

Eye on the World

Nov. 23, 2019

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 Nov. 23, 2019.

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 Cal Thomas titled "Israel's Right to Its Ancient Land" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 21, 2019. Following is the article.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has announced U.S policy toward Israel's "settlements" is reverting to one held by the Reagan administration; that the right of Israelis to settle in the ancient lands of Judea and Samaria "is not, per se, inconsistent with international law."

This is good news, not only for Israel and its right to national security and sovereignty, but after seven decades of enemy attempts to eradicate the Jewish state it says to the world, "time's up."

Israel's enemies have had the most generous offers to live in peace, including the relinquishing of land captured by Israel after many aggressive and unprovoked wars and terrorist attacks.

With ongoing propaganda statements by Israel's enemies, the firing of rockets into civilian areas from Gaza and elsewhere, and ongoing sermons attempting to justify the violent overthrow of Israel and the murder of Jews, a reality check is long overdue.

Israel, under all of its prime ministers, has gone more than halfway trying to make peace. The responses have been as if no outreaches were ever made. Israel and the West have a right to question the sincerity of those Arab and

Muslim nations when they continue to denounce and defame Israel and the Jewish people as illegitimate occupiers of "Palestinian" land.

As long as such denial continues, there can be no opportunity for peace and Israel is well within its rights to defend itself against such ominous and ongoing verbal, theological and military threats.

It is and always has been wishful thinking to believe that people motivated by hate, a mandate from Allah to conduct what would amount to genocide against Jews and revisionist history as to the original owners of "occupied land," would miraculously change their minds and agree to reverse decades of provocations and proof of their ultimate objective.

This has always been the danger when Westerners believe all humans are alike and given the right incentives can be persuaded to act in ways consistent with Western values and practices.

The next step is for the Israeli Knesset to validate the Trump administration's new policy, which aligns with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ultimate goal.

As reported in the Jerusalem Post, "Likud MK Sharren Haskel proposed the bill weeks ago, but decided to fast-track it in light of the change in U.S. policy. Haskel submitted a request to exempt her bill to annex the Jordan Valley from the mandatory six-week waiting period for any new legislation, so that it can go to a vote in the plenum next week."

Columnist Caroline Glick wrote for the publication *Israel Hayot*, "In the interest of promoting peace, Pompeo instead told the truth. Not only are Israeli settlements not illegal. Pompeo noted that they are arguably more justified than civilian settlements built in other disputed territories. In his words, the administration's determination 'is based on the unique facts, history, and circumstances presented by the establishment of civilian settlements in the West Bank.' That is, it is based on the historic ties of the Jewish people to Judea and Samaria. These ties lay at the heart of Jewish history and religion."

Indeed, they do. Now if the European Union, whose hatred of Israel goes back to the shameless days of Nazi anti-Semitism, and is now resurging, would only see the light and end its recently announced policy to require "goods from illegal settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories to be labeled as such," perhaps some real steps forward might occur.

As long as a religious motivation for wiping out Israel persists, there will be no peace, and no two-state solution. It is why the Trump administration's position on the legality of settlements in Judea and Samaria is not only correct, but a necessary contribution to Israel's security and any true peace, or at least stability.



An article titled "Hong Kong Police Storm Campus to Flush Out Protesters Amid First Appearance of Chinese Troops" was posted at marketwatch.com on Nov. 17, 2019. Following is the article.

Police breached a Hong Kong university campus held by protesters early Monday after an all-night siege that included firing repeated barrages of tear gas and water cannons.

Anti-government protesters have barricaded themselves inside Hong Kong Polytechnic University for days. Police surrounded the area Sunday night and began moving in after issuing an ultimatum for people to leave the area. The crowd wore raincoats and carried umbrellas to shield themselves.

Riot officers broke in one entrance before dawn as fires raged inside and outside the school, but they didn't appear to get very far. Fiery explosions could be seen as protesters responded with gasoline bombs. Police, who have warned that everyone in the area could be charged with rioting, reportedly made a handful of arrests.

At daybreak, protesters remained in control of most of the campus. In one outdoor area, some demonstrators made gasoline bombs while others dozed while wearing gas masks. Two walked about with bows and quivers of arrows, while many stared at their smartphones.

A lull settled on the area as the president of the university said in a video message that police have agreed to suspend their use of force.

Jin-Guang Teng said police would allow protesters to leave and he would accompany them to the police station to ensure their cases would be processed fairly.

"I hope that you will accept the proposed temporary suspension of force and leave the campus in a peaceful manner," he said.

It seemed unlikely the protesters would accept the offer given that they would all likely be arrested.

