

Eye on the World

March 4, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of March 4, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Iran Troubled by Signs of Emerging Israel-Arab Reconciliation" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

As Israel's government senses emerging, historic opportunities for understandings with former Arab enemies, the regime in Iran—whose regional actions are seen as a key catalyst in that rapprochement—is deeply troubled by the prospect.

Iran's "moderate" president tackled the issue head-on at a government-sponsored conference Wednesday celebrating the Palestinian uprisings against Israel.

Rouhani told the gathering that Israel, "in an attempt to normalize its situation, has for the first time referred to certain Arab countries as its allies against the resistance front, instead of describing them as its enemies."

He said Israel "claims that most of the Arab countries are not the enemies of Zionism or opposed to occupation anymore, but that they share the same phobia about the resistance."

("The resistance" or "resistance front" is Iran's term for an axis, led by Iran, that includes terrorist groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, and Syria's Assad regime.)

Rouhani warned that the "Zionists" viewed conflicts in the region as a historical opportunity.

"They are trying to change their enemies within the pro-Palestine Arab and Islamic countries into their allies, by . . . turning them against the resistance and its main supporter, Iran."

In the light of this "bitter reality," Rouhani urged the Muslim world not to succumb to "the Zionist plot for establishment of normal relations with Arab countries," but to come together to focus on "the main problem of the Islamic world"—the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Wednesday touched on the issue of warming ties with Arab states.

Speaking at a synagogue in Sydney, Australia, he described Israel as a "beacon of freedom" in the troubled region, and looked forward to the day when "many Arab countries realize Israel is not their enemy but their vital and indispensable ally in warding off the barbarism that threatens all of us."

Netanyahu expressed the belief that there was "an opening," for the first time in his lifetime, "because the Arabs understand that Israel could be a key to their future."

Iranian policies in the region, along with the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS/ISIL) are widely seen as factors that are chipping away at decades of enmity towards Israel by a number of Arab states.

Iran's support for its allies in the Syrian and Yemen civil wars has given rise to unprecedented levels of hostility from Sunni Arab nations, a development boosted by their concerns that the nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration and partners would enrich and embolden the regime in Tehran.

Last year, Sunni Gulf states secured condemnations of Iran and its Hezbollah ally from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League, the pan-Arab parliament and from a majority of members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The 57-member OIC bloc ended a summit in Istanbul last April with a declaration that "deplored Iran's interference in the internal affairs of the states of the region . . . and its continued support for terrorism."

A commentary in the Saudi daily Arab News Wednesday reflected that deep suspicion of Iran.

"This country, known as the biggest sponsor of terrorism, violates international norms and rules by storming embassies, and undermines other countries' stability by sowing sectarian strife and harboring terrorist leaders," wrote Saudi political analyst and international relations scholar Hamdan Al-Shehri.

"We have to act against it quickly, and look regionally for reliable allies that have experience in fighting terrorism and have suffered from it."

As they unite against Iran, some Arabs are rethinking their approaches towards Israel.

Covert exchanges have reportedly been taking place for some time, but last summer a delegation of Saudi notables, led by a retired army general and former senior adviser to the Saudi government, paid an unprecedented visit to the Jewish state—a visit that could only have taken place with Riyadh’s consent.

In an op-ed in The Hill last October, Saudi American Public Relation Affairs Committee president Salman Al-Ansari raised the prospect of Israel and Saudi Arabia forming “a collaborative alliance.”

“Any form of normalization between the two countries is also an Arabic and Muslim normalization towards Israel, which will undoubtedly promote security and weaken extremism in the region,” wrote al-Ansari, whose organization is purportedly independent but generally promotes official Saudi policies.



An article by Patrick Gillespie titled “Venezuela Is Down to Its Last \$10 Billion” was posted at cnn.com on March 1, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Venezuela only has \$10.5 billion in foreign reserves left, according to its most recent central bank data.

For rest of the year, Venezuela owes roughly \$7.2 billion in outstanding debt payments.

In 2011, Venezuela had roughly \$30 billion in reserves. In 2015, it had \$20 billion. The trend can’t persist much longer, but it’s hard to know exactly when Venezuela will run completely out of cash.

“The question is: Where is the floor?” says Siobhan Morden, head of Latin America fixed income strategy at Nomura Holdings. “If oil prices stagnate and foreign reserves reach zero, then the clock is going to start on a default.”

According to the country’s recently released 2016 financial report, about \$7.7 billion of its remaining \$10.5 billion of reserves is in gold. To make debt payments in the past year, Venezuela shipped gold to Switzerland.

The thinning reserves paint a scary financial picture as the country faces a humanitarian crisis sparked by an economic meltdown. Venezuelans are suffering massive food and medical shortages, as well as skyrocketing grocery prices.

Massive government overspending, a crashing currency, mismanagement of the country’s infrastructure and corruption are all factors that have sparked extremely high inflation in Venezuela. Inflation is expected to rise 1,660% this year and 2,880% in 2018, according to the IMF.

Another key problem is the relatively low price of oil, which stands at half of what it was in 2014. Venezuela has more oil reserves than any other nation in the world, and oil shipments make up over 90% of the country’s total exports.

That's making it nearly impossible for the country to pay its debts and import food, medicine and other essentials for its citizens.

Venezuela's imports are down 50% from a year ago, according to Ecoanalitica, a research firm in Venezuela.



An article titled "Australia Arrests Suspect for Advising 'Islamic State' on Missile Design" was posted at dw.com (Deutsche Welle) on Feb. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

Australian prosecutors on Tuesday charged a 42-year-old man for helping the so-called "Islamic State" (IS) group to develop long-range guided missile capabilities.

Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said the Australia-born electrician had contacts "not just in the conflict zones, but also in other parts of the world and relied on them to pass the information."

The suspect had advised the militant group on how to design a laser missile-warning device and develop its own missiles, according to police.

"In terms of the advice he was providing, we will allege it was fairly sophisticated and well-planned," Colvin said.

The 42-year-old man had been detained in the small town of Young in Australia's New South Wales region.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the arrest followed an 18-month operation, describing it as "another reminder of the enduring threat we face from Islamist terrorism."

"This highlights that terrorism, support for terrorist groups and Islamist extremism is not limited to our major cities," Turnbull said "It once again shows that we all need to be very vigilant."

The suspect can receive a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if authorities find him guilty of the terror-related offenses.

In September 2014, Australia raised its terror-alert level to high amid fears of foreign fighters returning from Syria and Iraq after joining militant groups in the region.

Roughly 200 Australians have traveled to the Middle East to join IS and other terrorist groups fighting on the ground, according to authorities.

Since the rise of IS in 2014, Western nations have increased counterterrorism measures in a bid to curb attacks and prevent homegrown radicalization.

Australian authorities have prevented at least 12 terror attacks since then, according to officials.



An article titled "EU Threatens Fines for Failing to Take in Refugees" was posted at yahoo.com on March 2, 2017. Following is the article.

