

# Eye on the World

## Feb. 17, 2018

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 Feb. 17, 2018.

**Compiled by Dave Havar**

**Luke 21:34-36**—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."



A video and an article by Ryan Pickrell titled "Israel Launches Massive Airstrikes Against Iranian, Syrian Military Sites" were posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 10, 2018. Following is the article.

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Israel bombed Iranian and Syrian military forces in Syrian territory Saturday, risking escalation an already heated conflict.

After an Iranian drone entered Israeli airspace early Saturday, Israel responded by shooting down the drone and then bombing the launch site in Syria. One of the F-16 fighters was brought down in Israel by a Syrian anti-aircraft missile, forcing both pilots to eject. Both were injured, one critically. Israel then launched a "large-scale operation" against a dozen Syrian and Iranian military sites, including Syria's air defense systems, according to Reuters.

Saturday's incident risks drawing Israel into the bloody, 7-year-old Syrian civil war. Iran's involvement in the conflict, specifically the regular deployment of Iranian and Iran-backed forces in support of the Syrian regime and President Bashar al-Assad near the Israeli border, is already has Israel on edge.

Iran called Israel's description of Saturday's chain of events "ridiculous," and Syria said the attack on the military sites constituted a clear act of "Israeli aggression."

"Syria and Iran are playing with fire," Israeli Defense Forces spokesman Lt. Jonathan Conricus said in response. Russia, a staunch proponent of the Assad regime, expressed concern, encouraging both sides to exercise restraint.

Despite rising tension and hostile rhetoric, both Israel and Syria signaled that neither is interested in war, but situations such as this often make that quite difficult.

The incident Saturday reportedly marks the first Israeli strike on the Iranian military and the first, according to retired Gen. Amos Yadlin, and the first time Syria and Israel have engaged one another on the battlefield since the 80s. The downed F-16 is said to be the first Israeli military aircraft lost in decades.



An article by Mike Smith titled "Israel Warns Over Iran's Presence in Syria After Air Strikes" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 11, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Israel issued stark warnings on Sunday over Iran's presence in neighboring Syria after a confrontation threatened to open a new and unpredictable period in the country's seven-year civil war.

Israel carried out major air raids in Syria on Saturday, including against what it described as Iranian targets—the first time it had publicly acknowledged doing so since the war began.

The raids came after an Israeli F16 fighter was shot down by Syrian air defenses. The pilots survived, but it was Israel's first loss of a warplane in battle since 1982.

"We inflicted on Saturday a heavy blow to Iranian and Syrian forces," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the start of Sunday's cabinet meeting.

"We made clear to everyone that our rules of engagement will not change in any way. We will continue to harm anyone who tries to harm us. This was our policy and this will remain our policy."

Other Israeli ministers spoke of refusing to accept Iran entrenching itself militarily in Syria, as Netanyahu has said repeatedly. Tehran denies it is doing so.

Syria has become more emboldened to try to stop Israeli strikes inside the country, while Israel wants to maintain its ability to operate there when it sees fit, said Ofer Zalzburg of the International Crisis Group think tank.

Israel has sought to stay out of direct involvement in the Syrian war, but it acknowledges carrying out dozens of air strikes there to stop what it describes as deliveries of advanced weapons to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah.

Israel fought a devastating war in 2006 with Hezbollah, which along with Iran and Russia backs the Syrian regime in the conflict.

"I think this incident is more likely to be contained because fundamentally it is a gradual attempt to renegotiate the so-called rules of the game," Zalzburg said, adding that Russia should mediate.

Witnesses said Israel had deployed a missile defence system in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights near the demarcation line with Syria on Sunday morning.

Saturday's events began with Israel shooting down what it described as an Iranian drone that had entered Israeli airspace from Syria—which Tehran has denied.

On Sunday, Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus alleged the drone was a copy of a US model captured by Iran in 2011. He said the conclusion was made from an analysis of the drone's debris.

Israel responded on Saturday with a raid on what it said was the Iranian control systems in Syria that sent the drone.

During that raid, the Israeli F16 met heavy Syrian anti-aircraft fire and was hit, Israeli Air Force Brigadier General Amnon Ein Dar told army radio.

The pilots ejected and the plane crashed inside Israel. One crew member was severely wounded, but his condition was said to be improving on Sunday.

Israel then carried out what it called "large-scale" air strikes inside Syria, including against what it described as Iranian targets.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said "Iran does not have a military presence in Syria, and has only sent military advisers at the request of the Syrian government."

Netanyahu spoke with both Russian President Vladimir Putin and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson after Saturday's confrontation.

Washington backed Israel and blamed Iran for the escalation.

Tillerson on Sunday [Feb. 11] begins a Middle East tour that will take him to Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and Kuwait.

Netanyahu has met regularly with Putin in recent months in a bid to convince Russia to keep Iranian forces away from Israeli territory.

Russia and Israel have also established a hotline to avoid accidental clashes in Syria.

Israel is technically at war with Syria and occupies a swathe of the Golan Heights that it seized in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.



An article titled "Trump Questions Israel's Interest in Making Peace" was posted at [newsmax.com](http://newsmax.com) on Feb. 11, 2018. Following is the article.

