Kavanaugh nomination; North Korea diplomacy; and U.S. relations with Russia. The networks' coverage of all of these topics has been highly negative, while bright spots for the administration such as the booming economy received extremely little coverage (less than one percent of the four-month total).”

Details of the MRC report include the observation that “once again, the ongoing Russia investigation received more evening news coverage (342 minutes) than any other individual topic. This does not include the 86 minutes spent on the Michael Cohen investigation and guilty plea, except for a few minutes talking about the possibility that Cohen would cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller.”

That network coverage was 97-percent

According to a tabulation of evening newscasts of the three major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC) during the eight-week pre-election period of September 1 through October 26, media coverage was overwhelmingly anti-Trump and anti-Republican.

negative, even though Mueller's "investigation" has produced nothing to back the claims that Trump or Team Trump colluded with Russia.

"Since the beginning of the Trump administration," the MRC report continues, "the three networks have spent 1,975 minutes — nearly 33 hours — on the Russia investigation, or nearly 18 percent of all of their coverage of the Trump presidency. As we have previously reported, virtually all of that coverage has been negative, while almost none of it has focused on any of the controversies involving Mueller or his investigative team."

This non-stop negativism by the press, portraying President Trump as evil incarnate, has produced multiple effects, most of which redound down-ballot to the advantage of the Democrats. Besides helping them motivate donors to chip in enormous sums of campaign cash, it has helped the Democrats field a historically large con-

tingent of well-funded challengers. It also has helped stoke the fires of the violent, far-left Antifa protesters, as well as swell the ranks of Democrat voters and volunteers from the perpetually propagandized high-school and college students.

The blatant anti-Trump, anti-GOP, anti-conservative bias of the three main network broadcasters is echoed by much of the rest of the "mainstream" media, and is often even worse. CNN, MSNBC, NPR, PBS, the Associated Press, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, Huffington Post, *Time*, *Newsweek*, etc., all seem to be competing to outdo one another in media's 24/7/365 anti-Trump hatefest.

This media onslaught against Trump, the GOP, and conservatives was not restricted to the House, Senate, and gubernatorial races. Even a liberty-minded state legislator who is outspoken and demonstrates strong leadership qualities can end up getting the full smear treat-

ment from the national and international press, as Representative Matt Shea of Washington State found out. In our article on Representative Shea (page 21), we note that he was the unenviable recipient of a full-blast smear campaign that included hit pieces from not only local and statewide media, but also from the Associated Press, *Newsweek*, Huffington Post, *Rolling Stone*, *The Hill*, the *New York Daily News*, *The Guardian* (U.K.), *Al Jazeera*, and the *Irish Times*.

Despite this extraordinary media ambush, Shea won reelection, taking 58.3 percent of the vote.

Zuckerberg Admits: "Extremely Left-leaning"

Then there's the Google-Facebook-Twitter complex and its social-media comrades in Silicon Valley. With more and more people getting their news through social media rather than the dinosaur media, the controls exercised by the Big Tech titans have become a major concern. It may be remembered that billionaire Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledged during testimony before the Senate Judiciary and Commerce Committees last April that the tech industry in Silicon Valley is an "extremely left-leaning place." But, he assured the senators, he tries to make sure his firm doesn't "have bias in the work that we do." Facebook, he said, is "a platform for all ideas."

Senator Ted Cruz was not convinced. "Mr. Zuckerberg, I will say there are a great many Americans, who I think are deeply concerned that Facebook and other tech companies are engaged in a pervasive pattern of bias and political censorship," Cruz said.

Senator Cruz went on, citing specific troubling cases, out of "numerous instances" of Facebook censoring, blocking, and suppressing conservative voices. "In May of 2016," Cruz stated, "Gizmodo reported that Facebook had purposefully and routinely suppressed conservative stories from trending news, including stories about CPAC, including stories about Mitt Romney, including stories about the Lois Lerner IRS scandal, including stories about Glenn Beck. In addition to that, Facebook has initially shut down the 'Chick-fil-A Appreciation



Fakebook deception: Billionaire CEO Zuckerberg admitted Silicon Valley is "extremely left-leaning," but told the Senate Facebook is not politically biased — then booted hundreds of websites.

whitehouse.gov



“Rock Star Beto”: Democrat “populist” Representative Robert “Beto” O’Rourke’s Senate campaign took in almost \$70 million, but reaped tens of millions of dollars more in adoring media coverage.

Day’ page, has blocked a post of a Fox News reporter, has blocked over two dozen Catholic pages, and most recently, blocked Trump supporters Diamond and Silk’s page with 1.2 million Facebook followers, after determining their content and brand were, ‘unsafe to the community.’ To a great many Americans, that appears to be a pervasive pattern of political bias.”

“Do you agree with that assessment?” Cruz asked the Facebook CEO. “Senator, let me say a few things about this,” Zuckerberg began. “First, I understand where that concern is coming from because Facebook and the tech industry are located in Silicon Valley, which is an extremely left-leaning place. And this is actually a concern that I have and that I try to root out in the company is making sure that we don’t have any bias in the work that we do, and I think it is a fair concern that people would at least wonder about.”

However, after making these empty assurances, Facebook has gone on a rampage in the months since to boot hundreds of websites off of its platform.

Is it simply an extraordinary coincidence that a great many of these sites happen to be of a conservative, constitutionalist, libertarian, or pro-life bent, and that they are supportive of President Trump and/or many of his policies? And is it another huge coincidence that this “deplatforming” of conservatives began during

the months leading into the critical midterm elections? Facebook is not alone; the other major social-media platforms have followed suit.

Most notable in this regard is the all-out deplatforming of Alex Jones and his Infowars media empire by Facebook, Apple, YouTube (owned by Google), Spotify, and others.

Reality seems to be clashing with the denials of Zuckerberg and other Silicon Valley denizens that they are engaged in political partisanship and censorship of views opposed to their “extremely left-leaning” agenda. As we reported online in October (“Big Tech Employees Spend Wildly on Dems Ahead of Midterms”), Federal Election Commission filings show that the employees of the three most influential tech companies — Google, Facebook, and Twitter — contributed millions of dollars in the recent midterms, with over 90 percent of it going to Democrat candidates. In other words, the GoogFaceTwit activists gave more than nine times as much to Democrats as Republicans.

Big Money-Dark Money Funding Radical Dems

“Democrats ride monster fundraising to take the House, GOP successfully picks its Senate battles.” That’s the title of a November 7 post-mortem of the midterms by OpenSecrets.org, a project of the Center for Responsive Politics. Far-left Demo-

crat Representative Robert Francis “Beto” O’Rourke, campaigning as a populist who eschewed Big Money donors, was the champion spender for the midterms, raising almost \$70 million (as of October 17) in his effort to unseat Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz. Despite outspending Cruz nearly two to one, and despite enjoying millions of dollars more in free publicity from an adoring media that presented him as a rock star and a romantic idealist, Beto lost to Cruz.

The Democrats’ cash tsunami did, however, significantly influence a number of House races. Money isn’t everything in a campaign, but it does matter.

“In what was the most expensive midterm election ever, a cash advantage didn’t always translate to success at the polls for congressional candidates,” the Open Secrets report notes. “Still, the candidate with more money won most of the time, and fundraising and outside spending trends appear to match up with election results.”

Open Secrets reports that “Democrats soundly took the House while outraging Republicans by more than \$300 million. Republicans picked up several seats in the Senate despite being outraged overall, but in key toss-up Senate races in red states, candidate fundraising and outside spending totals were generally close.”

“Eighty-nine percent of House races were won by the biggest spender, compared to 84 percent of Senate races,” the report continues. “When factoring in outside money and fundraising, the House candidate supported by more money won 91 percent of the time and the better-funded Senate candidate won 84 percent of the time.”

And the “progressives” who are always hollering about “Republican Dark Money” in elections, are shown once again to be masters of dark money funding. Michael Bloomberg, George and Alexander Soros, Tom Steyer, Herb Sandler, Bernard Schwartz, Rob Reiner, Norman Lear, and other deep-pocket donors have shoveled out hundreds of millions of dollars to Democrats in the midterm election cycle, both directly and through their secretive dark money spigots, such as the Democracy Alliance. They are getting keyed up for an even bigger cash attack on our electoral system in 2020. ■



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Why the Hullabaloo Over State Representative Matt Shea?

A last-minute, all-out smear attack by local, state, national, and international media failed to defeat the courageous legislator. But why did they attack him in the first place?



mattshea.houseRepublicans.wa.gov/

by William F. Jasper

The 2018 midterm election cycle saw a repeat — and in many ways an escalation — of the left-wing political violence and mayhem of the 2016 elections: Antifa rioting in the streets; Indivisible occupying and disrupting congressional offices and town hall meetings; and Maxine Waters’ cadres stalking and terrorizing Republican officeholders and conservative pundits at restaurants, supermarkets, and their homes. Did the media mavens and pundits of the press scold and denounce this violence and incivility? To the contrary, when not covering up or soft-pedaling the Left’s criminal antics, the media moralizers often egged them on with stories that justified the violence as expressions of righteous anger. That was to be expected. The Never-Trump “Resistance” — politicians, media, academics, professional organizers, paid agitators — had already announced even before Donald Trump’s inauguration that they were going

to war, and that the 2018 midterms would be the first major battlefield. Their failure to scuttle Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court on October 6 — one month before the elections — further inflamed their road rage and Trump Derangement Syndrome. So House and Senate races became the battlegrounds, with conservative GOP incumbents and challengers on the receiving end of hostile coverage by the always-leftist “mainstream” media. Again, that was expected, since — short of an actual coup d’état or assassination — taking back the House and/or the Senate would be key to thwarting President Trump’s America First agenda, protecting Robert Mueller’s Trump-Russia witch hunt, initiating impeachment, putting a “progressive” Democrat in the White House in 2020 — and much more.

Given the stakes, the all-out media onslaught against House and Senate conservatives was normal and predictable. Not so predictable — at least for those viewing from afar and focused on national

politics — was the massive media attack on a little-known state representative from Spokane Valley, Washington. Why is the Fake News Industrial Complex so alarmed over five-term State Representative Matt Shea that it would expend huge salvos of slime and digital dung in a last-ditch effort to unseat him?

There are 7,383 state legislators spread across our 50 states. Why did the leftist pundits and reporters of the “mainstream” media go especially apoplectic over one particular representative from Washington State? And why did they time their swarm of alarmist smear attacks to appear strategically in the days and hours immediately preceding the November 6 election?

Like most conservative Republicans, Representative Matt Shea has faced adversarial coverage from much of the regional and statewide media from the get-go. However, Shea’s outspoken leadership on a host of issues — abortion, the Second Amendment, property rights, traditional marriage, limited government, federal usurpation, strict adherence to the Constitution — has earned the legislator, attorney, radio talk-show host, and decorated combat veteran the attention of the big guns of the national media. But it was his presence at the Bundy Ranch standoff in 2014 and the Oregon Malheur Refuge standoff in 2016 that particularly seem to have made him a marked man.

Representative Shea is a co-founder and the current chairman of the Coalition of Western States (COWS), an organization that aims to transfer public lands back to the states. He believes in “interposition,” the duty of public officials to peaceably interpose themselves between citizens and government bureaucrats or agencies that are harassing and oppressing them. However, when Shea and other legislators intervened to de-escalate those confrontations, their political critics and the media

Like most of the other media smearers against conservatives, patriots, and constitutionalists, Sotille invokes the supposed authority of the discredited far-left smear merchants of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

portrayed them as dangerous fire-breathers leading an armed terrorist militia.

Thus, the media herd responded with an all-out push in the last days before this year's critical midterm election to oust him from office. The Associated Press, *Newsweek*, Huffington Post, *Rolling Stone*, *The Hill*, and *New York Daily News* (to name a few) have targeted Representative Matt Shea in a barrage of stories aimed at branding him as "dangerous," "extremist," "racist," "anti-government," "homophobic," "Islamophobic," "xenophobic," and a "conspiracy theorist."

These attacks are in addition to an onslaught by the *Seattle Times*, the *Spokesman-Review*, *The Olympian*, *The News Tribune*, Spokane Public Radio (an NPR member), and other Washington print and broadcast organs. Even the international press got into the Shea bashing, with articles in *The Guardian* (U.K.), *Al Jazeera*, and the *Irish Times*.