The EU on Thursday stepped up warnings that countries could be punished if they fail to share the burden of mainly Syrian refugees stranded in Greece and Italy.

Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said member states had until September to take in 160,000 Syrian and other refugees from the two countries, which have been on the frontline of the migration crisis.

So far only 13,500 have been relocated in a process bogged down by general inertia and resistance from Eastern European states which oppose Muslim immigration.

"If we don't have tangible efforts by September . . . the commission will not hesitate to make use of its power," Avramopoulos, who is Greece's EU commissioner, told a news conference.

The EU has been trying to convince members states "to do their duty," he said.

"But if it is not the case in the future, infringements might be an option," he said.

As the executive branch of the 28-nation EU, the European Commission is able to launch "infringement proceedings" to impose fines on member state that break the bloc's rules.

Countries like Hungary and Slovakia have proposed paying "solidarity" contributions instead of actually taking in any migrants.

But others such as France and Germany insist that no country can shirk its duty to admit a minimum number of refugees under the plan, which was pushed through in September 2015.

The EU launched the scheme to deal with the biggest wave of refugees in its history, with more than 1.1 million arriving in 2015, most of them fleeing the conflict in Syria.

In February, EU vice president Frans Timmermans said the Commission was for the first time considering penalties for states that break the rules.

Meanwhile the Commission urged EU nations to quickly seal deals with Nigeria and Tunisia to speed up the deportation process.

The EU says most African migrants are heading to Europe for economic reasons, making them ineligible for protection like that granted to asylum seekers fleeing war or persecution.

"We want to continue to offer succour to persons in need of international protection," Timmermans said in a statement.

"We owe it to them, to our partners outside the EU, and to our citizens to be able to say clearly: when in need, we'll help, when not, you must return."



An editorial by Dennis Prager titled "A Nation of Immigrants—Only If They Assimilate" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

I am writing this column in Japan, a country whose crime rate is the lowest among countries with large populations. I asked my Japanese translator, a middle-aged woman, what she thought.

"Why is there is so little crime in Japan?" I asked.

Without taking a moment to reflect, she responded, "Because we don't allow immigration."

Anyone who visits Japan is struck by the ethnic homogeneity of the nation. If you meet a Caucasian, a black or a Hispanic in Japan, you can be all but certain that the person is visiting or studying there, not a citizen.

Likewise in the United States, there is direct correlation between ethnic homogeneity and low levels of violence. According to 2016-2017 data, the four states with the lowest percentages of violence are:

- Vermont—where 95 percent of the population is one race.
- Maine—where 95 percent of the population is one race.
- Wyoming—where roughly 93 percent of the population is one race.
- New Hampshire—where roughly 94 percent of the population is one race.

Sweden, which for much of its modern history has had among the world's lowest rates of violent crime, was almost always as homogenous as Japan. Now that it has admitted hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, it is no longer a homogenous country, and its levels of violence have increased dramatically.

All this leads to a particular rule, which is, in order to maintain a low crime rate and social stability, a country has only two choices: Do not allow immigrants into the country, or allow immigrants into the country, but be certain to assimilate them into the native population as quickly as possible.

The second choice has been America's choice throughout most of its history, and it has been uniquely successful in shaping people from all over the world and from every background into one nation known as Americans.

One of America's three fundamental principles has been *e pluribus unum*, or "out of many" (the other two, as our coinage testifies, are liberty and In God We Trust). And that is precisely what America has done.

But since the 1960s, the left has supplanted e pluribus unum and its national American identity with the antithetical doctrines of diversity and multiculturalism.

Diversity and multiculturalism celebrate the national/ethnic identities of the nations from where American immigrants came instead of celebrating the American identity and traditional American values.

The result is the beginning of the end of the United States as we have known it since its inception.

The left constantly repeats “we are a nation of immigrants” without citing the other half of that fact—“who assimilate into America.” The left mocks the once-universally held American belief in the melting pot. But the melting pot is the only way for a country composed of immigrants to build a cohesive society.

America was never just “a nation of immigrants.” America was always a nation of immigrants who sought to become—or at least were taught by American public schools and by the general American culture to become—Americans.

If America becomes a nation of nonassimilating immigrants, or a nation consisting of nonassimilating ethnic, racial and national groups who are already here, it will cease being a glorious idea and become just another nation torn by conflicting interest groups.

These various groups will fight one another—first verbally and then, perhaps, violently (and America will see more and more violence)—just as France, Sweden and Germany have seen since they began taking in millions of immigrants, many of whom have no intention of becoming Frenchmen, Swedes or Germans.

Contrary to one of the left’s more mendacious claims, diversity has not been America’s great strength. America’s great strength has been forging an American identity out of diversity.

But the left, with its identity politics and commitment to multiculturalism—as expressed, for example, by ballots in dozens of languages, the proliferation of ethnic studies departments at universities and the allowance of all-black dorms and graduation ceremonies—is undoing that.

If you want to understand the immigration crisis, just know that because the left has undone the second choice, it has made the first choice—Japan’s choice—look tenable to many for the first time in American history.



An article by Johnny Giles titled “Coal Mining Begins Seeing Revival As Trump Gives Industry Hope” was posted at foxnews.com on March 1, 2017. Following is the article.

A long-awaited revival is under way in this beleaguered Central Appalachia community where residents see coal as the once and future king.

Trucks are running again. Miners working seven days a week cannot keep up with current demand. Coal mines, long dormant after the industry's collapse, are now buzzing again with antlike activity.

"We load coal every day for the power plant in Virginia City," explained Rick, a long-time supervisor for a major local operation who did not want to give his last name. "There's one shipment a week for Georgia Power, and one for Tennessee Eastman."

The past month has seen a resurgence of the coal industry that once formed the backbone of the region's economy, and locals credit President Trump's aggressive, pro-energy agenda.

Crippled by a slew of factors, from changing times, an emphasis on renewable energy, and the Obama administration's harsh penalties on coal-fired power plants, the area's economy took a devastating hit over the past eight years. Many of the people living in these mountains had nearly given up hope that the area could ever recover.

The smaller communities in this county in southwest Virginia, such as the towns of Appalachia, Pound and St. Paul, were the hardest hit, but the ripple effects were felt far and wide.

Prospects changed nearly overnight. President Trump had promised to do everything he could to lift the coal mining industry. Trump began to make good on his pledge last month when he eliminated the Stream Protection Rule, which had placed layers of regulations on the industry.

Although it will take a while before the coal industry recovers, the metallurgical or "met coal" markets—coal used to make steel—are already seeing a major upswing. The price for met coal is twice as high as it was a year ago, which is causing a boom in the coalfields.

The turnaround owes to more than just Trump. China cut its own production, which helps lift the met industry in the United States. But, many in this area say, Trump's moves to lift regulations are stoking a rally they have not seen in years.