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President Donald Trump said in an interview published on Sunday that he was "not necessarily sure" Israel was seeking to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Trump has previously denounced the Palestinians for what he sees as their unwillingness to negotiate, but he has largely refrained from criticizing Israel.

Speaking to freesheet daily Israel Hayom, Trump noted that while US-Israel relations were "great," peace with the Palestinians would make them "a lot better."

"Right now, I would say the Palestinians are not looking to make peace. They are not looking to make peace," Trump said in the interview with the right-wing paper.

"And I am not necessarily sure that Israel is looking to make peace. So we are just going to have to see what happens."

Trump also expressed concerns about Israeli settlement building, although his administration has been far less critical of settlements than his predecessor Barack Obama.

Trump's ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, has in the past been a supporter of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.

"The settlements are something that very much complicates and always have complicated making peace, so I think Israel has to be very careful with the settlements," he said.

Trump has said he intends to bring the Israelis and Palestinians to the "ultimate deal" that would resolve the decades-long conflict, but in the interview he questioned whether negotiations were even possible for now.

"I don't know frankly if we are going to even have talks. We will see what happens, but I think it is very foolish for the Palestinians and I also think it would be very foolish for the Israelis if they don't make a deal," Trump said.

"It's our only opportunity and it will never happen after this."

Relations between Washington and the Palestinians have been severely strained since Trump's December decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the American embassy there.

Palestinian leaders say there can be no talks with the US administration until the decision on the city that they also see as their capital is reversed.

Trump is also withholding tens of millions of dollars from UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.



A Reuters article titled "Damascus Warns Israel of 'More Surprises' in Syria" was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on Feb. 13, 2018. Following is the article.

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The Syrian government said on Tuesday that Israel would face "more surprises" in future attacks on Syria's territory, after Syrian air defenses shot down an Israeli F-16 jet.

Syrian anti-aircraft fire downed the F-16 as it returned from a bombing raid on Iran-backed positions in Syria early on Saturday. Both Iran and Russia are supporting President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's near seven-year civil war.

"Have full confidence the aggressor will be greatly surprised because it thought this war—this war of attrition Syria has been exposed to for years—had made it incapable of confronting attacks," assistant foreign minister Ayman Sussan said.

"God willing they will see more surprises whenever they try to attack Syria," Sussan said during a Damascus news conference.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israeli forces would press ahead with Syria operations despite their loss of the advanced warplane, the first it has lost to enemy fire in 36 years.

In Kiryat Shmona on Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman told reporters: "There are no limitations (on military operations), and nor do we accept any limitations . . . We will respond to every provocation."

"We will continue to defend our vital security and other interests. And I would like to paraphrase the well-known saying: 'This is not the time to bark, this is the time to bite.'"

Iran's involvement in Syria, including the deployment of Iran-backed forces near the Golan Heights, has alarmed Israel, which has said it would counter any threat and has mounted regular attacks into Syria.

Israel also has accused Iran of planning to build precision-guided missile factories in Lebanon, which is home to the powerful Hezbollah movement, one of the groups fighting in support of Assad in Syria.



An article by Mike Smith titled "Netanyahu Rejects Calls to Resign After Police Seek Indictment" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 14, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected calls to step down Wednesday after police recommended his indictment for corruption, the biggest challenge yet to the right-wing premier's long tenure in power.

Netanyahu again came out swinging on Wednesday, harshly criticising the police investigation while making clear he has no intention of resigning.

His governing coalition, seen as the most right-wing in Israeli history, appears firm for now, but reactions from key members in the coming days will be watched closely for signs of fissures.

"I can reassure you that the coalition is stable," Netanyahu said at an event in Tel Aviv.

“Neither me nor anyone else has plans for elections. We’re going to continue to work together for the good of Israeli citizens until the end of the term” in 2019.

Netanyahu, prime minister for a total of nearly 12 years, also harshly denounced the police recommendations against him as “full of holes, like Swiss cheese.”

Police recommended Tuesday that he be indicted for bribery, fraud and breach of public trust.

The attorney general must now decide how to move forward, a process that could take months.

A prime minister facing such police recommendations or who has been formally charged is not obliged to resign.

As it became clear police were to issue the recommendations on Tuesday night, Netanyahu gave a televised address to the nation, proclaiming his innocence and criticizing the police.

Ministers close to him also defended Netanyahu.

Avi Gabbay, leader of the opposition Labour party, said the “Netanyahu era is over” and called on him to step down.

“He is unworthy to continue to be prime minister of Israel. It’s very simple,” Gabbay said in a video interview with the Ynet news site.

Tzipi Livni, part of the main opposition Zionist Union alliance that also includes Labour, criticized what she called a campaign to undermine the police.

One of Netanyahu’s main rivals also came under the spotlight when it emerged he had spoken to police about one of the allegations against the prime minister.

Yair Lapid, head of the centrist opposition party Yesh Atid, said “there is no choice but to tell the truth when the police ask for explanations in a serious corruption case.”

Lapid, who also called on Netanyahu to step down, was finance minister at the time one of the allegations took place.

But at the same time, key coalition ministers signaled they would remain in the government, though at least one also criticized Netanyahu’s behaviour.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett said “taking gifts” as Netanyahu is alleged to have done was not up to the “standard” of a prime minister.