An October 23 *Rolling Stone* article entitled "Something's Brewing in the Deep Red West" helped kick off the pre-

election day media bombardment. Shea represents Washington State's eastern divide of what is often referred to as the "Cascade Curtain": the Blue Democrat coastal areas versus the Red Republican side of the Cascade Mountains; the liberal-left Seattle-Olympia-Microsoft-Starbucks urbanites versus the more conservative rural and small-town populations of the eastern end of the state, which is dominated by Spokane.

Rolling Stone reporter Leah Sotille was obviously disappointed when Representative Shea didn't provide her with the incendiary responses she was hoping for to reinforce the negative stereotype her media allies have crafted for him.

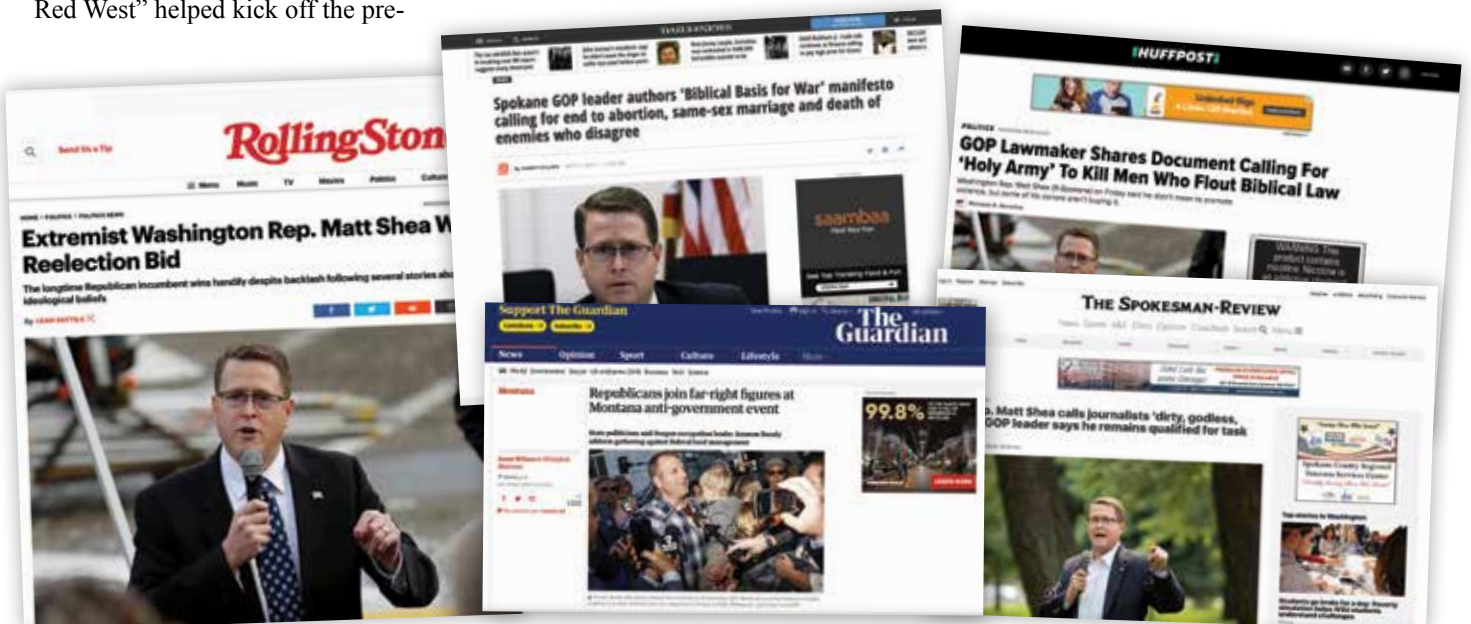
"Downtown Seattle just does not represent the values, traditions, cultures and beliefs of those folks in Eastern Washington," Representative Shea reportedly told her during a rally in Spokane. "Downtown Seattle comes out with a carbon-tax increase, or a sugar tax, or a property-tax increase,

or an employee head tax.... A lot of folks over here are having a hard time getting by — they don't need more tax increases."

Sotille was sure that these reasonable-sounding objections are merely cover for a much more "extremist" agenda. "He gives me the boilerplate answers that are likely what have allowed him to get re-elected time and again," she wrote. "On the surface, there's nothing shocking. But scratch a little deeper, and you see an extremist hiding in plain sight."

And of course, the *Rolling Stone* writer was there to scratch and scratch and scratch until she finds something warranting the extremist label. Matt Shea, a five-term state representative, was on track for winning a sixth term, and in addition to his growing stature among liberty-loving patriots nationwide, was also well positioned for possible future advancement to a seat in the U.S. Congress. That has a lot of liberal-left Democrats and mushy, establishment Republicans very alarmed.

Like most of the other media smearers against conservatives, patriots, and constitutionalists, Sotille invokes the supposed authority of the discredited far-left smear merchants of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). And *Rolling Stone* is such a serious, nonpartisan, unbiased publication, right? Deserving of great respect, right? Yes, this is the same venerable,



Intense hate campaign: Media leftists in the local, state, national, and international press waged an all-out effort to defeat Representative Shea.



Eyeing higher office? Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, who has become Matt Shea's leading antagonist, reportedly wants to run for Congress and sees Shea as his top competitor.

serious *Rolling Stone* that features, on its current cover, a naked Zoe Kravitz in a Playboy-style pose.

On November 4, the Associated Press came out with a story that was carried on the Huffington Post and many other "news" outlets under the title "GOP Lawmaker Shares Document Calling For 'Holy Army' To Kill Men Who Flout Biblical Law." Now, that sounds pretty serious, no?

Here's the opening salvo in the article:

A Republican lawmaker in Washington state denied Friday that he is racist or a white nationalist for distributing a document describing how a "Holy Army" should kill people who flout biblical law.

State Rep. Matt Shea of Spokane Valley in conservative eastern Washington has been under fire since he acknowledged in a Facebook video last week that he had distributed the four-page document titled, "Biblical Basis for War" to some of his supporters.

The document condemns abortion and same-sex marriage and describes how those who don't follow biblical law should be punished. At one point, the document says, "If they do not yield, kill all males."

News of the document prompted several of Shea's political contributors to demand refunds of their donations.

"I have consistently and unequivocally condemned racism, anti-Semitism and white nationalism and do so

again," Shea said in a Friday tweet.

He said his critics were involved in a "ridiculous smear" to derail his election to a sixth term in the state House, where he has served since his election in 2008.

The AP smear was repeated in other articles that make it appear that Representative Shea authored a "manifesto" that advocates killing people who disagree with his biblical view. One of the worst examples of this misrepresentation was a *New York Daily News* story by Nancy Dillon that appeared on October 31, entitled "Spokane GOP leader authors 'Biblical Basis for War' manifesto calling for end to abortion, same-sex marriage and death of enemies who disagree."

The "manifesto," writes Dillon, "includes multiple biblical citations and says vanquished enemies must 'stop all abortions,' disavow Communism, prohibit same-sex marriage and 'obey Biblical law.' If they do not yield — 'kill all males,' the document reads."

All of these statements are misquotes or have been ripped totally out of context, Representative Shea told *THE NEW AMERICAN* in a telephone interview. The so-called manifesto, he says, is actually text from a talk he delivered on the Christian doctrine and theory of "Just War" practices. In the course of his address, he quoted the harsh Old Testament injunctions. He was not, he says, advocating the same application, and his media opponents know that.

Shea charges that they are using his cita-

tions from Deuteronomy and other books of the Old Testament to make it appear that he advocates murder of homosexuals, abortionists, and others with whom he disagrees. "They're using Deuteronomy to make it sound like I'm a domestic terrorist," he told *THE NEW AMERICAN*, "but they're not going to silence me on this."

We note that Representative Shea's media ordeal in this regard is a repeat of the many media/SPLC attacks on pastors, preachers, and other Christian leaders who have cited the strict Old Testament penalties against homosexuality, not to advocate the same punishment today, but to demonstrate the severity of God's condemnation of perversion.

Like the *Rolling Stone* piece and many of the other recent broadsides against Shea, the *New York Daily News* hit piece quotes Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, who has become Shea's full-time critic and nemesis. "This document is not a sermon, this is a 'how to' manual for what they plan to do if there's ever civil war or a government collapse," he says, referring to what the media are calling Shea's manifesto. "These people are focused on the apocalypse. And quite frankly, they're happy to push that into happening."

According to Shea, Sheriff Knezovich has been trying to characterize him as a "white nationalist" and a "domestic terrorist" for some time now. Many of Knezovich's early supporters have been increasingly concerned about his leftward drift, and particularly his virulent opposition to Shea.

When this writer delivered a speech exposing the Southern Poverty Law Center in Spokane in 2012, Representative Shea gave my introduction. Sheriff Knezovich was in attendance. After the presentation, the sheriff asked to speak to me. We met in the forum vestibule, and in a brief conversation, he complimented me on my lecture and said he agreed with what I had to say. However, in recent years, he seems to be more and more regurgitating the SPLC propaganda and adopting the politically correct tones that are playing so well with the establishment media.

Another charge that appears in many of the recent attacks is that Representative Shea associates with the Marble Community Fellowship, a rural Christian congregation in Stevens County deemed racist. He has been a featured speaker at their

Sotille preaches “civility” and pretends to be greatly concerned about the coarseness, polarization, and the growing problem of “hate” in our political culture. However, she seems to find no problem with the intemperate language of Ted Cummings, the left-leaning Democrat.

annual Fourth of July God and Country Celebration. The media “throw around this ‘white nationalist’ label concerning Marble, but they have two black pastors, American Indians, and at least one Jewish member, I believe, so the charge of ‘white nationalism’ falls on its face,” he told *THE NEW AMERICAN*.

“They claim I am inciting violence, but the media’s constant attacks and lies are what’s stirring up hatred and violence,” Shea points out, noting that he has been the victim of death threats, insults, and calumny, as a result of the ongoing media bombardment. But he notes, the inordinate media attention must mean that he has hit some of the right targets. “You know you’ve arrived when even *Al Jazeera* and *The Guardian* are blasting you,” he joked.

Jim Robinson, a longtime Shea supporter (and former aide) in the Spokane area says the current media onslaught “shows they’re afraid Matt’s message is gaining four-wheel-drive traction with an expanding constituency.”

“The media titans can see he has struck a nerve,” he told *THE NEW AMERICAN*.

“They know there is a large segment of America that is on the same moral frequency, and they’re afraid that he will educate, motivate, and activate that segment. They’re doing everything they can to stop and defeat him. Some voters may buy into the media propaganda. But all of these attacks and false charges are also motivating Matt’s volunteers to work harder and providing more incentive for his voters to come out to the polls. In some ways, it will backfire in Matt Shea’s favor.”

The total impact of the media smear barrage on the campaign is hard to judge, at this point, but when the votes were counted on November 6, Shea was the winner, with 58.3 percent of the vote.

Rolling Stone’s Leah Sotille, who takes credit for helping launch the bombardment of Shea, was none too happy. Her November 7 story entitled “Extremist Washington Rep. Matt Shea Wins Reelection Bid” carried the subtitle, “The longtime Republican incumbent wins handily despite backlash following several stories about his ideological beliefs.”