Ramasco Resources began producing its first coal mine in December and said it would open two more this year. In Pennsylvania, Corsa Coal also announced this month that it would begin mining operations beginning in May, according to Bloomberg.

"There's definitely cautious optimism after years of being brutally beaten down," Jeremy Sussman, an analyst at Clarksons Platou Securities Inc., told Bloomberg.

The production of coal reached its peak in 2008. But then President Obama came into office and rolled out a series of regulations that he said were designed to protect America's streams and waterways from the pollution the mining emitted.

Those regulations crippled the industry and left many in the region out of well-paying jobs.

For those whose livelihood depended on the industry, the most important thing that Trump has given them is hope.

"It was almost impossible due to the EPA regulations to open another deep mine," said Rick.

Just a few decades ago, when unions were strong in Wise County, the area leaned Democrat. But once the economy bottomed out and many were left without jobs, this corner of Virginia found itself feeling left behind.

Nowadays, many homes in Wise County are adorned with Trump signs. This now-Republican stronghold is betting on a better future under the Trump administration.

"It's a slow thing," said Adam, a mining equipment operator in the area who also did not want to give his last name. "It's not going to be immediate, but there's definitely some optimism right now."

It's too early to tell whether or not coal will be king again. But with the stranglehold of regulations now on its way out, many in the area say they hope to see a full comeback.

"I don't think production is going to go down anytime soon," said Jason, an underground miner from Big Stone Gap. "At one of the mines in the town of Appalachia, [employees] were told they would have work for the next four years."



An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Hey Dems, Trump and the GOP Just Signed Bills to Help Women, Black Colleges" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

The liberal narrative against Republicans has long relied on charges of racism and sexism. The new GOP-led Congress is blowing those characterizations out of the water. Just this week, they took steps to encourage women in business, while President Trump signed legislation supporting historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

House Speaker Paul Ryan was happy to sign the Inspire Women Act on Monday, which directs NASA to encourage women and girls to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), in their pursuit of careers in aerospace, according to the bill's text.

The bill reached President Trump's desk on Tuesday and he happily signed it.

Also in the Oval Office, Trump and his administration hosted dozens of representatives of predominantly black colleges as part of his plan to rebuild the relationship between the White House and HBCUs.

"You deserve far more credit than you get, and know that beginning today, this administration is committed to making sure that our historically black colleges and universities get the credit and the attention they deserve," Vice President Mike Pence told them. "Get ready for a great and energetic partnership in the days ahead."

In conjunction with this meeting, Trump signed an executive order making HBCUs a "priority" of the White House.

Of course, the media didn't adequately cover these historic moments because they were too busy freaking out over White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway putting her feet on the Oval Office couch and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos making supposedly controversial comments.



An article by Liz Crokin titled "Why the MSM is Ignoring Trump's Sex Trafficking Busts" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 25, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Since President Donald Trump has been sworn in on Jan. 20, authorities have arrested an unprecedented number of sexual predators involved in child sex trafficking rings in the United States. This should be one of the biggest stories in the national news. Instead, the mainstream media has barely, if at all, covered any of these mass pedophile arrests. This begs the question—why?

As a strong advocate for sex crime victims, I've been closely following the pedophile arrests since Trump took office. There have been a staggering 1,500-plus arrests in one short month; compare that to less than 400 sex trafficking-related arrests in 2014 according to the FBI. It's been clear to me for awhile that Trump would make human trafficking a top priority. On October 8, 2012, Trump tweeted:

"Got to do something about these missing children grabbed by the perverts. Too many incidents—fast trial, death penalty."

My suspicions were confirmed on Feb. 23 when Trump gave a press conference from the White House addressing how human trafficking is a "dire problem" domestically and internationally.

He gave further confirmation when he said: "Dedicated men and women across the federal government have focused on this for some time as you know—it's been much more focused over the last four weeks."

Trump's press conference was barely a blip in the mainstream media and the massive arrests have been almost completely ignored by the MSM altogether.

Here's a rundown of some of the massive sex trafficking rings that have been broken up since Trump took office.

- On Jan. 27 authorities arrested 42 in a human trafficking operation in Tennessee.
- On Jan. 29 authorities announced that 474 were arrested in a statewide California human trafficking operation and 28 sexually exploited children were rescued.
- 108 were arrested from Jan. 18 to Feb. 5 in Illinois as part of a national sex trafficking sting operation.
- 178 people were arrested in Texas for sex trafficking in sting that operated in January till Super Bowl Sunday.
- 16 people were arrested in January in Michigan for sex trafficking during the Detroit Auto Show.
- In February, authorities arrested 11 in Virginia in a child sex sting.
- On Feb. 14 the Polk County sheriff announced that 42 were arrested in Florida in child pornography related cases.

As the MSM has ignored these historical arrests, they have zeroed in on casting conservative icon Milo Yiannopoulos as a monster. They claim he supports pedophilia based on comments he made in a video years ago.

The reality is Milo was a victim of child sex abuse, and although he did joke about his abuse in an interview, he in no way promotes pedophilia.

The opposite is true, and he addressed this controversy head on in a press conference. Not only is it normal for sex abuse victims to make light of their abuse as a coping mechanism, Milo has personally taken down and exposed pedophiles in his columns over the years.

However, the mainstream media and the left ignored this information and demonized Milo.

The irony of all this is that the left and MSM have been the biggest proponents of pedophilia. Salon has published articles attempting to normalize pedophilia; however, to maintain their faux outrage over Milo, they deleted them.

After the MSM went after Milo, he was disinvited to speak at CPAC and his book deal was pulled.

Let's contrast this with one of the left's heroes, Lena Dunham, who was a staunch and vocal Hillary Clinton supporter during her campaign. She got a \$3.5 million book deal. In her book, she literally bragged about how she molested her little sister and made false claims that a conservative raped her in college.

Has Fake Tapper or anyone in the MSM ever expressed outrage over her? Of course not!

Milo told this column that once one realizes the MSM "cares nothing for real victims and only wants its ideological enemies destroyed, this behavior becomes intelligible. Journalists don't care about children. They care about damaging their political enemies."

Milo is absolutely right. This is why we've heard nothing from the MSM about the mass sex trafficking arrests and this will continue unless a conservative can be targeted.

The good news is that we have a president who genuinely does care about children and he's vowed to make solving the human trafficking epidemic a priority.

The recent pedophile arrests are just the tip of the iceberg and, whether Tapper and his ilk in the MSM like it or not, this story will eventually get so big that they will be forced to cover this horrific epidemic that has plagued our country for too damn long.



"Eye on the World" comment: While many independents like the ideas of Donald Trump, they often get disgusted by his approach in fulfilling his promises to the electorate. Many of those same independents, who are ready to criticize his mistakes, are often more disgusted with the approach used by the media and the Hollywood elites. Therefore, instead of criticizing Mr. Trump's mistakes, many criticize the media and the Hollywood elites for their unreasonable approach.