But he stressed Netanyahu was innocent until proven guilty and that he would wait for the attorney general’s decision.

The gifts allegedly included pricey cigars, jewelery and champagne.

The total value of the gifts received between 2007 and 2016 is estimated at around one million shekels (229,000 euros, \$283,000), according to police.

The 68-year-old premier has been questioned seven times by police and has called the investigation an attempt by political opponents to force him from office.

Netanyahu's time as premier is fast approaching Israel's revered founding father David Ben-Gurion's 13 years. He first held the office from 1996-1999 before returning to power in 2009.



An article by Jon Levine titled " 'Morning Joe' Co-Host Smacks Down Media's Pro-North Korea Coverage" was posted at thewrap.com on Feb. 12, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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"Morning Joe" co-host Willie Geist is not having any of the media's North Korean Olympics love.

In a tweet Sunday, Geist blasted media reports portraying the North Korean Olympic team in a flattering light. The delegation was headed up by Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong.

"I can report South Koreans here in Pyeongchang are not as enthralled with Kim Yo Jong and the North Korean cheerleaders as it seems some media are back home," wrote Geist. "Something about N.K. killing, starving, & imprisoning its people while threatening South Korea with nuclear annihilation."

Over the weekend, Geist was part of the wide spectrum of Twitter users on the left and the right who denounced the media's treatment of North Korea. Critics blasted headlines and tweets from the New York Times, CNN, NBC, the Washington Post, Reuters and others which offered fawning coverage to the delegation and Kim Yo Jong.

The media's positive framing of the North Korean team mostly left out that Kim Yo Jong helps lead the world's most repressive dictatorship and that their much-lauded synchronized "cheer squad" were essentially comprised of slaves.

Here are a few examples of people who did not fawn over the North Korean regime.

■ "Kim Jong Un's Sister Is Not Your New Fave Shade Queen. She's A Garbage Monster," wrote BuzzFeed, in one of the earliest pieces denouncing the coverage.

■ "If you hate US leaders more than you hate the Kim Jong-un regime, you really need to read up on North Korea," wrote Jake Tapper.

■ "N Korea's cheering squad is an amazing spectacle, but they're human hostages of a criminal regime," wrote Ian Bremmer.

■ "I am deeply saddened by how my profession has normalized and glamorized this murderous regime. And then we wonder why no one trusts us," wrote Salena Zito.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles that are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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- An article by Patrick Gillespie titled “Venezuela Oil Production is Plummeting” was posted at cnn.com on Feb. 12, 2018.
  - An article titled “Less-Cool Facebook Losing Youth at Fast Pace: Survey” was posted at afp.com (from France) on Feb. 12, 2018.
  - An article by James Landale titled “Commonwealth in Secret [Monarchy] Succession Plan” was posted at bbc.com on Feb. 13, 2018.
  - A Reuters article by Krisztina Than titled “Hungary Submits Anti-Immigration ‘Stop Soros’ Bill to Parliament” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 14, 2018.
  - An article by Zaheer Cassim and John Dyer titled “Cape Town Could Run Out of Water by June” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 14, 2018.
  - A video and an article titled “Water Crisis Spurs New Breed of Criminals in Cape Town” were posted at cbsnews.com on Feb. 14, 2018.



A video and an article titled “Florida School Shooting Ranks Among America’s Deadliest” were posted at cbsnews.com on Feb. 14, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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The school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, now ranks among the most deadly mass shootings in American history. With at least 17 dead, the Valentine’s Day shooting is worse than the Virginia Tech and Columbine shootings.

Two of the deadliest mass shootings in modern U.S. history happened just 35 days apart in 2017. The Las Vegas shooting at the Route 91 music festival near the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino on Oct. 1 left 58 people dead and hundreds wounded. Then five weeks later, on Nov. 5, at least 26 people were killed by a gunman at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

News of shooting incidents at everyday places like offices, schools and shopping malls seem to have become numbingly common, and a 2014 FBI study found that the number of mass shootings has increased in recent years.

Here is a look at the some of the worst mass shootings this country has seen.

- Las Vegas, Nevada—Route 91 Festival—58 dead

**October 1, 2017:** A shooting at a music festival on the Las Vegas Strip killed 58 people and wounded more than 500 others. The gunman, Stephen Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada, opened fire on thousands of people gathered at an outdoor music festival from a hotel room window on the Las Vegas strip.

■ Orlando, Florida—Pulse nightclub—49 dead

**June 12, 2016:** A gunman armed with an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando in a rampage and hostage standoff that lasted three hours before he was killed in a gunfight with SWAT officers, police said. The gunman was identified as 29-year-old Omar Mateen. Mateen pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) during the attack. His wife, Noor Salman, is facing charges of aiding and abetting and obstruction in federal court; she has pleaded not guilty to helping her husband.

■ Blacksburg, Virginia—Virginia Tech—32 dead

**April 16, 2007:** Seung-Hui Cho, 23, killed 32 people in two shooting scenes at a dorm and then in a classroom building on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia. He then killed himself.

■ Newtown, Connecticut—Sandy Hook Elementary School—27 dead

**Dec. 14, 2012:** Adam Lanza, 20, opened fire at Sandy Hook Elementary School, killing 20 children and six staff members before killing himself. His mother, Nancy Lanza, was also found shot to death at their home.