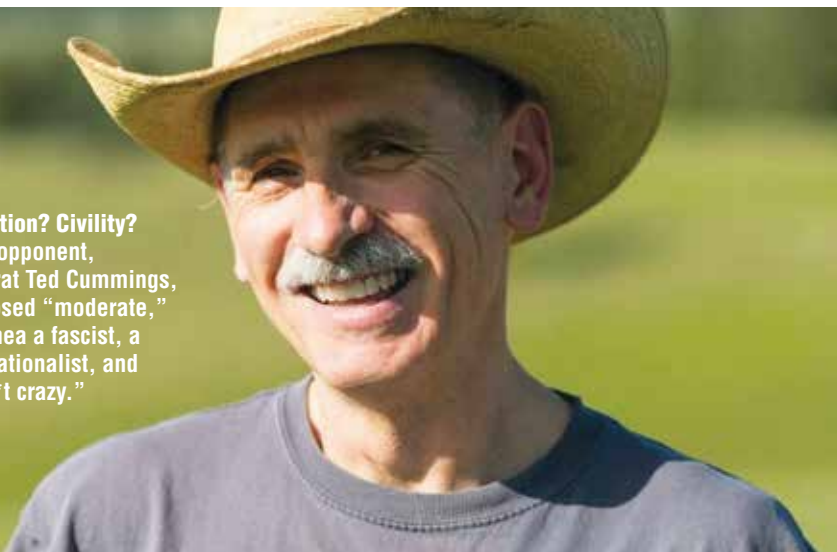
Like so many in her inky fraternity, So-

tille preaches “civility” and pretends to be greatly concerned about the coarseness, polarization, and growing problem of “hate” in our political culture. However, she seems to find no problem with the intemperate language of Ted Cummings, the left-leaning Democrat who ran against Matt Shea. “I lost to a fascist — what can I say?” Cummings reportedly told Sotille. He vowed to run again, asserting, “I’m not going to let my home be a haven for hate and white nationalists.”

“I’m going to run again and I’m going to try twice as hard, and I’m not going to ever stop until he’s a private citizen back in his basement worried about aliens,” Cummings said. “He’s just bat***t crazy. I’m not going to be polite, and I’m not going to sugar-coat it. He’s a coward and a bully and an embarrassment — and I hope you put that in print.” Sotille obliged, sans any reproach about civil discourse — or any mention of Cummings’ political baggage, such as his endorsement by the radical activists of Indivisible, Planned Parenthood, and other leftist organizations. Like virtually all Democrats running in conservative Republican districts, Cummings portrays himself as a conservative, patriotic, family-values guy. On his campaign website, he describes himself as a “devout Catholic.” Yes, like Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, Jerry Brown, Tim Kaine, and many other “devout Catholics” in politics who tout their religion when politically expedient — while ignoring their church’s teachings and precepts. Cummings received endorsements from the Progressive Voters Guide, Planned Parenthood, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), the National Organization for Women, the Sierra Club, and the radical unionists of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), American Federation of Teachers, and Washington State Labor Council. Mentioning these connections would hurt Cummings’ efforts to woo Shea voters, so naturally, Sotille obligingly covered for him. Ditto for the rest of the “impartial,” “non-partisan” media.

However, the media malfeasance in assisting Cummings and relentlessly hammering Shea did not play out as the “progressives” had hoped. Washington voters sent Shea another vote of confidence. The ambush failed, and Matt Shea is still riding tall in the saddle, on his way to a sixth term in office. ■

Moderation? Civility?
Shea’s opponent, Democrat Ted Cummings, a supposed “moderate,” calls Shea a fascist, a white nationalist, and “bat***t crazy.”



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THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CLERGY

Abuse Scandal



Is a Lavender Mafia at the root of the sex-abuse crisis rocking the Barque of Peter? A homosexual subculture wields great power in the Catholic Church.

by *Rebecca Terrell*

Numerous state attorneys general are opening investigations into clergy sex abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in the wake of Pennsylvania's grand jury report released in August, cataloging allegations of heinous sex crimes across the state over more than 70 years. On the heels of that bombshell came an 11-page *Testimony* — followed by addenda in September and October — by a Vatican prelate-turned-whistleblower, accusing Pope Francis of helping cover up sexual misconduct among high-ranking church ecclesiastics and calling on the pontiff to resign.

Once at the reporting end of the 2012 Vatileaks scandal, retired Archbishop Carl Maria Vigano specifically targeted 83-year-old ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, whose decades-long priestly and episcopal career is riddled with scandal. Vigano claims Pope Francis lifted canonical sanctions imposed by Pope Benedict XVI on McCarrick intended to remove him from public ministry,

despite Vatican knowledge of the cardinal's "gravely immoral" history. Vigano also indicted Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who resigned as archbishop of Washington, D.C., in October amid accusations that he did not stop abuse in Pennsylvania, where he served as bishop from 1988 until 2006.

With other states launching investigations into alleged clerical sex crimes and coverup, should we wonder what their research will reveal? In 2001, a year before accounts of systemic perversion came to light in Boston, *Crisis Magazine* reported, "Without exception, every one of the 188 dioceses in the American Catholic Church has faced or is facing claims of child sex abuse."

While the Pennsylvania report alleges more than 300 priest predators and 1,000 victims in six of the state's eight dioceses, perhaps most disturbing is the longevity of this outrage if the "credible allegations" are true. The grand jury lamented that "almost every instance of abuse we found is too old to be prosecuted" due to expired statutes of limitation. "We heard from plenty of victims who are now in their 50's, 60's, 70's, and even one who was 83 years old," and

many of the accused are already deceased.

The tales of abuse are nauseating: teen and pre-pubescent victims, mostly boys, manipulated with alcohol or pornography, groped, raped, and persuaded through often blasphemous tactics to perform vile and unmentionable acts. Many of these crimes cannot be discounted as mere incidents of gossip-mongering since they are recorded in church archives. In relating how diocesan officials "managed" typical complaint cases, the grand jury wrote:

The main thing was not to help children, but to avoid "scandal." That is not our word, but theirs; it appears over and over again in the documents we recovered. Abuse complaints were kept locked up in a "secret archive." That is not our word, but theirs; the church's Code of Canon Law specifically requires the diocese to maintain such an archive.

Such routine misuse of a bishop's confidential records — intended by canon law to play the same role as personnel files



In the spotlight: (From left) Archbishop Carl Maria Vigano, ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, and Cardinal Blase Cupich.

in any private corporation, not to cover up criminal wrongdoing — already has prompted Pennsylvania to pass a law requiring the state’s dioceses to immediately forward any sex abuse complaints to the district attorney. (Incidentally, nothing in canon law prevents a bishop from granting archive access to civil authorities.) Federal Bureau of Investigation analysis confirmed that the dioceses in question typically covered up complaints with euphemisms, sham investigations, absurd psychiatric treatment, and/or transfer of an accused priest “to a new location where no one will know he is a child abuser.”

It is important to note that these odious crimes claim two types of victims: Some are innocent young people, but others are innocent priests falsely accused. A review of all cases in the 2002 scandal revealed “the sobering figure that one third of accused priests in the Archdiocese of Boston were accused falsely,” according to Dave Pierre of NewsBusters.org, in a *Catholic World Report* interview. Investigators say this phenomenon increases proportionate to self-reporting versus parental reporting, proving the value of current statutes of limitation and recalling that not every accusation is gospel truth. Moreover, let’s not forget that all priests are victimized

by this scandal. To the general public, the Roman collar has unjustly become akin to Hester Prynne’s scarlet letter.

But many cases are factual; some even involve admission by the abusers of wrongdoing. Equally deplorable is the evidence of deceit by Catholic hierarchy. Who are these men perverting the Roman Catholic Church?

The Subversive Agenda

“Understand there is an intentional and malicious infiltration of the Church for the purpose of destroying Her from within,” warned Minnesota priest Father Robert Altier in a recent sermon. “When I was in the seminary, if you were not homosexual or radical feminist, you were in big trouble. One of the professors actually was arrogant enough to stand up in front of the class and say, ‘Martin Luther had the right idea, but he did it the wrong way. He left the Church. You can’t change the Church from the outside. You can only change it from the inside, so we’re not leaving.’” Altier lamented, “So these are people with an agenda.... They have been extraordinarily successful.”

“I was a first-year seminarian forty years ago and heard many stories about the homosexual exploits of then Bishop McCarrick,” writes Father Gordon MacRae. “The stories were not passed around by seminarians who saw themselves as victims, but by young gay men who boasted of currying narcissistic favor with a bishop. I knew decades ago that Cardinal McCarrick had been strongly advised by the Apostolic Nuncio to sell his scandalous beach house.” This quote comes from MacRae’s award-winning blog *These Stone Walls*, which chronicles his past 24 years living in a New Hampshire prison, serving a life sentence for alleged crimes of sexual abuse, which his diocese settled for hundreds of thousands of dollars notwithstanding evidence of fraud. MacRae maintains his innocence despite a plea bargain’s promise of only one year in prison if he asserted guilt.

Altier and MacRae shed an important light on stories raging through major media about the so-called pedophilia crisis. As Maureen Mullarkey pointed out at *The Federalist* in September, “With few exceptions, sexual abuse by priests has been visited overwhelmingly upon pubescent boys and young men, most often teenagers. This is pederasty, not pedophilia. And pederasty is endemic to gay culture.”

Pederasty — a homosexual relationship between an adult and a pubescent or adolescent — has long been declared a right by the homosexual movement. The January 1979 *Gay Community News* in Boston contained this blatant admission by well-known pro-pederast/pro-pedophile activist David Thorstad: “We should present ourselves not merely as defenders of our own personal rights to privacy and sexual expression, but as the champions of the right of all persons — regardless of age — to engage in the sexuality of their choice.”

The tales of abuse are nauseating: teen and even pre-pubescent victims, mostly boys, manipulated with alcohol or pornography, groped, raped, and persuaded through often blasphemous tactics to perform vile and unmentionable acts.

Pederasty ran rampant in the 16th century, when Pope Saint Pius V issued his 1568 edict entitled “*Horrendum Illud Scelus*” (“That Horrible Crime”), ordering that “any priest or member of the clergy ... who commits such an execrable crime ... be deprived of every clerical privilege, of every post, dignity and ecclesiastical benefice, and having been degraded by an ecclesiastical judge, let him be immediately delivered to the secular authority.” Five hundred years prior, when a similar epidemic plagued the 11th-century church, Pope Saint Leo IX decreed the excommunication and permanent removal of guilty priests. He recalled and approved of the church’s fourth-century penalties for clerics who molested young men: public whipping and six months imprisonment, followed by a life of monastic solitude and fasting in permanent custody of two other monks to prevent contact with young people. What a striking contrast to the current pontiff’s response when queried about sodomitical priests in 2013. “Who am I to judge?” he shrugged.

Pederasty also plagued the 20th-century church, an epidemic well known to U.S. bishops since at least the 1950s. The story came to light in 2007 when a New Mexico judge opened sealed papers of Father Gerald Fitzgerald during litigation against the church. Fitzgerald founded a religious order in 1947 that ran retreat houses for

priests struggling with alcoholism and substance abuse. At first he also treated those who had sexually abused minors, but soon explained to his archbishop, “Experience has taught us these men are too dangerous to the children of the parish and neighborhood for us to be justified in receiving them here.” Fitzgerald instead planned a private island retreat where he could sequester and treat sexual predator priests, whom he called “vipers.” As early as 1952, he began warning bishops about dangers in their dioceses and begging them to remove the offenders from public ministry. “These men, Your Excellency, are devils, and the wrath of God is upon them, and if I were a bishop I would tremble when I failed to report them to Rome for involuntary layization [*sic*],” he wrote in 1957. “We are amazed to find how often a man who would be behind bars if he were not a priest is entrusted with the *cura animarum* [care of souls].” Fitzgerald personally delivered warnings to the Vatican in 1962 and 1963. Yet it was not until 2002 that American bishops, gathering in Dallas, Texas, signed their *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, requiring bishops to remove predator priests from public ministry.

Bishop Blase Cupich chaired that Dallas committee. In 2009, he told the *New York Times* that the reason Father Fitzgerald’s warnings went unheeded for 50 years was

that the priest’s “views ... were considered bizarre” with regard to his insistence that these priests should be segregated from society and removed from public ministry for life. He also said that cases of sexually abusive priests were considered rare.

In 2016, Pope Francis elevated Cupich to the College of Cardinals. He and now-shamefaced Cardinal Wuerl are the only American members of the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops, charged with overseeing the episcopal ministry worldwide. Yet Cupich is one of those Vigano implicated; he described the cardinal as “blinded by his pro-gay ideology” and noted that upon his appointment to the see of Chicago, Cupich obtusely asserted that homosexuality is not the main source of clergy sexual abuse.

In the cardinal’s response to Vigano’s *Testimony*, he referenced a 2011 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). “The clinical data do not support the hypothesis that priests with a homosexual identity ... are significantly more likely to abuse children than those with a heterosexual orientation,” researchers concluded.