An article by Jennifer Harper titled "Press Coverage of Trump in First Month of Office: 88 Percent 'Hostile,' Says New Study" was posted at washington-times.com on March 2, 2017. Following is the article.

There was no press honeymoon for President Trump during his first month in office. A meticulous new study by the Media Research Center finds that 88 percent of the broadcast news coverage of Mr. Trump and his team was "hostile" during the first 30 days of office.

The coverage was intense and plentiful. The study, which analyzed both tone and content for evening newscasts on ABC, NBC and CBS, found that the "Big Three" networks produced 16 hours of coverage on the new president and his staff. That is over half—54 percent—of their total coverage for the month.

"Our measure of media tone excludes soundbites from identified partisans, focusing instead on tallying the evaluative statements made by reporters and the nonpartisan talking heads (experts and average citizens) included in their stories," write Rich Noyes, research director for the conservative press watchdog, and fellow analyst Mike Ciandella.

"In their coverage of Trump's first month, the networks crowded their stories with quotes from citizens angry about many of his policies, while providing relatively little airtime to Trump supporters." the pair noted. "And the networks' anchors and reporters often injected their own anti-Trump editorial tone into the coverage. 'It has been a busy day for presidential statements

divorced from reality,' CBS Evening News anchor Scott Pelley snidely began his February 6 broadcast.

"A new American president is always a big story, but TV news is obsessed with the Trump administration—and not in a good way," they observed.

The study found that Mr. Trump's call for a temporary ban on travel from seven specific Middle Eastern nations drew the most negative coverage—over three hours. Other favorite showcases for negative coverage of Mr. Trump included the border war between the U.S. and Mexico, battle over his cabinet confirmation picks and the president's "complicated relationship" with Russia.

"Further highlighting the hostile tone of these newscasts, nearly an hour of coverage (56 minutes) was given over to anti-Trump protests on various topics, with nearly one-fifth (82 out of 442) of the Trump stories or briefs aired during these 30 days including at least some discussion of an anti-Trump protest," the study reported.

Mr. Trump may be accustomed to the treatment by now, however. A previous Media Research Center report found that 91 percent of the broadcast coverage about his campaign was also negative—deemed "twelve weeks of Trump bashing" by Mr. Noyes and his team.



An article by Douglas MacKinnon titled "Media Owners Need to Stand Up to the Haters They Employ" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 28, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Less than two months into the presidency of Donald J. Trump, the welfare and domestic security of our nation and the very legitimacy of the executive branch is quite literally being deliberately and systematically targeted by a growing number of media outlets.

If left unchecked and unchallenged, anarchy in a number of different and destructive forms, will surely grow and spread across the country.

While "anarchy" is in-fact the ultimate stated goal of many on the far-left and the hope of many within the media, entertainment, and academia, they should fear the beast they have born, are feeding and now unleashing upon the land.

For should it escape its chains and shackles, it will spare none in its cataclysmic rampage.

If ever there was a time for "adult leadership" in the media to step forward and be held accountable, it is now.

Based entirely upon the exponentially growing evidence, there can be no doubt that major media outlets such as CNN, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News (with its cable-partner MSNBC) the *New York Times*, the *Washington*

Post, *USA Today*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the Associated Press and others have either openly declared “War” on the administration of President Trump, or are actively aiding and abetting those who have.

Every single day, these liberal “news” outlets feed the beast of anarchy with highly inflammatory rhetoric comparing President Trump to “Hitler,” “A Nazi,” “Satan,” “A Dictator,” “A Fascist,” “A Racist,” and more.

Through and blessed by their “leadership,” these media outlets feature articles and pieces calling for “Resistance,” “Revolution,” “Taking to the streets,” and “targeted, confrontational protests.”

When I Googled, “Resist Trump,” over 81,000,000 results came up in 0.54 seconds. Of those, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, NBC News, countless other liberal media outlets and a growing list of previous and newly created far-left sites oozed to the surface. NBC News went so far as to feature an app that will “harness the energy created on the left to oppose President Donald Trump’s actions and policies.”

While real pressure cookers have become a weapon of choice for radicalized homegrown terrorists in the United States, these media organizations are creating rhetorical pressure cookers all over the U.S. that, if and when they explode or boil over, will have long-lasting toxic results.

Knowing that undeniable truth, it is well-past the time for the ownership of these now blatantly biased and unprofessional media organizations to step to the forefront and exercise their civic and moral authority.

The flames of anarchy may have been lit by far-left organizations, but are now being almost entirely fanned by ideologues in the mainstream media determined to destroy the administration of President Trump at any cost.

The ownership of these outlets needs to take charge and douse these flames before they morph into an uncontrollable wildfire.



Looking back to 2014, here are excerpts of an article by Dan Merica titled “Bush, Like Most Predecessors, Hold Tongue on Successor” that was posted at cnn.com on July 4, 2013.

In President Barack Obama’s two presidential campaigns, his predecessor loomed large; Obama and Democrats regularly laid the blame for the down-trodden economy at George W. Bush’s feet.

When pressed on their pledge to turn the faltering economy around, Obama and Democrats often pointed out that they had inherited the product of the Bush administration’s policies.

Bush, however, in his limited public appearances has stayed mute about his successor, maintaining a custom among former presidents that dates back decades. While not all presidents have adhered to the practice, it has created a mostly amicable brotherhood of former presidents.

"George W. Bush is a traditionalist," CNN Senior Political Analyst David Gergen said. "I think he holds to an old-fashioned standard that the presidency is one of the world's greatest fraternities and its members don't criticize each other."

After leaving the White House, Bush made it clear that he was finished with the public stage. Although he has been more public since his presidential library opened in April, Bush has maintained that he will not criticize Obama.

In "The Presidents Club," a book by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy about the fraternity, a Bush adviser says the most the former president will say about Obama's decisions is, "Well, I might have done it differently."

In public, though, Bush has refused to comment on Obama.

"He deserves my silence," Bush said in a March 2009 speech. "There's plenty of critics in the arena. I think it's time for the ex-president to tap dance off the stage and let the current president have a go at solving the world's problems."

Most former presidents look better through history's eyes

Gergen, who served in the White House in four administrations, said that once in the Oval Office you appreciate the "continuity of the office."

"You form part of a chain and each link is important. You almost have a sacred responsibility to keep the office strong," he said.

Not all former presidents have held their tongue.

Democratic President Jimmy Carter, who served one term in office, has a history of biting criticism of those who followed him in the White House.

■ In 2007, Carter delivered a blistering critique of the Bush administration, telling the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* "as far as the adverse impact on the nation around the world, this administration has been the worst in history."

■ Carter hasn't directed his criticism only at Republicans, though. In a February 2013 speech, he faulted the Obama administration for its dealings with North Korea and Iran.

"Our country is now looked upon as the foremost warlike nation on Earth, and there is almost a complete dearth now of commitment of America to negotiate differences with others," Carter said.