■ Sutherland Springs, Texas—First Baptist Church—26 dead

**Nov. 5, 2017:** Police say Devin Patrick Kelley opened fire with a military-style rifle, killing 26 and wounding at least 20 at a Sunday church service, in the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history. Authorities say Kelley apparently shot and killed himself in his car after a chase.

■ Killeen, Texas—Luby's Cafeteria—23 dead

**Oct. 16, 1991:** Twenty-three people were killed and 20 more wounded when George Hennard opened fire at Luby's Cafeteria. He then killed himself.

■ San Ysidro, California—McDonald's—21 dead

**July 18, 1984:** James Oliver Huberty, an out-of-work security guard, killed 21 people in a McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, California. A police sharpshooter killed Huberty.

■ Parkland, Florida—Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School—17 dead

**Feb. 14, 2018:** 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz reportedly pulled the fire alarm in this Florida high school and used an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle to cause maximum loss of life in the chaos that ensued. At least 17 people were killed. Cruz was captured alive.

■ Austin, Texas—University of Texas—16 dead

**Aug. 1, 1966:** Charles Whitman killed his wife and mother, then opened fire from the clock tower at the University of Texas at Austin, killing 16 people and wounding about 30 others before he was shot and killed by police.

■ San Bernardino, California—14 dead

**Dec. 12, 2015:** Syed Farook and his wife Tafsheen Malik opened fire on a meeting and holiday lunch for Farook's colleagues in San Bernardino, killing 14 in a terrorist attack inspired by ISIS. They died in a shootout with police hours later.

■ Edmond, Oklahoma—14 dead

**Aug. 20, 1986:** Pat Sherrill, 44, a postal worker who was about to be fired, shot and killed 14 people at a post office in Edmond, Oklahoma, then killed himself.

■ Fort Hood, Texas—13 dead

**Nov. 5, 2009:** Thirteen soldiers and civilians were killed and more than two dozen wounded when a gunman walked into the Soldier Readiness Processing Center at Fort Hood, Texas, and opened fire. The gunman, Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was convicted on 13 counts of premeditated murder and sentenced to death.

■ Littleton, Colorado—Columbine High School—13 dead

**April 20, 1999:** Students Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, opened fire at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding 26 others before killing themselves in the school's library.

■ Binghamton, New York—13 dead

**April 3, 2009:** A gunman identified as 41-year-old Jiverly Wong opened fire in a community center where immigrants were taking a citizenship exam in Binghamton, in upstate New York, killing 13 people before committing suicide.

■ Seattle, Washington—13 dead

**Feb. 18, 1983:** Three gunmen opened fire at the Mah Wee gambling and social club in Seattle's Chinatown neighborhood, killing 13. The suspects escaped but were captured, tried and convicted.

■ Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania—13 dead

**Sept. 25, 1982:** Former prison guard George Banks shot and killed 13 people, including 4 of his own children. He was sentenced to death but remains behind bars amid questions about his mental competency.

■ Camden, New Jersey—13 dead

**Sept. 6, 1949:** In one of the first modern mass shooting incidents in U.S. history, Howard Unruh shot and killed 13 people as he walked down the streets in Camden, New Jersey. He was found to have paranoid schizophrenia and spent the rest of his life in a mental hospital, dying in 2009.

■ Aurora, Colorado—Movie theater—12 dead

**July 20, 2012:** A dozen people were killed when a gunman burst in and opened fire during a midnight screening of the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises." James Holmes, 24, pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

■ Washington, D.C.—Navy Yard—12 dead

**Sept. 16, 2013:** Former contractor Aaron Alexis shot and killed 12 people and wounded eight at the Washington Navy Yard before dying in a shootout with police. He was reported to have had a history of mental illness.



An article by Terene P. Jeffrey titled "Trump's Budget Never Balances" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 14, 2018. Following is the article.

Can you tell which party made the following budget proposals?

■ The first one said: "The budget proposes to eliminate federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting."

"Services such as PBS and NPR, which receive funding from the CPB, could make up the shortfall by increasing revenues from corporate sponsors, foundations, and members," it said.

"In addition," it continued, "alternatives to PBS and NPR programming have grown substantially since CPB was first established in 1967, greatly reducing the need for publicly funded programming options."

■ The second proposal took the contrary position.

It said: "The Committee values the contributions of public television and radio stations in serving the needs of their local communities . . .

"In fulfilling the mission of the Public Broadcasting Act," it said, "CPB should encourage federally funded content distributed through national organizations to focus on rural America, civic discourse and engagement, and life-long learning."

So, which party believes the federal government should force taxpayers to fund CPB and which believes it should not?

Consider a similar conflict over another federal spending program.

One side said: "The budget proposes to begin shutting down the National Endowment for the Arts . . . given the notable funding support provided by private and other public sources and because the administration does not consider NEA activities to be core federal responsibilities."

The other side responded: "The committee values greatly the longstanding collaborative relationship between the NEA and the states."

So, which party favors forcing taxpayers to fund the NEA and which does not?

Answer: The Republicans.

Yes, the Republicans took both sides on these issues.