“What seriously mars the report is its ideological reluctance to deal forthrightly with the role of homosexuality,” wrote William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. Shocked at the conclusion vindicating sodomy, he says the report’s clinical data stand in stark opposition. Eighty-one percent of the victims were male, mostly post-pubescent, and the researchers even admitted, “The majority of priests who were given residential treatment following an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor also reported sexual behavior with adult partners,” most of whom were male.

Seminaries Infested

Nevertheless, Pope Francis has asked Cupich to lead a week-long spiritual retreat in January “as the U.S. bishops continue their work to address the current U.S. clergy sex abuse crisis,” USCCB said in a statement. Mundelein Seminary in suburban Chicago is slated as host — a curious venue considering that the school is a notorious homosexual hotbed. Father Wayne Wurst first outed Mundelein in 1996 on Chicago radio, describing a homosexual network among



John Martin

Alternative lifestyle? In the past, popes have consistently reminded the faithful that God punished sins of sodomy by destroying entire cities such as Sodom and Gomorrah with fire.

“Understand there is an intentional and malicious infiltration of the Church for the purpose of destroying Her from within,” warned Minnesota priest Father Robert Altier in a recent sermon.

upper-classmen who regularly supplied faculty members with “fresh meat” from the ranks of younger students. “There were madams, pimps and prostitutes all in a major seminary system that, from the outside ... would look very holy,” Wurst said, adding that “a large number of students had been convinced by some liberal teachers that sexual promiscuity with the same sex was not a violation of celibacy.”

That quote is taken from Michael Rose’s 2002 book *Goodbye, Good Men*, which prominently features Mundelein in its chapter on “The Gay Subculture” infecting Catholic seminaries. Wurst was speaking of the 1970s, but things haven’t gotten better. Rose chronicles the story of Joseph Kellenyi, a Mundelein seminarian in the late 1990s. “One hall in the seminary dorm is nicknamed the ‘Catwalk,’ known as the residence of the more fashionable gays,” Kellenyi recalled.

Rose interviewed other former students and graduates of the school who identified “the gay subculture ... [as] the dominant culture at Mundelein.” The faculty

“wined and dined,” sheltered, and promoted homosexual seminarians, while orthodox students were harassed, suppressed, or driven away.

Mundelein is no exception to the rule. Interviewing dozens of priests and seminarians, Rose found

this “gay subculture” is so prominent at certain seminaries that these institutions have earned nicknames such as Notre Flame (for Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans) and Theological Closet (for Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.). St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore has earned the nickname the “Pink Palace.”

One of the priests Rose interviewed, Father Andrew Walter, echoing the sentiments of many, described an intense, overt, and threatening atmosphere. “This is not just about homosexuality; this is about an agenda,” Walter asserted. “These people are promoting this conflict.”

Such is the contention of Father Donald Cozzens in his 2000 book *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*, in which he identified “a heterosexual exodus from the priesthood” due in part to unrestrained homosexuality in seminaries. He warned that the problem would only grow since the resulting perverse culture would repulse heterosexual males from pursuing vocations.

Former U.S. Army officer Father Norman Weslin also wrote a book in 2000, about the homosexual infiltration of Sacred Heart Seminary in Wisconsin. “Those heterosexuals who objected were singled out for psychiatric evaluation,” he wrote.

The “Gay Lobby”

In 1982, Father Enrique Rueda published his earth-shattering exposé *The Homosexual Network: Private Lives and Public Policy*. Using information from homosexual organizations in the United States, Father Rueda uncovered a systemic, well-planned, and well-funded infiltration of sodomites into church leadership throughout the country — in many denominations, including the Catholic Church — which began in 1924. Writing for EWTN.com in 2002, Connie Marshner summed up some of Rueda’s meticulously documented and damning evidence:

At one point in the late 70s, a key staffer at the Office of Public Affairs and Information of the U.S. Catholic Conference/National Conference of Catholic Bishops was a leader of the Washington, D.C., homosexual movement as well as president of Dignity, the pressure group which seeks to force the Catholic Church to relate to homosexuals according to the tenets of the homosexual ideology.

The name of the fair city of Boston appears frequently in Fr. Rueda’s pages, giving it the dubious distinction of being the birthplace of NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association (an interesting coincidence in light of subsequent developments). Also interesting to note is that one Fr. Paul Shanley attended the NAMBLA convention in Boston, supposedly on behalf of the then-Cardinal Archbishop, Medeiros.

The Other Side of the Altar: One Man’s



Pederasty vs. pedophilia: Most clergy scandals are not cases of pedophilia (involving prepubescents) but pederasty (men preying on teen boys), which is rife in homosexual culture.



usmi.edu

Venial venue? Cardinal Blase Cupich will lead a week-long spiritual retreat for U.S. bishops in January at one of the most notorious Catholic universities in the country, Mundelein Seminary.

Life in the Catholic Priesthood by former priest Paul Edward Dinter, released in 2002, describes a post-seminary culture similar to that found within college walls, masked in secrecy and subverted by a power elite that protects and enables systematic abuse. *Vanity Fair* printed a shocking smut piece in 2013 called “The Vatican’s Secret Life,” unmasking a “powerful ‘gay lobby’” and spreading gossip about a cardinal “whose long-term partner is a well-known minister in a Protestant denomination,” a monsignor “nicknamed ‘Jessica’ who likes to visit a pontifical university and pass out his business card to 25-year-old novices,” and a priest who “loves to dish male colleagues with campy female nicknames,” among other lewd descriptions of “the hidden netherworld” polluting today’s Vatican.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI brings up the “gay lobby” in his memoirs. Pope Francis confirmed the existence of this so-called Lavender Mafia in June 2013 when he told a private audience about a “current of corruption” and said, “The ‘gay lobby’ is mentioned, and it is true, it is there.... We need to see what we can do.” In late 2016, he reissued a 2005 ban on admitting homosexuals to Catholic seminaries, and warned Italian bishops to carefully vet applicants, rejecting anyone suspected of homosexual tendencies.

So when Catholic hierarchs such as Cupich and Wuerl say that they were unaware of problems, their claims are not just suspect but ludicrous and scandalous.

But how dare we blame homosexuality? Drowning as we are in the amoral sewage of modern culture, homosexuality is merely an “alternative lifestyle” above reproach, removed from the American Psychiatric Association’s list of mental disorders in 1973, elevated to legally sanctioned status in 2015 by the U.S. Supreme Court, and even parlayed “into a protected species, more like black rhinos or orangutans than moral beings,” as Mullarkey posits.

Perennial Catholic values clash with such progressivism. “The Church’s teaching is clear that the homosexual inclination is not in itself sinful, but it is intrinsically disordered in a way that renders any man stably afflicted by it unfit to be a priest. And the decision to act upon this disordered inclination is a sin so grave that it cries out to heaven for vengeance,” writes Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, Wisconsin, in a letter to his flock following the Pennsylvania grand jury report. “It is time to admit that there is a homosexual subculture within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church that is wreaking great devastation in the vineyard of the Lord.”

The Deafening Papal Silence

Meanwhile, Catholics still wait for Francis to end his incriminating silence on Viganò’s accusations. So far the pontiff has denied nothing — except media’s subsequent inquiries. When asked by the press about the *Testimony*, he side-stepped, leaving listeners scratching their heads with this insipid reply:

Read the statement carefully yourselves, and make your own judgment. I am not going to say a word about this. I believe that the statement speaks for itself, and you all have sufficient journalistic ability to draw conclusions. It is an act of trust. When a little time goes by and you have drawn conclusions, perhaps I will speak about it. But I would like your professional maturity to do this work. It will do you all good. Really.

Some claim that was Francis’ way of saying, “I’m not going to dignify this with a response.” But is that appropriate considering the grave charges of sexual misconduct and deceit against officials in the highest echelons of the church — serious enough for a well-respected Vatican prelate to demand the pope’s resignation? What about the ubiquity of the crisis, involving scandals not just in the United States but in Canada, Chile, Honduras, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Bavaria, Australia, and elsewhere?

The pontiff already made a rather embarrassing public apology in June for robustly defending a bishop from Chile, Juan Barros, accused of covering up for a notorious abuser priest. The pope had sternly reproached Barros’ accusers for what he called their “calumny.” But when Barros resigned in disgrace, Francis had to apologize and admit a “culture of abuse and cover-up” among the Chilean hierarchy, who submitted written resignations at the same time as Barros. Francis has accepted two others.



AP Images

Lavender Mafia representative: Cardinal Gottfried Daneels (third from right), disgraced in 2010 over the clerical abuse coverup, appears with the newly elected pope on March 13, 2013. He later said the prayer at Francis' inauguration.

Believing they deserve an equally frank response from their pontiff, groups such as Catholic Men United for Christ and the Catholic Women's Forum have garnered tens of thousands of signatures on petitions imploring the pope to answer Viganò's charges immediately and warning him of the scandal his silence is causing. The only indirect answer they received came in early October when Francis authorized a "thorough investigation" of Holy See Archives regarding McCarrick, acknowledging that "it may emerge that choices were taken that would not be consonant with a contemporary approach to such issues." The Holy See added to frustrations when it put the brakes on a November USCCB meeting in Baltimore at which U.S. bishops planned to institute new standards of accountability and a special commission for receiving complaints. They complied with the Vatican's request to table plans in anticipation of the February 2019 Congregation of Bishops meeting in Rome, but they also asked the pope to immediately release all McCarrick-related documents.

Meanwhile, Francis blames "clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons" for the abuse crisis. Clericalism — an ambiguous term in Catholic circles — is left undefined in his August "Letter to the People of God." Also glaringly omitted is acknowledgment of the homosexual issue, mention of the part bishops have played in the

scandal, or steps Francis intends to take beyond asking Catholics to "create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening."

Is it really his flock's duty to end the crisis, or his own? "It is the Roman Pontiff, the Holy Father, who has the responsibility to discipline these situations," Cardinal Raymond Burke told LifeSite News, "and it is he who needs to take action following the procedures that are given in the Church's discipline. This is what will address the situation effectively."

Perhaps Francis' soft spot for liberal causes, long extolled by major media, ties his tongue and prevents him taking decisive action. "Since the start of his papacy, Francis has infuriated Catholic traditionalists as he tries to nurture a more welcoming church and shift it away from culture war issues, whether abortion or homosexuality," says the *New York Times*. Writing on Ricochet.com, Hillsdale College history professor Paul A. Rahe noted:

As a Belgian cardinal named Gottfried Daneels — who had been removed [in 2010] as an archbishop because he had covered up the pederasty of another Belgian cardinal and had come out in support of contraception, divorce, gay marriage, euthanasia, and abortion — revealed in his memoirs, Bergoglio's [Francis'] candidacy was promoted by the St. Gallen Group, a part of what Catho-

lics call "the Lavender Mafia." This disgraced figure stood on the balcony with Bergoglio after he was elected pope. He was chosen to say the prayer at the new pope's inauguration.

Papal biographer Austen Ivereigh, an avid supporter of Pope Francis, writes flatteringly of the St. Gallen Group in *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope* as a clique of Vatican clerics opposed to traditional church teaching on homosexuality and other issues such as those Rahe listed. Ivereigh describes then-Cardinal Bergoglio — now Pope Francis — as hand-picked by this inner circle of the Lavender Mafia, whose members commandeered the Vatican's Synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015, which culminated in Francis' infamous *Amoris Laetitia*. In a critical analysis of that document, theologians worldwide denounced it as containing numerous heretical propositions and "pos[ing] a grave danger to the faith and morals of Catholics."

Is it reasonable to credit the conspiracy of silence over clerical abuse to the St. Gallen Group, a.k.a. the Lavender Mafia? Viganò wrote, "These homosexual networks, which are now widespread in many dioceses, seminaries, religious orders, etc., act under the concealment of secrecy and lies with the power of octopus tentacles, and strangle innocent victims and priestly vocations, and are strangling the entire Church." If his accusations prove true, Viganò would be justified in calling for the pope's resignation. In a letter harshly rebuking Viganò for criticizing the pope, Vatican prelate Cardinal Marc Ouellet confirmed that Francis' predecessor placed "conditions and restrictions" on McCarrick owing to his scandalous past. Yet since Francis' election in 2013, McCarrick has made official visits to China, Morocco, Iraq, and Iran; publicly celebrated masses with cardinals and bishops; and attended board meetings for the Papal Foundation and Catholic Relief Services.