■ And throughout much of Clinton's presidency, Carter was a Democratic agitator. He embarked on his own foreign policy projects, at times at direct odds with the White House, and after Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky became public, Carter questioned Clinton's morals.

But Carter has been the exception, not the rule. While some presidents have stepped out and criticized during the heat of a political campaign, it is a rare occurrence.

Dwight Eisenhower is by most accounts the gold standard for how to deal with other presidents.

Eisenhower chewed out his successor, John F. Kennedy, in private for the botched Bay of Pigs invasion, but publicly offered him a level of support.

The Kennedy-Eisenhower relationship had been frosty. Eisenhower had long viewed Kennedy as naive and young—he referred to Kennedy as “Little Boy Blue” in private—and Kennedy had disparaged the Eisenhower administration in his 1960 presidential campaign.

The two put their chilly relationship aside, however, and Kennedy invited the former general to Camp David to review the mistakes in Cuba.

After the meeting, Eisenhower stood in front of television cameras and said, “I am all in favor of the United States supporting the man who has to carry the responsibility for our foreign affairs.”

In *The Presidents Club*, Gibbs and Duffy write that despite the fact that all of these men have risen to the highest level of their profession, they not only work better together, but they need one another.

“There is no fraternity like it anywhere, and not just because of the barriers to entry of the privilege of membership,” they write. “For all of the club’s self-serving habits and instincts, when it is functioning at its best, it can serve the president, help solve his problems and the nation’s, and even save lives.”



An article by Leon Wagener titled “Exclusive: Barack Obama’s Close Confidante Valerie Jarrett Has Moved Into His New DC Home, Which is Now the Nerve Center for Their Plans to Mastermind the Insurgency Against President Trump” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on March 1, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Barack Obama is turning his new home in the posh Kalorama section of the nation’s capital—just two miles away from the White House—into the nerve center of the mounting insurgency against his successor, President Donald J. Trump.

Obama’s goal, according to a close family friend, is to oust Trump from the presidency either by forcing his resignation or through his impeachment.

And Obama is being aided in his political crusade by his longtime consigliere, Valerie Jarrett, who has moved into the 8,200-square-foot, \$5.3-million Kalorama mansion with the former president and Michelle Obama, long time best friends.

Jarrett played a vital—if at times low-key—role in the Obama presidency. She lived in the White House, dined with the Obamas, and help shape his domestic and foreign policies.

The former president has set up an office on the West End of the national's capitol, where he recently hosted an open house for his White House staff—including Joe Biden, Susan Rice, Josh Earnest and Jarrett.

But the office, part of his post presidency perks, cannot be used for political purposes. The rent on his home is paid by him personally.

On Tuesday, former Attorney General Eric Holder revealed that Obama is indeed getting closer to making his public reappearance in politics.

"It's coming. He's coming," Holder said speaking to reporters. "And he's ready to roll."

According to the family source, Obama was at first reluctant to assume the role of leader of the opposition.

"He was weary and burned out after eight years in office. But Valerie convinced him that he didn't have any choice if he wanted to save his legacy. And, as usual, he bowed to Valerie's political wisdom and advice."

In his only public comment against Trump since leaving the presidency, Obama came out in support of the protests opposing President Donald Trump's executive order to restrict immigration from predominantly Muslim countries.

A spokesman said the former president thinks they're "citizens exercising their Constitutional right to assemble, organize and have their voices heard by their elected officials is exactly what we expect to see when American values are at stake."

Spurred on by Jarrett and Michelle, the ex-president has come to embrace his role as the leader of the opposition against Trump, whose policies he loathes and whose presidency he considers illegitimate.

"He is going to use his immense popularity with the half of the country that identifies as liberals and progressives," said the Obama family source.

"Millions of Americans are energized and ready to take to the streets to oppose Trump, but they need to be organized and have their anger focused and directed. Obama is dismayed at the way Trump is tearing down his legacy—ObamaCare, the social safety net and the welcome mat for refugees he put in place," the source continued.

Trump's cabinet picks are also problematic for the former president, especially Jeff Sessions as Attorney General, whom Obama regards as too racial-insensitive to be in charge of the Civil Rights division at Justice.

Leaving Jim Comey as FBI Director is another thorn in Obama's side. He blames Comey for announcing that he was reopening the FBI investigation

into Hillary's emails eleven days before the election, which, in Obama's view, was an irresponsible act that helped elect Trump.

"He had hoped to write his memoirs, golf to his heart's content, and bask in the glory of his eight years in power and the progressive achievements he brought about. Instead, he is going to be leading the fight and strategy to topple Trump," says the insider.



An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "In New Message Encouraging Town Hall Antagonizers, Hillary Says Democrats Are 'At Their Best' " was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2017. Following is the article.

Protesters have been heckling Republican congressmen at town hall events in cities all over the country. There's nothing wrong with a hearty debate, but some of these disruptions have been downright nasty, such as the appalling actions at a Louisiana town hall this week, when agitators rudely interrupted a pastor's opening prayer.

Without so much as a peep to condemn such shameful behavior, Hillary Clinton recorded a video message on Friday giving leftist protesters the thumbs up.

"Everywhere, people are marching, protesting, and working for an America that's hopeful, inclusive and big hearted," Clinton says in the new video.

She described the town hall fireworks as merely good examples of people "speaking up for health care, the environment, good jobs, and all the other issues that deserve our passionate support."

Yet, in many instances, these protesters appear to be disinterested in meaningful conversations and more interested in chanting and screaming their lungs out.

These people "making their voices heard" could be our future political leaders, she noted.

Lord help us.

As for the White House, they are writing off the activists as paid professionals.

Although Clinton attended Trump's inauguration, she has encouraged the women's marches and U.S. airport protests against Trump's temporary travel ban. Barack Obama, too, broke his post-presidency silence to urge on demonstrations against Trump's executive order on immigration.

The town hall events have become so hostile that several members of Congress have decided to cancel the meetings. Thankfully, though, not all are shying away from their antagonistic audiences.

The town hall tensions and heightened emotions, Clinton mused, must be the result of the Democrats writing the most progressive platform in the party's history last year. She hopes the passion will not fizzle out.

"Now more than ever we need to stay engaged," she said.

"Let resistance plus persistence equal progress for our party and our country."



An editorial by Bruce Bialosky titled "Resist La Resistance" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Feb. 27, 2017. Following is the article.

Bonjour, Mon Amie. Joindre La Resistance. The first thing you should do is buy a beret and stock up for living in the forest to fight the enemy. Come join the battle with me.

First, we must analyze how the Left has arrived at the idea that they should use civil disobedience as their answer to being a minority of Americans that has lost control of government at virtually every level except for the large cities they so destructively control.

Saying they are resisting is bad enough. Calling themselves "the Resistance" may have occurred by happenstance or a byproduct of their normal marketing.