The Republicans in the White House called for eliminating federal funding of CPB and NEA. The Republican majority in the House called for funding them.

Trump took one side. House Republicans took the other.

Who won? So far, not Trump. But, then, Trump has not put up a fight.

Last May, when White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney presented Trump's budget proposal to Congress, it included a document that outlined "\$26.7 billion in program eliminations." These included phasing out federal funding for CPB and NEA.

The Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee rejected most of the administration's program-elimination requests. It published a 231-page report on its funding bill for the Departments of Labor, HHS and Education that included the above-quoted argument for the \$445 million it approved for CPB. It similarly published a 178-page report on its funding bill for the Department of Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency that included its argument for giving \$145 million to the NEA.

The committee then rolled multiple funding bills into a single 1,658-page bill and sent it to the full House, where it was approved 211-198.

That bill was never considered in the Senate.

Instead, Congress has passed a series of continuing resolutions to keep the government funded into fiscal 2018. President Trump has signed each of these. The most recent continuing resolution, which Trump signed last week, funds the government until March 23, which is almost halfway through fiscal 2018.

This week, OMB Director Mulvaney presented Trump's fiscal 2019 budget proposal to Congress. In written testimony to the Senate Budget Committee, Mulvaney noted that this new proposal calls for "\$26 billion in program eliminations." These include, once again, phasing out federal funding for CPB and the NEA.

Last year, when the White House released the president's fiscal 2018 budget proposal, Mulvaney told the press: "It balances in the tenth year."

This week, when the White House released the president's fiscal 2019 budget proposal, Mulvaney told the press: "I hope there's some value in being honest with people about what the fiscal situation is. But we don't balance during the 10-year window."

The bottom line: If President Trump served two full terms, and a Republican-controlled Congress passed the budget proposals he sent them with no alterations whatsoever, President Trump would never balance the budget.

Under Trump's new budget proposal, the cumulative federal deficit over the next 10 years would exceed \$7 trillion.

Rather than push back against Trump's planned deficit spending, the Republican Congress is likely to push in the other direction.

In his new budget message to Congress, Trump said: "The current fiscal path is unsustainable and future generations deserve better."

He is right.

But if an all-Republican government has neither the nerve nor the inclination to cut \$445 million in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or \$145 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, it will not stop itself from piling another \$7 trillion in debt on the backs of future taxpayers.



An article by Larry Elder titled "Take the 'Racist Xenophobe' Quiz: Who Said This About Illegal Immigration?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 8, 2018. Following is the article.

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Which alleged "racist xenophobe" made these statements about illegal immigration?

■ "Those who enter the country illegally and those who employ them disrespect the rule of law, and they are showing disregard for those who are following the law. We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented (and) unchecked, and circumventing the line of people who are waiting patiently, diligently and lawfully to become immigrants in this country."

- A) Adolf Hitler
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Then-Sen. Obama, news conference, 2005

■ "Our administration has moved aggressively to secure our borders more by hiring a record number of new border guards, by deporting twice as many criminal aliens as ever before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens."

- A) Joseph Stalin
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Bill Clinton

Answer: President Clinton, State of the Union address, 1995

■ "If making it easy to be an illegal alien isn't enough, how about offering an award to be an illegal immigrant. No sane country would do that, right? Guess again."

- A) Jack the Ripper
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Answer: Reid, Senate floor, 1993

■ "In approaching immigration reform, I believe we must enact tough, practical reforms that ensure and promote the legal and orderly entry of immigrants into our country."

- A) Idi Amin
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Sen. Obama, Senate floor, 2007

■ "We all agree on the need to better secure the border, and to punish employers who choose to hire illegal immigrants."

- A) Pol Pot
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Sen. Obama, 2005

■ "All Americans, not only in the states most heavily affected but in every place in this country, are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public services they use impose burdens on our taxpayers."

- A) Michael Myers
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Bill Clinton

Answer: President Clinton, State of the Union address, 1995

■ "We will try to do more to speed the deportation of illegal aliens who are arrested for crimes, to better identify illegal aliens in the workplace."

- A) Jeffrey Dahmer
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Bill Clinton

Answer: President Clinton, State of the Union address, 1995

■ "I continue to believe that we need stronger enforcement on the border and at the workplace. And that means a workable mandatory system that employers must use to verify the legality of their workers."

- A) Kim Jong Un
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Sen. Obama, Senate floor, 2007

■ "If you break our laws by entering this country without permission and give birth to a child, we reward that child with U.S. citizenship and guarantee full access to all public and social services this society provides—and that's a lot of

services. Is it any wonder that two-thirds of babies born at taxpayer expense (in) county-run hospitals in Los Angeles are born to illegal alien mothers?"

- A) Kim Kardashian
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Harry Reid

Answer: Sen. Reid, Senate floor, 1993

■ "We need to start by giving agencies charged with border security new technology, new facilities and more people to stop, process and deport illegal immigrants."

- A) Rasputin
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Sen. Barack Obama, 2005

■ "Right now we've got millions of illegal immigrants who live and work here without knowing their identity or background."

- A) Freddy Krueger
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Sen. Obama, 2005

■ "We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

- A) Vlad the Impaler
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Bill Clinton

Answer: President Clinton, State of the Union address, 1995

■ "Let me repeat: We need strong border security at the borders."