Pope Francis said to his bishops on launching the current McCarrick investigation: "Both abuse and its cover-up can no longer be tolerated and a different treatment for Bishops who have committed or covered up abuse ... is no longer acceptable." Will he hold himself to identical standards? Only time will tell. ■

Child Abuse: Not Just a Catholic Problem

The Catholic Church gets the spotlight, but child sexual abuse is rife in many religious and secular organizations.



kal19 / E+/GettyImagesPlus

School safety? The U.S. Department of Education reports that “nearly 9.6 percent of [public school] students are targets of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career.”

by Rebecca Terrell

“Protestants can be very arrogant when pointing to Catholics,” opined Liberty University law professor Basyle Tchividjian. “I think we are worse.” During a Religion Newswriters Association conference in Austin, Texas he called the Christian mission field a “magnet” for sex abusers. Tchividjian is the grandson of late Southern Baptist minister Billy Graham and founder of the non-profit GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). As chief prosecutor for Florida’s Sexual Crimes Division and attorney for the Child Advocacy Center in Daytona Beach, he discovered that abuse is prevalent in Protestant evangelical circles. Just as some Catholic bishops reassign accused priests to new parishes, Protestant abusers jump from one church or agency to another, leaving a path of victims.

The problem is even worse in public schools. A U.S. Department of Education researcher estimated in 2004 that “physical sexual abuse of students in schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests.”

Media’s double standard is glaring. Dave Pierre of NewsBusters.org told *Catholic*

World Report he began to notice an alarming trend in the *Los Angeles Times*. “The *Times* was often giving front-page coverage to stories about Catholic priests alleged to have committed abuse decades ago. Meanwhile, arrests of public school teachers for abuse happening today were often not reported or buried in the ‘news briefs’ section.”

Further research resulted in Pierre’s 2011 book, *Double Standard: Abuse Scandals and the Attack on the Catholic Church*. It details widespread media bias and asserts that with its current screening procedures and protocols, the church is a much safer environment for children than schools and other religious organizations.

If that sounds implausible, consider statistics from SESAME (Stop Educator Sexual Abuse Misconduct & Exploitation), which reports that “one in ten K-12 students is a victim of educator sexual misconduct.” One child molester can have between 70 and 400 victims in his or her lifetime, according to various child advocacy groups.

The problem isn’t new. A 1998 *Education Week* article reported, “It is no secret in education circles that these itinerant abusers, often called ‘mobile molesters,’ are abetted by school officials who let them

quietly slip away when allegations arise. This practice of ‘passing the trash’ has attracted rising criticism in recent years.”

Criticism was obviously short-lived. Fast forward to 2017 when the Children’s Center for Psychiatry, Psychology & Related Services reported that “sexual abuse by teachers is on the rise.” In one year alone, nationwide nearly 500 educators were arrested for sexual abuse of minors. Contrast this with Pennsylvania’s grand jury findings of 301 Catholic priests accused (not necessarily guilty) over more than 70 years. Where is media outcry against public-school scandals?

Let’s not forget Hollywood. Women make headlines alleging sexual assault against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and comedian Bill Cosby. But media reaction to former child star Corey Feldman — who warned in 2011 that pedophilia is Hollywood’s “big secret” and “number one problem,” describing a powerful sex-abuse ring among movie executives — has been icy at best. Film star Elijah Wood, who also grew up in Tinseltown, received a similar cold stare in 2016 when he spoke of convicted pedophiles working in Hollywood. Meanwhile, industry insiders rush to defend the likes of film directors Roman Polanski and Woody Allen after their sexual exploits with minors. This is the culture spawning such obscenity as *Big Mouth*, a children’s Netflix cartoon that critics have slammed as “animated kiddie porn.” It “features two obviously demonic characters teaching pre-pubescent children to engage in perverse sexual and homosexual activity of all kinds,” writes Alex Newman for *Freedom Project Media*. Yet producers of the 2014 documentary *An Open Secret*, which exposes pederasty among Hollywood big-wigs, never found a distributor for their explosive tell-all. (It’s now available free on Vimeo.)

No matter who commits it, one case of child abuse is too many. But media reserves its venom for priestly crimes, reveling in depictions of the Catholic Church as a cesspool of corruption. They cast a blind eye on monstrous vice elsewhere. Catholic depravity reaps higher ratings. ■



THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

Mrs. Delicious

Stacey Achterhoff of Duluth, Minnesota, is a teacher for homeless children at Duluth Public Schools, but she also has a very special alter ego that she assumes in her spare time: Mrs. Delicious, owner of a bicycle ice cream cart. According to KARE 11, Mrs. Delicious' business has morphed into a "pay-it-forward" one that gives away ice cream that was paid for by someone else.

Achterhoff has given away hundreds of ice cream cones and Popsicles over the course of the last three summers, which were purchased by community members who wanted to pay it forward by having them distributed to their neighbors.

"People want to know that goodness is prevailing over evil, and they want to be a part of that," Achterhoff told KARE 11.

Achterhoff's business model is different than what she envisioned when she first purchased her ice cream bike cart, but it fulfills her in exactly the way she'd hoped when she first went into the ice cream business. In 2009, Achterhoff's great aunt was murdered by an intruder, and Achterhoff wanted to do something to fill the void and create joy where she felt pain.

"I'm a person of faith, and what do you do when terrible things happen? You have to figure out where the light is," Stacey said.

It wasn't until three summers ago, however, that the notion of a pay-it-forward ice cream business was born. It began when a man named Steve Peterson purchased multiple ice cream cones from Mrs. Delicious and asked her to distribute them to others.

He told Stacey, "When you find somebody that may not be able to afford a piece of ice cream or something, why don't you go ahead and give them one on me."

She wrote about the encounter on her Facebook page, and upon seeing how many people were inspired by the compassionate gesture, she began the pay-it-forward model that she has been executing ever since. Customers can purchase credits for ice cream that are then used to distribute ice cream to random strangers.

In Achterhoff's experience, customers who receive the free ice cream tend to immediately reach into their own pockets to pay for more ice cream to be given away to others.

One customer, Binner Rahn, received a free ice cream bar, and then prepaid for \$20 worth of ice cream to be given away. When KARE 11 asked her why she would spend \$20 despite receiving nothing in return but an ice cream bar, her response was simple: "It doesn't matter. It's a great deal. It makes me feel I can be a part of it."

Achterhoff and those who participate in her business model are helping to make Duluth sweeter, one treat at a time.

Pizza for the Homeless

And speaking of giving away treats, Mike and Jennifer Stevens own a Little Caesars pizzeria in Fargo, North Dakota, that has given away more than 140,000 slices of pizza to the homeless.

When the couple first opened their business in 2015, they spotted a homeless man sitting outside of a gas station near their restaurant. He had been there for several hours, and the couple and their daughters felt inspired to do something.

"My daughters and I were looking out of the window and saying should we get him something," Jenny told *Today Food*. "We brought him a pizza. He was so thankful and so gracious. Then we ended up doing it again for a different person. And again for a different person. And again for another person."

A year later, the owners realized that people were going through their dumpster in search of food and decided that they wanted to give people a more dignified way to obtain a free meal.

Mike Stevens posted a sign on the pizzeria's window that read, "To the person going through our trash for their next meal, you're a human being and worth more than a meal from a dumpster. Please come in during operating hours for a couple of slices of hot pizza and a cup of water at no charge. No questions asked."

The family began giving away whole pies instead of individual slices, and decided that they would go even further in their mission by partnering with an area homeless shelter. Eventually, that grew to three homeless shelters. As of October 1, they had given away more than 142,000 slices of pizza, which amounts to \$70,000 worth of food.

Sadly, Mike Stevens passed away in

December 2017 after battling leukemia, but the family has continued the mission of giving away pizza. They began to raise funds to pay for their mission through GoFundMe.

Jennifer Stevens recalls of Mike, "He said we have more than we need and these people are struggling to find their next meal, so why not help?"

Here, Take My Wedding

Bride-to-be Kolbie Sanders of Tyler, Texas, broke off her engagement one week before her wedding date and decided that she would use her heartbreak to help another couple in need. She posted on Facebook about her cancellation, and she offered to give away her \$3,500 wedding package to any couple willing to be married within the week, NBC News reported.

"With my engagement ending, I've come to find tremendous peace in knowing that I did the right thing for the both of us," Sanders wrote on Facebook. "With that being said, now I want to do the right thing by others and let some good come out of this decision."

She asked for Facebook users to nominate deserving couples, and her post immediately went viral. It was shared thousands of times, and drew the attention of local businesses and community members who volunteered their services to make the wedding package more complete. Fox News reported that before long, the giveaway included a makeup artist, hair stylist, photographer, bakers, and chefs, as well as florists and an event-planning company.

Meanwhile, Sanders sifted through the nominations until she settled on the most deserving — 45 in all — and then placed their names into a bowl. The *Washington Post* reported that the winner was Halie Hipsher, who wanted to be married in time for her grandfather to be at the wedding — he had recently been diagnosed with stage-four cancer.

Hipsher's wedding took place on October 20, and Sanders stopped by to visit with the happy couple. She even posed for a photo with Hipsher and her grandfather, ABC News reported. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



mj0007/Stock/GettyImagesPlus

What Happened to Federalism?

The Founders created a federal government holding very limited power and authority. Now, it has all-encompassing powers; what happened?

by Steve Byas

“Don’t make a federal case out of it” was at one time an effective rebuke to someone making a big deal out of a small matter. In other words, the remark was a commonly understood recognition that most matters are better handled in one’s own community. After all, reduced to its essence, the reason behind the separation of the colonies from the British Empire was that they did not want to be ruled by a distant government on matters that were essentially mostly local concerns.

When adopting the Constitution of the United States, the Framers of that document intended to establish a federal republic, not a unitary democracy. That

is the form of government that the state ratifying conventions also believed they were agreeing to when they ratified the Constitution. Finally, to emphasize the point, the 10th Amendment clearly stipulated this principle and was enshrined in the founding document of the Republic: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

One political theorist widely respected by the Founding Fathers was the Baron de Montesquieu of France. It is not unusual for government textbooks to teach his admiration of the concept of separation of powers, which he attributed to the British system in his *The Spirit of Laws*, published in 1748. Less known is that

See what? The men who crafted the U.S. Constitution in 1787 created a federal republic, not a unitary democracy. They probably would not recognize the modern perversion of their work.

Montesquieu had issues with the overly centralized system of parliamentary sovereignty found in Britain.

Instead, he advocated for a confederal arrangement, which he believed retained the best of small and large political units, while at the same time diminishing the disadvantages of either — leaving most matters to be resolved at the local level, while at the same time providing for a common defense against foreign states. Following the American War for Independence, the United States attempted to implement this wise counsel, first in the Articles of Confederation, and finally in the Constitution.

Yet, the actual working relationship between the states and the national government in Washington, D.C., would hardly be recognizable by the delegates at the Constitutional Convention. In all likelihood, they would be gravely disappointed at the reduction of the states to little more than administrative units of a growing federal behemoth.

What Killed Federalism?

How did this present state of affairs happen? What can be done, if anything, to reverse this trend and restore the proper balance of power between the states and the central government?

We cannot examine every single cause of this distortion of the intent of the Framers, and many of the causes overlap. However, an examination of some of the more egregious of these causes will enlighten us not only as to how it happened, but also as to what can be done to mitigate our present problems.

First, there is no question that the American Civil War greatly damaged the concept that most issues should be resolved at the state level. The war resulted from the secession of several southern states from the Union, and the avowed goal of President Abraham Lincoln to bring those states back into the Union by military force removed the threat of secession as a check on the central government. One can argue that the decision

Because of this expansive interpretation of the 14th Amendment, which stands the Bill of Rights on its head, almost every legal dispute in the country is a potential “federal case.”

to secede was imprudent and unjustified. Or, one can argue that just because the larger and better equipped Union armies won does not mean they were in the right on the question of secession — might does not make right.