After all, the real resistance, the French underground, which fought the Nazis after their government did nothing to stop the military buildup of Germany leading to World War II, collapsed in about 42 days during the invasion by the Germans and then formed the Vichy government which acquiesced to the Germans.

But the bigger point is that the Left classifies anyone who disputes their desire for America to become a socialist, centrally controlled society as Nazis.

- To them mainstream Republicans are Nazis.

- The Left riots, burns buildings, attacks people, shuts down the speech of people they oppose and then they call Republicans Nazis. How does that work?

Guess they never read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* by William Shirer. Those were the tactics of the Nazis and then when they burned the Reichstag they blamed others and seized control.

It is clear after eight years of a lawless president lurching our federal government toward Washington DC controlling our lives dictated by unelected bureaucrats, the Left now believes it is their birthright to continue this march toward the destruction of our freedoms.

Buoyed by a judiciary that envisions itself as a second legislature creating laws that fit their ideological needs and completely ignoring statutes as they are written by the actual legislature.

The current talk is how La Resistance compares to the Tea Party which started in 2009. That is a laugh. The Tea Party was a spontaneous rising of average citizens who decided they were going to form legal entities to communicate their message.

When they went about forming those legal entities, President Obama used henchmen like Lois Lerner at the IRS to kill, stall, delay, and manipulate these people from forming lawful entities from which to marshal their efforts to communicate their message to their friends and neighbors.

What did the press do during this time? Attack those average citizens. Then they nearly completely ignored the worst corrupting act our federal government has ever done by using the power of our federal taxing agency to suppress free speech.

They allowed President Obama to skate, while walking out the door, that his eight years in office were scandal free without laughing him out of the history books. Now they want to erroneously and ignorantly compare these professional complainers, marchers and rioters to the Tea Party as if to glorify a group they derided for years.

La Resistance is run by professional protesters. They don't need to organize; they have legal organizations some of which should be reviewed by the IRS to see if they are actually in compliance with their non-profit status.

■ We all know MoveOn.Org, but there are many more. The Progressive Change Campaign Committee made up of professional complainers claim to have a million members, but what does membership mean here -- people on a mailing list.

There are hundreds of organizations like these legally formed, some for other purposes, making political statements and emailing their list to encourage people to disrupt anything the current elected leaders attempt to do. They are intertwined and quasi-legal.

Tucker Carlson interviewed Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club (formed in 1892), regarding environmental concerns. The organization issued a statement regarding abortion in solidarity with Planned Parenthood. The Sierra Club also came out against the border wall. Both times when asked, Brune delivered a twisted defense of how these statements meet their mission. These organizations are all intertwined, legally formed and frequently veering from their missions.

The National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) was one of the two prime organizers of Women's March. What did the march have to do with the environment other than the trash they left for others to clean up afterwards? This group touts 2.4 million "members" and they probably overlap significantly the "membership" of the other lead sponsor of the March—Planned Parenthood.

Yes, Planned Parenthood used our money to fund the organization of the March. They will tell you money is not fungible, but it is. This was clearly a political march. Planned Parenthood is a 501(c) charitable organization which prohibits them doing political organizing. That would be a 501(c). That is what

the Tea Party was illegally stopped from forming. In fact, many of the Left's organizations are illegally breaking the rule regarding involvement in politics.

The primary point here is this is a large group of people, but small numerically compared to our national population. They get funding from some of the same sources like George Soros, Tom Steyer and sometimes American taxpayers. They are using their existing status to attack the current administration.

If you want to allow them to win the battle and stop any change from happening, then just sit home and watch. If you think this country has been lawlessly lurching to the left, then you must stand up and stop these professional complainers and thugs from taking over the country.

Resist La Resistance.



An article by Derek Hunter titled "Protesters, Inc." was posted at townhall.com on March 2, 2017. Following is the article.

The Progressive Industrial Complex has its work cut out for it. Having been roundly rejected by the American people, the American left is watching its accomplishments be deconstructed, executive order by executive order. And that which cannot be undone by the pen is slated to be dismantled by legislation. This truly has sent the left over the edge, Astroturfing town hall meetings with the help of its media collaborators.

Most journalists will not tell you this because they don't want to admit it's true, but the "outrage" newscasts have shown from town hall meetings with Republican members of Congress is manufactured—staged and planned as much as any TV show you've ever seen.

Don't take my word for it, or the word of the countless members of Congress who've pointed it out. Take their word for it.

Leaked audio from a planning meeting of activists for a recent town hall meeting with U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., lays out exactly how these professional protesters planned to disrupt the event to give the impression of major push-back from average Americans on the repeal of Obamacare.

Organizers told their volunteer mob how to act, how to dress, where to sit and when to yell. Jim Henson had nothing on how choreographed these puppets were—they followed their orders to a T.

■ "Game plan No.1 is to fill as many seats as we can, right? If it's all of us in there and the poor people of Breaux Bridge are sitting behind us, well then, tough luck for them," they were told.

■ "If we can arrange it so he doesn't hear one sympathetic question—great. That only magnifies our impact."

The event made news because the faux-mob booed the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Making news is exactly what they said they wanted in their planning meeting.

■ “So what we’ll do is we’ll try to dominate enough, because—remember, the camera people especially are looking for some ‘b-roll’ and some quotes,” an organizer said.

These progressive props coached to appear as normal constituents couldn’t contain their disgust at these normal procedures and exposed themselves from the word go.

But this audio wasn’t the first glimpse into the machinery the left has constructed to manufacture outrage. CBS News reported on it, mostly by accident.

In a glowing profile of a 40-year-old father of two, who seemingly has nothing better to do with his time than await daily emailed marching orders, CBS reported how this father got those orders and followed them. Not how he was outraged, but how he was mobilized like a Manchurian Candidate being told to play solitaire.

“Every day after he packs his son and daughter off to school on Chicago’s north side, 40-year-old Jeremy Reid settles on to his living room couch to get his marching orders,” CBS reported, paying no mind to what they were reporting nor saying how Reid had the time to do this “every day.”

The report continues, “He’s talking about the Progressive websites that seek to marshal his energy and meld it with millions of other opponents of the new president.”

Following marching orders is not “spontaneous,” as many reports have said these outbursts are. Yet that is what’s happening.

If the polls are to be believed (and that’s a big “IF” sometimes), Obamacare is not popular. What makes that believable is it never has polled majority support. Prices have skyrocketed, millions of Americans lost plans they liked and were forced into government-approved plans with premiums and deductibles so high anything short of a mountain falling on them will be paid out of their pockets. In short, people don’t like it.

Yet the media would have you believe an “eruption” of outrage has taken hold of the American public at the prospect of losing Obamacare. It’s not “fake news” as much as a fraud being perpetrated by self-congratulatory leftists circling the wagons to protect President Obama’s failing legacy and attempting to blame Republicans for the state of things.

Liberals have every right to protest in any way they see fit, but the media’s job is to report the truth. It’s not.