- A) Hassan Nasrallah
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: Barack Obama, 2005

■ "If only everyone (in the Middle East) could be like Scandinavians, (achieving peace) would all be easy."

- A) Al Capone
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Barack Obama

Answer: President Obama, 2016

■ “There are too many (migrants) now . . . Europe, for example, Germany, cannot become an Arab country. Germany is Germany . . . From a moral point of view, too, I think refugees should only be admitted temporarily.”

- A) Joseph Goebbels
- B) Donald Trump
- C) Dalai Llama

Answer: Dalai Llama, 2016

Not long ago, both Democrats and Republicans advocated safe, secure borders and an immigration policy of admitting immigrants who benefit, not burden, Americans. *¿Que paso?*



A video and an article by Len Ramirez titled “San Francisco Bay Area Experiences Mass Exodus of Residents” were posted at cbssf.com on Feb. 8, 2018. Following is the article.

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The number of people packing up and moving out of the Bay Area just hit its highest level in more than a decade.

Carole Dabak spent 40 years living in San Jose and now she’s part of the mass exodus that is showing no signs of slowing down.

The retired engineer’s packing up and calling it quits about to move to the state of Tennessee.

“I loved it here when I first got here. I really loved it here. But it’s just not the same,” Dabak said.

Of course people come and go from the Bay Area all the time, but for the first time in a long time, more people are leaving the Bay Area than are coming in. And the number one place in the country for out-migration is now, right here.

Russell Hancock with Joint Venture Silicon Valley said, “Silicon Valley has been this place that is growing. And it was mostly growing because . . . people relocating here and relocating from other parts of the world. That’s changing.”

Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s own study of the out-migration says workers are moving to Sacramento, Austin, and Portland due to a number of factors. But topping the list is the high cost of housing.

“You can’t even contemplate getting into the housing market here,” Hancock said. “And I don’t mean just service workers, I mean highly skilled professionals. The tech elite are having a hard time affording reasonable housing in Silicon Valley. So this is difficult, this makes it very difficult for employers trying to recruit.”

Operators of a San Jose U-Haul business say one of their biggest problems is getting its rental moving vans back because so many are on a one-way ticket out of town.

Dabak cites crowding, crime and politics as the reasons for her own exodus.

"We don't like it here anymore. You know, we don't like this sanctuary state status and just the politics here," she said.

She plans to sell her home for about \$1 million, buy a much larger place near Nashville for less than half that and retire closer to family and friends.

Nationwide, the cities with the highest inflows according to Redfin, are Phoenix, Las Vegas, Atlanta, and Nashville.



An article by Peggy Ryan titled "Our Radicalized Media: A Clear and Present Danger" was posted at [americanthinker.com](http://americanthinker.com) on Feb. 10, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Most associate the term "radicalized" with ISIS. But radical movements aren't limited to a religion. A jihad is a crusade for a principle or belief involving struggle" and "resistance."

The Washington establishment, the Deep State, and special interests have launched their own jihad, built on a battle cry to "resist." Today, calls to "resist!" echo through Congress as half of the House and Senate stage a mutiny against a duly elected president.

"Resist!" is the call to arms from Democrat leaders (Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama) and radical activist groups (Black Lives Matter, Antifa).

More than 50 organizations have formed to "resist!" the Trump administration.

Just as ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi calls on his followers to resist infidels, so this Washington cabal calls on its warriors to resist our government, to obstruct the president.

These machinations are not conducted in the shadows, not a secret plot carried out in the dead of night. It's all in our faces. Rush Limbaugh warns of a silent coup, Sean Hannity a "soft coup," Ambassador Bolton the "first *coup d'état* in [U.S.] history."

Wow—a domestic plot to take down our government, and the best we can do is chronicle the uprising? How did we get to the place where we witness a coup and tacitly accept it?

In a word, the media, the left's super-soldiers, brought us to this point.

This powerful propaganda tool is utilized to take the state message into every living room, bedroom, workplace, and gym, anywhere there's a TV or internet, omnipresent, Big Brother.

Like Hitler's "Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda," the media control information, reporting only news that attacks our president and those working to exonerate him. They bury news of lawlessness that implicates Democrats—Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, any member of the leftist cabal.

- But why are the media protecting the bad actors?
- Is it their liberal bent, their far-left ideology?

Well, yes and no. Yes, the media are radicalized, wholly devoted to the progressive dogma of the left, but it's more than that.

These faux journalists couldn't spew their poison, advocate the overthrow of a president, without their boss's permission, without government approval.

Oh, I know: Time Warner, Comcast, and other private corporations, not government, own the media. Except corporate America and government are one and the same, partners in a corrupt merger.

The roots of this merger are in the *iron triangle*, a mutually beneficial three-way relationship among

- Congress
- Government bureaucrats (the Deep State)
- Special interests (corporate).

Iron triangles get their name because they are incredibly hard to remove once they are set in. All three components need each other in order to survive. It is not in the interests of any component to break the triangle.

This interdependence results in a shared agenda, the big money agenda. So corporate interests buy off Congress, at least enough to have an effective majority, then move to acquire media.