The reality is, regardless of one’s own view of the matter, the North viewed Southern secession as a rebellion and waged war against the South to keep the South in the Union. After the Union victory, secession was no longer considered a viable threat to check growing federal power.

In the war’s aftermath, Congress passed the 14th Amendment, which was ratified under questionable circumstances. The 14th Amendment had the noble goal of providing civil rights protections for the millions of former slaves, but some of its provisions — at least the way they are now interpreted — certainly increased the power of the federal government at the expense of the states, both Northern and Southern.

The 14th Amendment stipulated that state governments could not deprive any person under their jurisdiction of the right to life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; it also said that no state could deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. The first part means that every person is entitled to all the due process rights in its judicial system as any other person. The second part means that every person within the state’s jurisdiction is to be protected by law enforcement — a person’s life, liberty, and property should be protected equally.

The Incorporation Doctrine

Unfortunately, federal courts began to interpret these two provisions under the so-called Incorporation Doctrine. This means that the Bill

of Rights, adopted in 1791 for the express purpose of protecting U.S. citizens and the states from the newly created federal government, could be enforced against states. And who would now determine if a state or local government is obeying the Bill of Rights? The federal courts, of course, which meant a massive transfer of power from the states and localities to the federal government — to the federal courts.

This is why we often hear that a Supreme Court decision is “the law of the land.” Of course, Article I, Section 1, of the U.S. Constitution explicitly states, “All legislative [law-making] powers herein granted shall be vested in a *Con-*

gress.” (Emphasis added.) By simple logic, if all law-making power is granted to Congress (and the extent of that power is limited by the Constitution), then no law-making power is left to the federal courts, or to the president.

But because of this expansive interpretation of the 14th Amendment, which stands the Bill of Rights on its head, almost every legal dispute in the country is a potential “federal case.” By this Incorporation Doctrine, the First Amendment’s prohibition against Congress making any law “respecting an establishment of religion” was extended to the states and even local school boards, and prayer and Bible reading (deemed an establishment of religion by judicial fiat) were thrown out of the public schools. Of course, the First Amendment also blocks Congress from “prohibiting the free exercise of religion,” and when the Constitution was first enacted, the federal government celebrated God and Christian Holy Days.

This unjustified interpretation of the 14th Amendment is the principal pretext the Supreme Court cited when state laws restricting abortion were declared “unconstitutional” in *Roe v. Wade*, and more recently states were told to recognize “marriage” between persons of the same sex as just as legal as the thousands-of-years-old traditional definition of marriage as between a man and a woman.

Closely related to the dubious Incorporation Doctrine is the oft-cited but fictitious “National Supremacy Clause.” There is, to be sure, a “supremacy clause” in the Constitution, but it is a reference to the Constitution itself. It is not a statement repudiating the federal system of government established by the Constitution. What it does say is this: “This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land.”

Anyone with a basic understanding of sentence structure can readily grasp that it is “this Constitution” that is the “supreme law of



Library of Congress

Political pontifications: Many have heard that the Baron de Montesquieu, a French philosopher, favored a system of separating legislative, executive, and judicial power into three branches. But he also advocated a federal system as the best form of government for larger nations, such as our own.

the land.” Note that before a law of the United States can be considered the “law of the land” at all, much less a “supreme law,” it must be passed “in pursuance” of the Constitution. Bluntly put, if Congress passes a “law” that is not in pursuance of the Constitution, it is no law at all.

Considering that many who are advocates of “national supremacy” are far too often also advocates of globalism, one should understand that treaties with foreign governments only become the law of the land in the United States if they are adopted under the authority of the United States. This requires, first, a two-thirds ratification vote by the U.S. Senate, and second, that any treaty must conform to the Constitution of the United States. The Constitution, in Article V, provides how the Constitution can be amended — and amendment through the treaty-making process is not one of the ways mentioned in that article.

Unfortunately, this false doctrine that any federal law is somehow “supreme” over state laws is widely believed, because this is what is taught in America’s public (and far too often, private) schools, from kindergarten to graduate school. I can distinctly recall an incident from years ago when I was teaching a high-school government class. In the “workbook” that accompanied the textbook, the question was asked, “Why was Congress able to require the states to lower their national speed limits to 55 miles per hour?” The provided answer was, “Because federal law is supreme over state law.” I wrote the publisher (this was before e-mail), explaining that this was incorrect, and they wrote me back, admitting that they had messed up, and would “correct” that answer in future editions.

The actual “correct” answer to the question about Congress setting speed limits within the states hinges on the next, and perhaps most important, reason why the states have lost their power.

The Effect of the 16th Amendment

What I believe is among the most underrated reasons for the vast expansion of federal power at the expense of the

states is the 16th Amendment, which gave Congress the authority to enact a federal income tax. Ratified in 1913, the 16th Amendment said, “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived.” Congress soon used that power via the Underwood-Simmons Act, enacting a progressive income tax, signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

In short, the federal income tax gave the federal government a source of revenue that would soon dwarf the financial resources of the states. Without the income tax, the modern welfare state of the U.S. government and the modern military establishment, complete with the interventionist foreign policy (what neoconservatives often approvingly refer to as a “muscular foreign policy”) that has been pervasive since World War II, would simply not be possible.

The vast amount of revenue taken in by the income tax enables the federal government to entice states to carry out federal dictates. Why did all 50 states meekly pass the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit when directed to do so by Congress and President Gerald Ford in 1975? Every

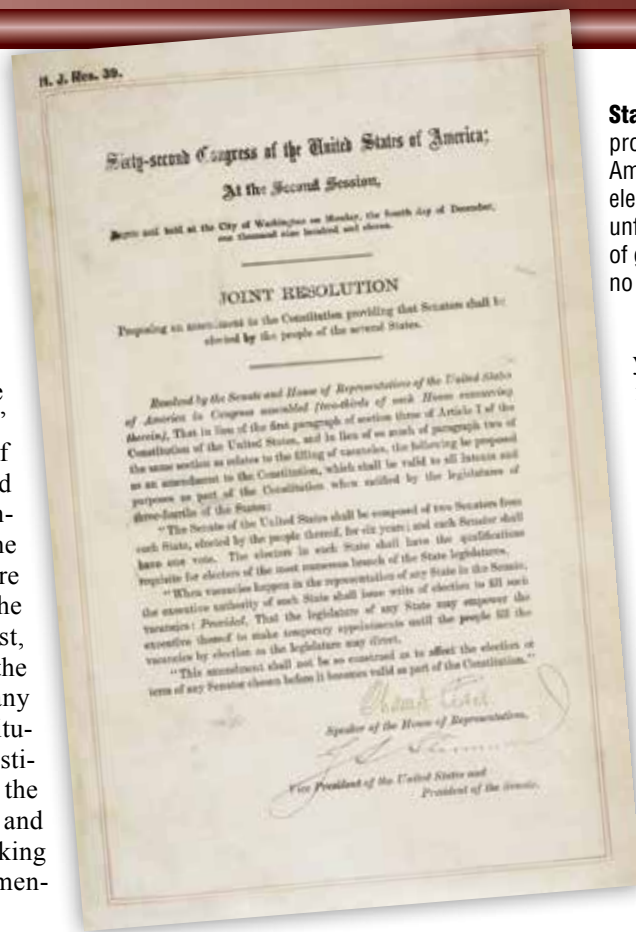
State of disrepair: After Congress proposed and the states ratified the 17th Amendment to have senators directly elected by the people of the states, we have unfortunately experienced the centralization of government power because states were no longer represented in Congress.

year, Congress provides “highway funds” for the states to build and maintain roads inside their state. Any state that refused to pass the federally dictated speed limit was told that they would have their share of the federal highway funds reduced. And because states had become so addicted to these federal grants of money, they believed they had no choice but to comply.

This is the proverbial tip of the iceberg. The truth is that about one-third, on average, of a state’s revenue comes from federal grants. Under these circumstances, it is very difficult for a state’s government to “stand up” to the federal government and lose a third of its revenue. Until we change this situation, states are going to continue in a role of subservience to the federal government.

Another amendment, passed on the heels of the 16th Amendment, likewise shifted the balance between the states and their federal government. The 17th Amendment was ratified on April 8, 1913, and provided that U.S. senators should be “elected by the people” of each state, rather than by their respective state legislatures, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution. The Founding Fathers, as a critical part of their plan to craft a federal system of government, provided that each state would have an equal number of senators, chosen by their respective state legislatures for six-year terms. This would give the state governments control of one-half of the legislative branch of the federal government. If a senator failed to stand up for the rights of his state, the state’s legislators could vote him out when he came up for reelection. Unfortunately, with the 17th Amendment, senators have become largely glorified House members and don’t protect the prerogatives of the states.

An illustration I often use to show how



this change has damaged the protection of the federal system as designed by the Framers is that most, if not all, states now maintain “offices” in the nation’s capital city, to “represent” the interests of their state — lobbyists for the state, in other words. Sadly, that is the role envisioned by the Founding Fathers for each state’s two senators.

Federalization of Law Enforcement

The 16th and 17th Amendments were “progressive era” changes to the Constitution. The progressive movement wanted the expansion of government at all levels, particularly the federal government, in order to “improve society.” Progressives were very optimistic about the role of government to correct “evils” in society by passing laws. For example, the 18th Amendment, ratified on January 16, 1919, gave Congress the power to regulate the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors” in the United States, in a bold effort to cure one of society’s great social evils.

No one disputes that intoxicating beverages have caused great damage. Historically, however, its regulation was left up to each state. Nothing could be more logical than leaving such issues up to the states in a federal system. Although the 18th Amendment was eventually repealed by the 21st Amendment nearly 14 years later, it laid the groundwork for Congress to usurp even more such powers from the states. Today, the regulation of drugs is a “federal” issue. Since the 1960s, the federal government has conducted a “drug war,” reminiscent of the war on alcohol in the 1920s, with much the same result. Only with the “drug war,” no constitutional amendment has authorized what the federal government has done, as was the case with the 18th Amendment. Such is the legacy of the 18th Amendment.

The 18th Amendment greatly enlarged

Unfortunately, this false doctrine that any federal law is somehow “supreme” over state laws is widely believed, because this is what is taught in America’s public (and far too often, private) schools, from kindergarten to graduate school.



Amendment hangover: The 18th Amendment gave the Congress the constitutional authority to regulate alcohol, which had always been left to the states under our federal system. Although the 18th Amendment was eventually repealed by the 21st Amendment, it planted the idea that such regulations were no longer purely a state matter.

the general police power of the U.S. government. Federal revenue agents (who have existed since before the Whiskey Rebellion during the administration of George Washington) fanned out across the country to enforce the Volstead law, which Congress had passed to implement the 18th Amendment.

Speaking of federal involvement in law enforcement, in 1908, 12 years before the 18th Amendment was enacted, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was created at the direction of President Theodore Roosevelt, a progressive Republican, as a division within the Department of Justice — then under Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte, a descendant of the brother of the infamous French dictator who had his own secret police.

Originally known as the Bureau of Investigation, and led by J. Edgar Hoover until his death in 1972, the FBI unquestionably had many great successes and

did much meritorious work, especially during the dark days of the Cold War. However, it has nevertheless been instrumental in enlarging the scope of federal responsibility in the area of law enforcement. Hoover operated an efficient public-relations machine, and Congress was quite cooperative in increasing the jurisdiction of the FBI over law enforcement because of that. (For example, why should kidnapping and bank robbery be federal, rather than just state crimes?) Because of the belief of Americans in the ability of the FBI to solve crimes, many conceded more of the police power to this federal agency.

Some have the mistaken notion that even more crimes should be handled by federal authorities. Conservatives were rightly incensed when Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, one of the most constitutionally minded members of Congress, was brutally attacked by a far-left supporter of Bernie Sanders. But many learned after this assault that an attack upon a member of Congress, even in Kentucky, was a federal crime. Why could that not be within the jurisdiction of law enforcement in Kentucky?

Some have even suggested that car-jacking should be a federal crime. Saying states cannot properly deal with car-jack-

ing is akin to saying state law enforcement is not competent to do much of anything, except maybe hand out parking tickets.