Journalists are fully aware of how the Progressive Industrial Complex operates and they willingly work to hide it.

Portrayed as the Democratic Tea Party, this coordinated, planned and funded (not the participants, but the organizations running the show are raising lots of money) effort is anything but Tea Party-esque.”

The Tea Party happened because people wanted to be left alone by their government; this contrived outrage exists to make sure the government doesn't leave anyone alone—that it takes from some to give to others.

It's a real thing in that people are following orders and partaking, but the sentiment behind it is political to its core. Its purpose is to harm President Trump and Republicans and help Democrats, not the American people.

I don't expect mainstream media outlets to report that, but I would expect them to at least note there are moneyed organizations with agendas sticking their hands up Kermit's backside.



A video and an article by Guy Benson titled "Video: Left-Wing Attendees Disrupt Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance at Louisiana Town Hall" were posted at townhall.com on Feb. 24, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Americans have a right to show up, and speak up, in public meetings with their elected representatives. That civic principle applies to the anti-Trump "resistance" just as much as it applied to the Tea Party. Americans also have a right to judge their fellow citizens' comportment and approach to influencing the political process.

The Left is organizing to swarm forums held by Republican members of Congress, several of whom have demonstrated constructive methods of dealing with unruly and hostile crowds. The resulting confrontations are churning out made-for-television moments for which the media has a bottomless appetite—especially since these aggrieved citizens are on the "good" side of things, unlike the unseemly hoards in 2009 and 2010.

But here's what the sanitized and curated evening news soundbytes aren't likely to show: In Louisiana on Wednesday, Sen. Bill Cassidy hosted a town hall meeting to discuss various policies, including Obamacare.

- The organized Left showed up in full throat, behaving boorishly before the Senator even took to the podium.
- They shouted and heckled throughout a pastor's opening prayer.
- Then many refused to stand or even maintain any semblance of decorum during the pledge of allegiance, which was led by a local veteran.

The rude, furious screeching of "separation of church and state!" betrays an embarrassing ignorance of American history. Our founding document guards against the intertwining of religion and governance by prohibiting the establishment of a national religion, but the notion that a public prayer prior to a gathering like this somehow violates the constitution is ludicrous.

In fact, the legislative body in which Sen. Cassidy serves opens each daily session with a prayer from its appointed in-house chaplain.

But the angriest shouters weren't interested in facts or perspective, as their frenzied tantrums then carried on through the pledge of allegiance.

One of their grievance themes is that Cassidy is a mean-spirited demon who wants to rip healthcare away from innocent children. This is deeply ironic, given Cassidy's unique background as a medical doctor.

- Cassidy—a doctor who had yet to enter public life—set up a makeshift hospital in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Three days after the storm hit, Cassidy organized hundreds of volunteers to help turn an abandoned Baton Rouge K-Mart into a temporary medical center. He was concerned South Louisiana's hospitals weren't going to have enough capacity to treat all of the victims of the disaster

- He's a doctor that has spent his entire career caring for people who have little or no insurance. The congressman worked at Earl K. Long Medical Center—a hospital for the poor or people who couldn't otherwise afford their care—from 1990 until the facility closed in 2013.

- Even now, Cassidy, a gastroenterologist and LSU Medical School faculty member, primarily treats low-income and uninsured patients when he practices medicine.

Cassidy has also offered a specific Obamacare replacement plan, which some conservatives have criticized as being too similar to the original failing law. Alas, it would appear that many of the protesters either didn't know or didn't care about the actual record of the man they showed up to berate.

In their display of tribalistic catharsis, they disrespected a revered and a veteran, then shouted down their Senator repeatedly. His appeals to civility, reason and productive exchanges fell on deaf ears.

Cassidy was constantly shouted down as he tried to explain his plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Several people stood up and turned their backs on him. Protesters could be heard marching in the parking lot outside.

"If all you want to do is vent, this will not be profitable," Cassidy said. "But if we can get through this we will start answering questions." Cassidy never made it through that presentation.

The self-evident truth is the many of these people weren't interested in dialogue or solutions. They were interested in emoting and raging.



An article by Todd Starnes titled "Town Hall Mob Explodes at the Name of Jesus" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 27, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

A group of enraged protesters exploded in anger after a chaplain prayed in the name of Jesus at a town hall meeting in Louisiana hosted by U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy.

The verbally-abusive crowd also heckled a Vietnam War veteran who attempted to lead the group in the pledge of allegiance.

It was one of the most heinous acts of un-American, anti-Christian behavior I've ever seen, folks.

Louisiana State chaplain Michael Sprague and the unidentified Vietnam War veteran should be commended for maintaining their composure in the face of such verbal barbarism.

The Feb. 22 town hall meeting in Metairie, was quickly overrun by the angry mob—much like other town hall meetings hosted by Republican lawmakers across the country.

The Mainstream Media would have us believe the unruly demonstrations are part of an organic, grassroots effort.

But I sincerely doubt many in the mob were actually residents of Louisiana—because I know the good people of Louisiana and nobody behaves like that in the Bayou State.

Folks are raised right in Cajun Country. There's no way anybody would embarrass their mommas by acting the fool in public.

Chaplain Sprague had barely invoked the name of the Almighty when the heckling began.

"Pray on your own time. This is our time," someone shouted. "Amen. Let's get on with it."

Others chanted, "Separation of church and state" and so on and so forth. Someone filmed the prayer and words do not do justice to the amount of hate directed at the chaplain.

"I've never been shouted down throughout a time of prayer like that," Chaplain Sprague told me. "I've never been in a situation like that. It's sad there wasn't honor and respect for God."

But they became absolutely unhinged when he concluded his prayer in the name of Jesus.

"Wow, they booed the name of Jesus," Cassidy said in remarks reported by the Times Picayune.

The chaplain said the overwhelming majority of people in the room were causing a disruption. The chaplain was especially disappointed by how the mob insulted the Vietnam War veteran.



An article by Justin Holcomb titled "Reminder: 180 Federal Workers Planning to Disobey Trump—Leaks Will Continue" was posted at townhall.com on March 2, 2017. Following is the article.

Until President Donald Trump is prepared to clean house, the leaks that we are seeing throughout federal agencies will continue to expand, sinking the mighty ship he and his supporters built in the 2016 election.

Insiders and spooks at the FBI, the Justice Department, and the CIA have already destroyed General Mike Flynn and now they have Attorney General Jeff Sessions in their crosshairs.

It was reported last month that at least 180 federal employees "have signed up for a workshop featuring expert advice on workers' rights and expressing civil disobedience." And dozens more have attended support groups for discussing opposition to the Trump administration.

Less than two weeks into Trump's administration, federal workers are in regular consultation with recently departed Obama-era political appointees about what they can do to push back against the new president's initiatives. Some federal employees have set up social media accounts to anonymously leak word of changes that Trump appointees are trying to make.

This will continue until drastic and unprecedented changes are made.