Corporate giants control 90 percent of U.S. mass media. These corporations are the special interests. The direct links connect all five of these media conglomerates to the political establishment and the economic and political power elites of the United States. These conglomerates are in large measure responsible for inculcating the social, political, economic, and moral values of both adults and children in the United States.

This media behemoth has turned its back on the Constitution. The media use their unparalleled influence to shield an emerging police state, bury the metastasis of political corruption in our government, and actively collude to remove our president and nullify an election.

This is not OK. None of it is OK. It's a seditious conspiracy.

Evidence is now surfacing of a tainted FBI that engaged in political espionage and illegal unmasking—dictator tactics to weaponize our intelligence agencies against American citizens, against political opponents.

Even a biased media should be shocked at these revelations. Yet the press defends the treason, blows off politicized intelligence, and attacks the messengers. There's a media blackout on the Deep State conspiracy, a deliberate attempt to keep this information from the American people.

Why didn't the Founders warn us of a compromised media? Why only admonishments to protect the free press?

Director Marshall Herskovitz called it: "Our founding fathers could not have foreseen that freedom of the press might eventually be threatened just as much by media consolidation as by government."

These consolidated media use the power of the press to serve their interests, to advance their agenda. Then, when called out for disinformation, for hiding the government's malfeasance, they use the 1st Amendment as their shield against criticism, exposure, even prosecution.

But there are limits to free speech.

*Schenck v. United States*, 249 U.S. 47 (1919): "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic[.] . . . The question in every case is *whether the words used are used* in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to *create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent.*"

I'd say an attempt to usurp our president, to take control of our government in a bloodless coup, constitutes a "substantive evil that Congress has a right to prevent."

Yet we continue to treat this sedition as protected speech—a dangerous abdication. If we attribute benign motives to the subversive media while we allow them to serve as a firewall to America's domestic enemies, as a propaganda arm of the state, we may, in the end, surrender our republic.

Liberty demands a free press; it's the foundation of our republic, our gatekeeper to democracy. But this is not a free press. It's an enemy combatant attacking the American people in plain sight.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Don't be afraid to see what you see."

What do we see?

We see media drunk on power that tell us a man is a woman, that a baby is just a suspicious growth, a threat to the mother's health that must be removed. We see media that defend radicals who disrespect our flag, that justify trashing America. We see anti-American, globalist media that promote all other countries over our own.

We see media as co-conspirators working with the very traitors they're tasked to expose, a press that publishes fake news and outright lies, that withholds the real news that would indict its comrades.

We see an American Pravda, a state-run media posing as free press to avoid detection. Media that launch coordinated attacks on the president of the United States, that hammer the fake "Russia collusion" narrative 24/7, that "report" on the contrived obstruction of justice narrative, that push the 25th Amendment (insanity) charge, all in their traitorous drive to impeach this president.

We see an attack dog for the left, media that foment hate for the president, publicly label him a pathological liar, unstable, dangerous, Hitler, a white supremacist. Their hatred is palpable, their attacks unrelenting.

We see a press that conducts an orchestrated defense of seditious Democrats, the Deep State, and Washington's ruling elite, that act as a Praetorian Guard for the insurgents in the palace coup.

This is not a free press. It's a bastardized cabal dressed up as media that is working to defeat the American people and effect a *coup d'état*. Our free press is gone, eradicated by big money and government charlatans.

This counterfeit media are an enemy of the state, a threat to liberty and democracy, a clear and present danger.

"Don't be afraid to see what you see."



A video and an article by Debra Heine titled "Sharyl Attkisson Explains the Origins of the 2016 'Fake News' Narrative in TedX Talk" was posted at [pjmedia.com](http://pjmedia.com) on Feb. 14, 2018. Following is the article.

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In a Tedx Talk at the University of Nevada a couple of weeks ago (watch the video below) investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson revealed the origins of the "fake news" narrative that was aggressively pushed by the liberal media and Democrat politicians during the 2016 election, and how it was later flipped by President Donald Trump.

Attkisson pointed out that "fake news" in the form of tabloid journalism and false media narratives has always been around under different names.

But she noticed that in 2016, there seemed to be a concerted effort by the MSM to focus America's attention on the idea of "fake news" in conservative media. That looked like a propaganda effort to Attkisson, so she did a little digging and traced the new spin to a little non-profit called "First Draft," which, she said, "appears to be the about the first to use 'fake news' in its modern context."

"On September 13, 2016, First Draft announced a partnership to tackle malicious hoaxes and fake news reports," Attkisson explained. "The goal was sup-

posedly to separate wheat from chaff, to prevent unproven conspiracy talk from figuring prominently in internet searches. To relegate today's version of the alien baby story to a special internet oblivion."

She noted that a month later, then-President Obama chimed in.

"He insisted in a speech that he too thought somebody needed to step in and curate information of this wild, wild West media environment," she said, pointing out that "nobody in the public had been clamoring for any such thing."

Yet suddenly the subject of fake news was dominating headlines all over America as if the media had received "its marching orders," she recounted. "Fake news, they insisted, was an imminent threat to American democracy."

Attkisson, who has studied the manipulative moneyed interests behind the media industry, said that "few themes arise in our environment organically." She noted that she always found it helpful to "follow the money."