Others argue that the federal government should have more power because states and local governments have violated the civil liberties of individual Americans. Of course state and local officials have abused their powers. That is why all government agents should be restricted by law. To paraphrase James Madison, we have government because not all men are angels, and the reason we have limits on government is because not all government officials are angels. That is true at the local, state, and federal levels.

It wasn't a state government that rounded up more than 100,000 Americans and put them in relocation camps in the early days of World War II. It wasn't a local government that conducted an experiment on black men, leaving them to die of syphilis. In both those cases, it was the national government of the United States, not a state or local government.

What Can Be Done to Restore the Balance?

What can be done about this perversion of the federal design of the Founders?

First, we need to avoid a false solution, such as a constitutional convention

under Article V of the Constitution. Some conservatives have been deceived that this could somehow be used to rein in the federal government. But we do not know who the delegates would be at any such constitutional convention. Many liberals are salivating at the thought of a national convention to enact amendments to the Constitution, which would actually decrease the power of the states in relationship to the federal government. Some have specifically speculated that an Article V convention could drastically curtail or completely eliminate the protections provided by the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

Would anyone who values the right to keep and bear arms want a constitutional convention in the atmosphere following a school shooting such as the one in Florida?

Some have suggested nullification of unconstitutional federal laws, regulations, and rulings as a much better solution to the problem of the increased power of the federal government at the expense of the states. No doubt there are some areas in which a state can frustrate federal power. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison secretly wrote the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions asserting that states should refuse to enforce federal laws that are in violation of the Constitution.

The cases in which this can be effective are situations in which federal authorities need the cooperation of state and local officials to enforce a federal law. For example, before the Civil War, officials in Wisconsin effectively nullified the Fugitive Slave Law by refusing to cooperate with federal agents. In modern times, states and local governments can essentially nullify federal laws by refusing to enforce them, as some states are now doing with unpopular marijuana laws.

Sadly, far too often, state and local officers are often cheering on their loss of authority to the federal government, in hopes that they can obtain some federal grants. While the media and public officials have much to say about the addictive effects of opioids, little is said about how state and local governments are addicted to federal money.

The best solution is an educated electorate, which will retire its members of Congress if they refuse to do everything possible to reverse this situation. Often members of Congress condemn the overbearing attitude of the federal government, but never attempt anything that will change the situation.

What would be some constructive actions to reverse our present problem? Use the House of Representatives' power of the purse. This also stands a good chance of working because generally, compared to a Senate race, the number of people needed to change the outcome of a House race is ridiculously small. Samuel Adams said it well: "It does not take a majority to prevail ... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men."

It won't be easy. The idea that our present situation is the way the Founders designed it, with such mistaken beliefs as that there is a "national supremacy" clause in the Constitution, is strongly ingrained in the public mind. This is why The John Birch Society, the parent organization of this magazine, is so important. Birchers use education of the electorate as their strategy and truth as their weapon. Once enough citizens understand the truth, that awakened and informed minority can set those brushfires of freedom in the minds of other men and women to turn the ship around. ■



AP Images

No longer local police: J. Edgar Hoover certainly did many good things during his long tenure as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but these successes (along with an excellent public-relations campaign) led many Americans to accept increased federal involvement over what should be local and state police functions.



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PRISM MANAGEMENT

Wishes to thank all of the dedicated members who have worked so hard for so long to preserve liberty in the San Fernando Valley, a few of whom are listed below:

Nancy Brennan
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Dan McBride and Family
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Ruth Schneider
Melvin Spicer
John & Lynn Taylor
Karen Thompson
Mark Walsh

Violent Domestic Dispute

Fox 4 reported out of Kansas City, Missouri, on November 7 about a man with a gun who stopped a violent domestic dispute from turning deadly.

Benjamin Seadorf is credited with saving a woman from a vicious beating that was happening right in front of her kids. Seadorf was at home with his children when he heard what he described as “blood-curdling screams.” He told Fox 4 that the woman “definitely was in fear of her life.... She was screaming at the top of her lungs, profusely bawling. She just kept screaming, ‘Help me! Help! Somebody, please help me!’ over and over again.” Seadorf is a licensed gun owner and quickly retrieved his 9-millimeter handgun and ran toward the source of the yelling. He witnessed a man beating a woman inside a car.

Police later identified the suspect as 33-year-old Alarick Williams. Seadorf said Williams had ripped off some of the woman’s clothing and was beating her in front of the pair’s three children, who were inside the vehicle. “I was completely in shock that he started beating on her and forcing her in the car.... As I get close to the vehicle, I noticed her top’s ripped off. She has no shirt on, her bra is halfway off.” Seadorf pointed his gun at Williams and told him to leave the woman alone. Williams complied with Seadorf’s verbal commands and was arrested by Kansas City police. The police later told Fox 4 that Williams had violently shoved the woman into the vehicle after a dispute and strangled her until she lost consciousness.

Williams has been charged with two counts of domestic assault. Authorities thanked Seadorf for intervening. Seadorf told Fox 4, “I really feel that if she had left here, something worse would’ve happened, and not one single person in that intersection tried to help.”

Maternal Instinct

WSPA.com reported on November 1 about a shooting in Anderson County, South Carolina, that showed that a mother will do whatever it takes to protect her

children. The Anderson County Sheriff’s Office told WSPA.com that the mother was home with her three young children when she heard a loud banging on her front door in the early hours of the morning. She immediately suspected foul play and grabbed her gun, which she had just purchased a few months before.

The entire incident was caught on her security cameras, showing a man and a woman at her front door trying to enter the house. The mother, Ashley Jones, said the man “was like, ‘this is my house, let me in. I’m not going to hurt you’ kind of thing, and I was like ‘What do you want?’

... After I called the police, I grabbed a gun and went to the top of the steps and was like, ‘I have a gun. I will shoot you. Do not come in my house.’” Jones said the man then went around to the rear of the house to gain entry but soon returned to the front door, which he began kicking. “Finally, he kicked the door in and tried walking towards the inside, and that’s when I shot him,” Jones said. The video showed the suspect, though shot in the shoulder, run off; he was soon arrested by police responding to Jones’ 911 call. The suspect was taken for treatment at a nearby medical facility and is expected to make a full recovery.

“Any mother is going to protect her kid any way she can. And that’s what I did,” Jones said.

Jones explained more to Fox Carolina: “Something just came over me, and I got calm. My heart slowed down and I got focused. I told myself if he comes in here, you can’t let him get past your doorstep. You have three young children to protect.... I would’ve killed him if I had to.... If I didn’t have a weapon, I wouldn’t have been able to fight him off.”

In From the Roof

WPXI reported out of Mount Oliver, Pennsylvania, on November 2 about a break-in where an armed intruder climbed into an apartment through a window. Authorities are still investigating, but they believe the suspect gained access to a second-floor window from a porch roof. The lone resident of the apartment was fast asleep

when he was jarred awake by the sounds of glass shattering. He quickly jumped out of bed and grabbed a loaded firearm to investigate. The resident then encountered an armed intruder who had climbed into his apartment through the broken window. The resident fired at the suspect, mortally wounding him. Police and paramedics were soon called to the scene, where they found the body of the deceased suspect. Authorities are still investigating, but no charges are expected against the apartment resident at this time. The intruder was not carrying identification.

McDonald’s Shooting

WIAT reported on October 30 out of Birmingham, Alabama, about a shooting at a fast-food restaurant that resulted in a dead shooting suspect. Birmingham police say the violence unfolded when a masked man entered a McDonald’s restaurant and opened fire. Police are still gathering evidence, but believe it was either a burglary of some sort or that the masked gunman was specifically targeting someone inside the restaurant.

A father was just leaving with his son when the armed attacker came into the restaurant and started firing. The father, who was lawfully carrying a gun on him, pulled out his own firearm and returned fire at the shooter. Bullets flew back and forth as the small fast-food restaurant quickly become embroiled in a shootout between the father and the assailant.

Birmingham Police Sergeant Bryan Shelton said that both the father and his son were shot in the melee but didn’t sustain life-threatening injuries. The masked gunman was fatally wounded and later died from his injuries.

Birmingham Police Chief Patrick Smith said the investigation is ongoing. “We have a lot of evidence, we have a lot of video evidence, and we have a number of different evidence scattered about so once we piece everything together, a lot to do, a lot of investigation to be done right now. So certainly a very unusual set of circumstances but we’re going to work our way through it.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



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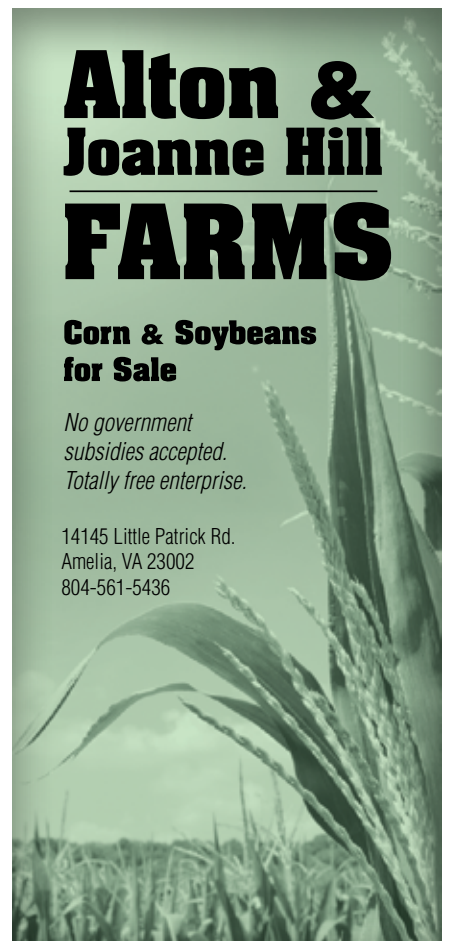


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Seeking a Dangerous, Exorbitant Fantasyland? Choose “Medicare for All”

ITEM: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, on the website pushing his “Medicare for All” scheme, proclaims: “Health care must be recognized as a right, not a privilege. Every man, woman and child in our country should be able to access the health care they need regardless of their income. The only long-term solution to America’s health care crisis is a single-payer national health care program.”

Saying that the “Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare] was a critically important step towards the goal of universal health care,” the site notes that “Bernie’s plan would create a federally administered single-payer health care program.”

Sanders also maintains that the “typical middle class family would save over \$5,000 under this plan.”

ITEM: USA Today reported on October 23 that Democrats were backing “Medicare for All” in about half of the House races that they were then contesting. The paper also noted that about “two-thirds of the 193 Democrats in the House are already co-sponsors of a Medicare for all bill.” In July, the report went on, Democrats launched a “Medicare for All” “congressional caucus with 70 founding members.”

In the Senate, a “Medicare for All” bill by Bernie Sanders already had “16 Democratic co-sponsors, including other potential 2020 presidential candidates.”

USA Today writers Nicole Gaudiano and Maureen Groppe also said: “About 6 in 10 adults favor a national health plan or Medicare for all system. Less than half did a decade ago. Progressives say they have polling on their side.”

ITEM: Associated Press said in a “Fact Check” that appeared in newspapers across the country in early October: “‘Medicare for All’ means different things to different Democrats. For Sanders, the Vermont independent, it’s a ‘single-payer’ system in which the government substitutes for private insurers and employ-



Promising premise: Senator Bernie Sanders has claimed repeatedly that if the country adopts Medicare for All, not only will costs drop substantially, but everyone would get optimal care. Unfortunately, the only way costs could possibly go down is if care is strictly rationed.

ers, paying for almost all medical care with tax money instead of premiums.”

For others, continued the wire service, “‘Medicare for All’ means allowing people to buy into a new government plan modeled on Medicare. That would move toward the Democratic goal of coverage for all, while leaving private insurance in place.”

CORRECTION: The underlying problem with socialist programs, as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher famously remarked, is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.

The Brits (as well as others burdened with socialized medicine) have had considerable experience in this regard. Sally Pipes, head of the Pacific Research Institute and author of *The False Promise of Single-Payer Health Care*, recently pointed to some of the consequences of the government-run National Health Service in the U.K., noting that hospitals there “are overcrowded and understaffed.” She continued:

Nearly half of urgent and emergency care services at England’s acute hospitals (which provide short-term care) are inadequate or require improvement, according to a recent report from the Care Quality Commission.