Politics aside, how can Obama-era government workers possibly comprehend President Trump's strategy and direction for America? How can they perform their job in a manner that best serves the American people?

Did Bush-era layovers destroy Obama's National Security Advisor James Jones and his Attorney General Eric Holder? Why Not?

Until these vast and complicated questions are answered, the leaks will continue.



An article by Emma Dibdin titled "Trump Has Spent As Much in Travel in a Month As Obama Did in a Year" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

Donald Trump spent many years criticizing President Barack Obama for—among other things—spending too much taxpayer money on golfing trips, vacations and presidential travel on Air Force One. But according to a new report in The Washington Post, Trump's travel during his first month in office has likely cost as much as Obama spent on travel in an average year.

Trump's three consecutive weekend trips to his private Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida alone "probably cost the federal treasury about \$10 million, based on figures used in an October government report analyzing White House travel,"

explains the Post. Meanwhile, a Judicial Watch report from December put Obama's total travel costs over eight years at just under \$97 million.

The costs of Trump's Mar-a-Lago trips include enlisting the Coast Guard to patrol the exposed shoreline, and other security, military, and staffing expenses incurred by moving Trump and his presidential apparatus to the so-called winter White House. This, presumably, is why most presidents content themselves with one year-round White House.

Another estimated \$1.3 million was spent on Secret Service protection for Trump's sons Eric and Donald Jr. during overseas business trips. That brings the month's total to an estimated \$11.3 million, just short of the \$12.1 million average that Obama spent on travel in a year.

The costs of the first family's "unusually elaborate lifestyle" don't stop with Florida—New York City is paying \$500,000 a day to guard Trump Tower, where Melania Trump and her son Barron now live. High security and travel costs have also been incurred by Trump's sons taking business trips abroad—Eric Trump's recent trip to Uruguay cost the Secret Service and US Embassy roughly \$100,000.

And that's not even getting into the moral costs of having sensitive, potentially classified presidential business carried out in front of paying guests at Mar-a-Lago.



An article by Rick Newman titled "Trump's Absurd Claim About the US Labor Force" was posted at yahoo.com on March 1, 2017. Following is the article.

Nice speech, President Trump. So why mar it with ridiculous and misleading claims about the state of the US job market?

Trump has repeatedly claimed that "94 million Americans are out of the labor force," a statement he made twice in his otherwise measured speech to Congress on February 28.

In a technical sense, Trump's number is correct.

But it is meant to create the impression that something is wrong with the US labor force that actually isn't, and the many people who parrot Trump's zingers often interpret this to mean that 94 million Americans are unemployed. That's crazy.

Some simple math.

- The total US population is about 325 million.
- The "working-age" population—those between 16 and 65—numbers about 206 million, excluding people in jail and other institutions.
- There are about 152 million Americans with jobs.
- Another 7.6 million Americans are unemployed and looking for work.

■ The labor force is defined as those with civilian jobs and those looking for jobs. So the total US labor force is about 160 million.

■ If you subtract the number of Americans in the labor force from the total working-age population, you get about 46 million working-age Americans who are not counted as part of the labor force because they're not working or looking for work.

Does that sound terrible? Well, before you answer, consider that 6.5% of people over 16 say they're not in the labor force because they're disabled, 6.4% say they're going to school, and 5.4% say they have home responsibilities, according to a 2015 analysis by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Does Trump believe every college student should quit school and get a job?

That every parent who's home taking care of a kid should immediately hire daycare and get to work?

That cops and firefighters who retired because of on-the-job injuries need to tough it out and get back to work?

If you believe every working-age American ought to be in the labor force, then the answer to these questions is yes.

Trump's figure of 94 million people not in the labor force is roughly twice the number of working-age Americans not in the labor force.

So where do the rest come from?

Yahoo Finance's Ash Bennington conducted a deeper dive into the makeup of the labor force, but here's the simple answer: They're retired. Of 48 million Americans over 65, about 6.7 million of them work, leaving 41 million who don't. Trump seems to be saying older Americans ought to stay on the job until they die.

If you add up 46 million working-age Americans who don't work, and another 41 million others over 65, you get 87 million Americans not in the labor force. The other 7 million or so include people who are in jail or other institutions and not counted as part of the labor force. So Trump's 94 million includes inmates as well.

No serious economist thinks every person in America over the age of 16 ought to have a job. Here are the serious problems we do have.

- Nearly 8 million Americans are legitimately unemployed and looking for a job.
- Another 7.6 million are underemployed, either barely working or working less than they want because they can't find better opportunities.
- So that's 16 million Americans who need help right there.
- Many others work as much as they can, but are still falling behind because their pay hasn't kept up with expenses.

■ And there may be 10 million working-age men who are so demoralized about their prospects they're not even trying to work, even though they're healthy enough to, a phenomenon economist Nicholas Eberstadt calls "America's invisible crisis."

Trump has pledged to help the "forgotten men and women of America," and his early focus on creating more jobs seems to be encouraging. But Trump won't help the cause by making legitimate problems sound far worse than they are.

In fact, as the baby boomers flood into retirement, the number of Americans "not in the labor force" could expand by Trump's third or fourth year. By then, he may realize there's nothing inherently wrong with that.



An article by Nick Schager titled "'Beauty and the Beast' Sidekick LeFou Will Have Disney's First 'Gay Moment' " was posted at yahoo.com on March 1, 2017. Following is the article.

Disney's live-action retelling of Beauty and the Beast is set to lead the March box-office charge, with some analysts estimating that the lavish adaptation could earn upwards of \$120 million during its opening weekend alone.

That would make it a potential record-setter—although according to director Bill Condon, the film will also be blazing a new trail when it hits theaters, thanks to the fact that it will feature the studio's first ever "exclusively gay moment."

In a new Attitude feature, Condon reveals that Josh Gad's portrayal of LeFou—the goofy sidekick to Luke Evans's macho egomaniac Gaston—will actually be a character struggling with his sexuality. As Condon says:

"LeFou is somebody who on one day wants to be Gaston and on another day wants to kiss Gaston . . . He's confused about what he wants. It's somebody who's just realizing that he has these feelings. And Josh makes something really subtle and delicious out of it. And that's what has its payoff at the end, which I don't want to give away. But it is a nice, exclusively gay moment in a Disney movie."

The scene in question will be the first of its kind in a Disney princess movie, although according to star Emma Watson, it's in keeping with the larger themes of confusion and alienation that are at the heart of the film:

"I think it was really important for Dan and I to develop and understand why each of our characters feel as if they don't fit in. . . . I certainly felt watching the original that I wanted to know more about why Belle feels that she's different and why she wants to be different and why she's naturally different."

Whether this reimagining of LeFou will be welcomed by fans—or prove to be a divisive twist, à la Star Trek Beyond's decision to portray Sulu as a gay man—will be known soon enough. Beauty and the Beast dances its way into theaters on March 17. You can read more about Condon's film at Attitude.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”