"What if the whole anti-fake news campaign was an effort on somebody's part to keep us from seeing or believing certain websites and stories by contro-versializing them or labeling them as fake news?" Attkisson posited.

Digging deeper, she discovered that Google was one of the big donors behind First Draft's "fake news" messaging. Google's parent company, Alphabet, was run by Eric Schmidt, who happened to be a huge Hillary Clinton supporter.

Schmidt "offered himself up as a campaign adviser and became a top multi-million donor to it. His company funded First Draft around the start of the election cycle," Attkisson said. "Not surprisingly, Hillary was soon to jump aboard the anti-fake news train and her surrogate David Brock of Media Matters privately told donors he was the one who convinced Facebook to join the effort."

Attkisson declared that "the whole thing smacked of the roll-out of a propaganda campaign." Attkisson added, "But something happened that nobody expected. The anti-fake news campaign backfired. Each time advocates cried fake news, Donald Trump called *them* 'fake news' until he'd co-opted the term so completely that even those who [were] originally promoting it started running from it—including the *Washington Post*," which she noted later backed away from using the term.

Attkisson called Trump's accomplishment a "hostile takeover" of the term and cautioned people to always be aware of "powerful interests might be trying to manipulate" their opinions.

She described two warning signs to look out for.

- When the media tries to shape or censor facts and opinions rather than report them.
- When so many in the media are reporting the same stories, promulgating the same narratives, relying on the same sources—even using the same phrases.

Attkisson pointed out that there's an infinite number of ways to report stories, so "when everybody's on the same page, it might be the result of an organized campaign."

She warned the audience about the latest effort to quell speech through something called "media literacy," where liberal elites tell everyone else whom they should trust. She said, "Media literacy advocates are busy trying to get state laws passed to require that their version of media literacy be taught in public schools."

What's more, they're developing websites and partnering with universities. She warned that these people have their own agendas and want to tell you what to believe.

"When interests are working this hard to shape your opinion, their true goal might just be to add another layer between you and the truth," Attkisson concluded.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles that involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

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### **Government spending**

- An article by Guy Benson titled "Analysis: Let's Fact It, Neither of These Awful Parties is Actually Serious About Fiscal Responsibility" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 9, 2018.
- A video and an article by Lesley Clark and Brian Murphy titled "When Will It Stop? Conservatives Who Vowed to Cut Spending Keep Spending" were posted at McClatchyDC.com on Feb. 11, 2018.
- An article by Todd Starnes titled "Backstabbers! Republicans Betray American Taxpayers" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 11, 2018.
- An article by Michael Morris titled "Levin: You Cannot Vote for the Budget and Call Yourself a Fiscal Conservative" was posted at CNSnews.com on Feb. 9, 2018.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Rand Paul Asks: Does a \$20 Trillion Debt Make Us a Stronger Country?" was posted at CNSnews.com on Feb. 9, 2018.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "In Budget Deal, GOP and Trump Fully Fund Planned Parenthood" was posted at CNSnews.com on Feb. 9, 2018.

### **Illegal immigration**

- An article by Ryan Pickrell titled "Illegal Immigrant Found Guilty of Murdering Two California Police Officers" was posted at DailyCaller.com on Feb. 9, 2018.

■ An article by Michael Morris titled "Kevin Sorbo: Only in America are Citizens 'Racists' and 'Nazis,' But Illegal Aliens 'Dreamers' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 12, 2018.

■ An article by Timothy Meads titled "New York City Ignored All 1,526 ICE Immigrant Detainer Requests in 2017" was posted at townhall.com Feb. 10, 2018.

### **News about the media**

■ An article by Clay Waters titled "NYT Celebrates MSNBC's Joy Reid As 'Hero of the Resistance' " was posted at newsbusters.org on Feb. 11, 2018.

■ An article by Amber Athey titled "Establishment Media Parroted Dem Talking Points About the Nunes Memo" was posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 10, 2018.

■ An article by Guy Benson titled "WSJ: Why is the Media Ignoring the Real Bombshell FISA Memo?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 8, 2018.

■ An article by Tim Graham titled "PBS Analyst Compares Trump White House to Communist East Berlin" was posted at newsbusters.org on Feb. 11, 2018.

■ An article by Justin Caruso titled "MSNBC Guest Labels 'White Evangelical America' As 'Solid Bedrock Supporters' of Molesters and Pedophiles" was posted at dailycaller.com on Feb. 10, 2018.

■ An article by Timothy Meads titled "Is Judge Jeanine Pirro's Upcoming Book a Direct Response to 'Fire and Fury'?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 11, 2018.

### **Behind the scenes**

■ An article by Chris Reeves titled "Report: Russians Spent Millions to Influence Obama Administration's Uranium One Decision" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 8, 2018.

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Private FBI Texts: AG Loretta Lynch 'Knows No Charges Will Be Brought' Against Hillary Clinton" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 9, 2018.

■ An article by Matt Vespa titled "Susan Rice Email: Obama Met With FBI/DOJ About Russia, Discussed Steele Dossier" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 13, 2018.

■ An article by Ann Coulter titled "Anatomy of a Coup" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 15, 2018.

■ An article by Emmett Tyrrell titled "Following the Clinton's Final Con" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 15, 2018.



**Isaiah 55:6-11**—"Seek 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.' "