Last winter, nearly a quarter of patients at major emergency depart-

ments were unable to be admitted, transferred, or discharged within the NHS’ four-hour goal. That’s the worst performance in at least seven years.

Patients scheduled for treatment aren’t faring any better. Over the past seven years, the number of children’s operations canceled by the NHS has risen by 58 percent. And one in seven NHS hospital operations is canceled right before it’s supposed to occur — often because of a lack of beds or staff.

That could be America’s future under Medicare for All, which already has donned a cutesy nickname of “M4A” — perhaps to soften the image of raised fists and anachronistic demands for socialist “solidarity.” Such plans are sometimes referred to as single-payer healthcare. The ones being bandied about in this country (under varying schedules) aim to convert the entire U.S. medical system and enroll every American into federal Medicare.

The Medicare for All Act, as promoted by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist, would push everyone in the land — to include the uninsured and those covered by private health insurance and Medicaid — into a nationalized Medicare program.

Of course, it is a fact that when such



Correction, Please!

proposals are discussed in general, without being burdened by the inevitable noxious details, they seem to be popular. However all that changes when the potential price tag is mentioned or when it is noted that current health plans might well be eliminated. That is just what happened last year during polling from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Support dramatically dropped when those questioned were told their taxes might be boosted or that the government might get “too much control over health care.”

There is no free lunch. Inflicting Americans with a “single-payer” plan would not be a panacea. Indeed, we have already had bitter tastes of such plans on the federal level: Consider the Veterans Health Administration and the Indian Health Service, where shoddy care and long wait times are the norm. In fact, a Bernie-style, publicly financed plan was already tested in Vermont under Green Mountain Care. As the “liberal” London-based *Economist* acknowledged not long ago:

Even Democratic-led states that pondered enacting single-payer on their own balked when the cost became apparent. Efforts in Vermont, Mr Sanders’s own home state, stalled once it became clear that an 11.5%

surtax on payrolls and premiums up to 9.5% of income would be needed to fund single-payer insurance. Public support drops sharply once voters are reminded that taxes would have to rise to pay for Medicare for all.

There is a reason that single-payer plans are often likened to siren songs: In Greek mythology, the Sirens lured men to disaster.

Some relevant background follows.

Medicare was created in 1965 to provide health coverage for Americans age 65 and older. The program was expanded in 1972 for certain younger people with disabilities. It is also for people with end-stage renal disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. There are different parts of Medicare that help cover specific services — hospital insurance (Part A), medical insurance (Part B), and prescription drug coverage (Part D).

Of course, as in most early sanguine government estimates, the actual costs “grow’d like Topsy.” Congress predicted in 1965 that the hospital part of Medicare would reach \$9 billion by 1990. Hardly. By then it had grown to \$60 billion. And, as *Investor’s Business Daily* pointed out November 1, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the costs of Medicare “will more than double in a decade, going

from \$583 billion this year to \$1.3 trillion by 2028.”

Overwhelmed yet? Wait until you wade into Medicare’s regulations.

There are about 60 million Americans currently covered by Medicare; this includes about nine million disabled people. In 2017, funding for the program accounted for 15 percent of federal spending; that is projected to increase to 17.5 percent of federal spending by 2027. The latest report issued by the Medicare Board of Trustees anticipates that Medicare’s Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted by 2026, with Medicare’s spending continuing to outgrow the trust’s collective revenues.

All of this, keep in mind, is separate from the government program with a somewhat similar name, Medicaid, which is a joint federal and state program. Such programs vary by state and may have different names — such as “Medi-Cal.” Medicaid provides “free” or low-cost health coverage to millions of Americans, including some low-income people, families, and children; pregnant women; the elderly; and people with disabilities. In August 2018, there were more than 73.1 million individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the separate Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia — about 66.6 million in Medicaid and 6.5 million in CHIP. We’ll spare you from Medicaid’s pains in the interests of space.

In truth, we can’t afford the Medicare that we have now. With that in mind, only knuckleheads — or, to risk a redundancy, power-hungry politicians — would deem the best solution is to put all Americans on Medicare.

While many seniors have been led to believe that they have funded Medicare coverage into their own personal accounts (along with Social Security), the truth is that such benefits are the upshot of transfer programs. They require younger workers to pay for today’s retirees. Medicare is a benefit, as noted by Chris Pope of the Manhattan Institute, that is “largely paid for by those who are in work — a subsidy worth an average of \$13,087 per beneficiary per year.” “Medicare for All,” as he put it, “would flip this arrangement — imposing enormous tax



AP Images

National Health Service: In Britain, national healthcare hasn’t reduced the inequality in treatment rates between rich and poor, according to government findings such as the Acheson Report, and it has led to more cancer deaths, long waits to get care for critical illnesses, and more.



Tinypixels/E+/GettyImagesPlus

Elderly targets: The United States cannot afford Medicare as it stands now, with costs set to skyrocket for many years, but it would be worse under Medicare for All. Since each young couple is already set to pay for one retiree's care, the elderly will see tax hikes to pay for the new plan.

increases on all, including seniors, to pick up all medical costs currently borne by employers and those able to work.”

Keep in mind this nation's changing demographics. There were about five workers for each Medicare (and Social Security) recipient when the program started. That ratio is now about three to one. The number keeps dropping as baby boomers retire, heading to the two-to-one level by the 2030s.

This is what we are bequeathing to our children and grandchildren: When (to use a personal example) this writer's kindergarten grandson and his presumed future wife are adults, they — and each such couple in the land — will (in the words of one Manhattan Institute report) “basically be responsible for the Social Security and health care of their very own retiree.”

Michael Tanner, a fellow at the Cato Institute and the author of *Going for Broke: Deficits, Debt, and the Entitlement Crisis*, has reminded us that the most recent estimate about when the healthcare program for seniors “will hit technical insolvency” was “three years sooner than last year's estimate. The program's worsening financial condition is traced to “higher-than-anticipated spending in 2017, legislation that increases hospital spending,” and higher payments to Medicare Advantage plans.

Nonetheless, we are certainly pointed

that way. Indeed, by some counts, there were 225 Democratic candidates running during mid-terms who supported M4A. And on the other side of Congress, 16 Democrat Senators — including six seen to be running for president in 2020 — were cosponsors of Sanders' M4A bill.

If you prefer an employer-provided medical plan, keep in mind that M4A advocates want to outlaw it. As economist Stephen Moore wrote in his column in October, “Some 157 million Americans with employer health care plans — more than the entire population west of the Mississippi River — would be forced into Medicare. If you don't like that idea, tough. Bernie knows best.”

The expense of imposing M4A would be mind-boggling. Charles Blahous, formerly a member of the Medicare Board of Trustees, earlier this year authored “The Costs of a National Single-Payer Healthcare System,” published by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. The working paper determined that the Sanders bill would cost an astounding \$32.6 trillion over 10 years.

The study was widely misrepresented by M4A proponents, including by Sanders, because they claimed it proved that M4A would be an overall savings from the current path.

The Blahous paper (as subsequently

emphasized by a Mercatus colleague) did find that *if all of the expectations of Sanders' bill were fulfilled*, “then from 2022 to 2031, total healthcare spending (again, by individuals, businesses, and governments) would decline by \$2.1 trillion (\$100 billion in 2022 alone).” But the paper repeatedly said, as pointed out by Robert Graboyes of Mercatus, that the senator's “expectations — severe cuts to provider reimbursement, significant drug price reductions, administrative cost savings, and stable long-term services utilization — are highly unrealistic and unlikely to pan out.”

Despite the contentions of Sanders and other left-wingers, it was not Blahous envisaging that M4A would save \$2 trillion. Such misleading conclusions, however, were drawn from, among others, Think-Progress, Slate, Vox, and *The Nation* — the latter publication's headline read, “We Have More Proof that Single Payer Saves Money and Cares for All of Us.” Rather, the Mercatus author said, clearly, that if Sanders' (extremely implausible) expectations were reached, the possible savings over 10 years might be that high.

Costs get short shrift by the Left. You didn't hear much about the projected annual tax increase of \$26,000 for each U.S. household.

Even with the unwarranted and optimistic Sanders assumptions, the study calculated that establishing M4A would require more than doubling federal tax revenue over a decade. Moreover, even the doubling of corporate and individual income taxes would not cover the costs.

In the words of Blahous: “Doubling all federal individual and corporate income taxes going forward would be insufficient to fully finance the plan, even under the assumption that provider payment rates are reduced by over 40 percent for treatment of patients now covered by private insurance.”

Meanwhile, time is not on our side.

Not long ago, we spotted a cartoon depicting a protester equipped with a sandwich board. “Get sick now,” the sign declared, “while Medicare is still solvent.” Sadly, the joke is on us, and it isn't particularly funny. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

Getting the Right Results **in Our Elections**

You have probably already read THE NEW AMERICAN'S articles about the 2018 election, yet as of this writing, the "election" is not over. Votes are still being counted, and at least one senator is trying to force officials to count ballots that were submitted after election day.

This election has demonstrated that we have problems with our electoral process, both with the manner in which voting is done and with the lack of understanding of the electorate. Even so, there is a great deal of hope that has come out of the election.

Major concerns with the electoral process include the methodology used to vote and count votes — namely electronic voting and early voting. This magazine has published many articles over the years documenting the fact that vote fraud exists — and it happens far more frequently than most observers believe — and the aforementioned electoral problems lead to openings for fraud.

What is the remedy? A large part of the problem can be remedied easily. Let us quote from Robert Welch, the founder of The John Birch Society (JBS), the parent organization of this magazine, in the October 1976 *JBS Bulletin*:

So we are hereby urging all conservative candidates for any important offices — state or federal — to give careful consideration to the problem of obtaining honest treatment in the electoral process. And we are further making a more general, but equally intense recommendation, to the American public at large, to take all necessary steps for getting rid of all voting or vote-counting machines as rapidly as they possibly can. Those apparatuses constitute a very serious and calculated danger to the future of the American Republic.

The truth is that paper ballots can be readily verified if basic steps are taken to eliminate opportunities for fraud, and they don't take very long to count — at least when compared to all the recount shenanigans that we have now. If we get rid of computers and voting machines, finding out election results may take a day or so longer, but it is well worth the wait for an honest count.

"Trust but verify" is an old saying. Verification, when it comes to voting, means paper ballots counted at the precinct level by local people and preserving the ballots.

Some may believe this recommendation to be archaic, but as Stalin is purported to have said: "Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything." And right now



those who set up the machines to tabulate the ballots, as well as those who collect early voting results, can completely undermine an election.

To rectify problems with the electorate would take a bit more work. It would call for changing beliefs that voters *perceive to be true* to beliefs that are *actually true*.

The Left learned many years ago that it needed to run candidates based on polling data: Find out what the voter believes and wants, then run candidates according to the wishes of the polling data — and the voters' wishes and wants are

guided by leftist educators, local activism, and Big Media.

The voter generally cannot be bought. Money may help get out the vote, but it will not change the voter because voter opinion on issues is made between elections, not at elections.

Conservatives have not learned this lesson well enough to succeed overall.

If votes were influenced by money, the liberal vote in areas such as Texas and Georgia would have been double compared to the conservative vote, since at least double the money was spent on the liberal candidates.

The ultimate solution to get conservatives and constitution-
alists elected is for people to actively educate family, friends, neighbors, fellow workers, employees, etc. by means of a concerted educational campaign. An example would be holding meetings that teach the Constitution and the principles on which our government was formed.

Such meetings can be in living rooms, public venues such as libraries, or restaurants. A small meeting may seem insignificant, but if a lot of small meetings are held, the knowledge might influence hundreds or thousands or millions.

Such a program is available through the JBS. We heartily recommend contacting the JBS at JBS.org for what is available to use for such an effort. A good beginning is *The Constitution Is the Solution* video series.

Weaning others from reliance on the mass media for information by having them subscribe to this magazine would also help.

The Trump presidency has slowed the liberal, globalist juggernaut, and more and more people are beginning to understand the problems exposed in this magazine. They just do not know what to do about them. The JBS lets them not only talk about the problems, but do something about them. ■

Arthur R. Thompson is CEO of The John Birch Society.

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