A few hundred streamed out of the campus about 8:15 a.m. in an apparent bid to escape, but they were driven back by police tear gas. Some wearing gas masks calmly picked up smoking tear gas canisters and dropped them into heavy-duty bags, but the protesters decided to retreat with a phalanx of officers lined up across the road in the distance.

On Sunday, protesters used bows and arrows, and one arrow struck a media liaison officer in the calf. Photos on the department's Facebook page show the arrow sticking out of the back of the officer's leg through his pants.

As riot police moved in from all sides, some protesters retreated inside the university. Others set fires on bridges leading to it.

A huge blaze burned along much of a long footbridge that connects a train station to the campus over the approach to the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, a major road under Hong Kong's harbor that has been blocked by protesters for days.

The use of bows and arrows and gasoline bombs was a sharp escalation of violence by the protesters, who are trying to keep the pressure on Hong Kong leaders, who have rejected most of their demands.

The protests started peacefully in early June, sparked by proposed legislation that would have criminal suspects to be extradited to the mainland. But by the time the bill was withdrawn, the protests had hardened and broadened into a resistance movement against the territory's government and Beijing.

Activists see the extradition bill as an example of Hong Kong's eroding autonomy under Beijing rule since the 1997 handover from colonial power Britain.

Several hundred people formed a human chain Sunday in central Hong Kong in a peaceful rally in support of the movement.

Azaze Chung, a university student, said the government should respond to the protesters' demands, not just use force against them.

Police and protesters faced off all day outside Polytechnic after a pitched battle the previous night in which the two sides exchanged tear gas and gasoline bombs that left fires blazing in the street.

A large group of people arrived Sunday morning to try to clean up the road but were warned away by protesters. Riot police shot several volleys of tear gas at the protesters, who sheltered behind a wall of umbrellas and threw gasoline bombs into nearby bushes and trees, setting them on fire.

The protesters held their ground for most of the day, as water cannon trucks drove over bricks and nails strewn by protesters to spray them at close range—some with water dyed blue to help police identify protesters afterward.

Protesters began retreating into the university near sunset, fearing they would be trapped as police approached from other directions. The protesters barricaded the entrances to the campus and set up narrow access control points.

They are the holdouts from larger groups that occupied several major campuses for much of last week.

Another group threw bricks in the street to block a main thoroughfare in the Mongkok district, as police fired tear gas to try to disperse them. The disruption to Nathan Road traffic may have been an attempt to distract police during the standoff at Polytechnic.

Opposition lawmakers criticized the Chinese military for joining a cleanup to remove debris from streets near Hong Kong Baptist University on Saturday.

Dozens of Chinese troops, dressed in black shorts and olive drab T-shirts, ran out in loose formation and picked up paving stones, rocks and other obstacles that had cluttered the street.

The Chinese military is allowed in Hong Kong to help maintain public order, but only at the request of the Hong Kong government. The government said that it had not requested the military's assistance, describing it as a voluntary community activity.

The Education Bureau announced that classes from kindergarten to high school would be suspended again on Monday because of safety concerns.

Classes have been canceled since Thursday, after the bureau came under criticism for not doing so earlier.



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

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- A Reuters article titled “China’s PLA [People’s Liberation Army] Soldiers Help Clean Up Hong Kong Streets [on Saturday Nov. 16 As the Second Time Since 1997 With the Other Time Helping With Cleanup After a Typhoon in 2018]” was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 16, 2019.
 - An article titled “Protesters Create Fiery Battle Line During Standoff at Hong Kong University Campus” was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
 - An article by Ken Moritsugu and Andi Jatmiko titled “Police Surround Last Hold-outs at Hong Kong Campus Protest” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
 - An article by Robert Burns titled “China Urges US to ‘Stop Flexing Muscles’ in South China Sea” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 17, 2019.
 - An article by Guillaume Lavallee titled “Israel’s Gantz Races to Form Government” was posted at afp.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
 - An article by Jonathan Feldstein titled “Israel’s Hail Mary to Prevent a Third Election in One Year” was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
 - An article by Samya Kullab and Qassim Abdul-Zahra titled “5 Protesters Dead in Violence Over Key Baghdad Squares” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
 - An article by Abeer Abu Omar titled “Protests Erupt Across Iran After Gasoline-Price Increase” was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 16, 2019.
 - An article by the Foreign Staff titled “Iranian Police Officer Dies in Clash With Oil Price Protesters As Supreme Leader Hints at Crackdown” was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Nov. 17, 2019.
 - An article by Jon Gambrell titled “Iran Gas Price Protests Quickly Turn Violent” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
 - An article by Jon Gambrell titled “Iran’s Top Leader Warns ‘Thugs’ As Protests Reach 100 Cities” was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
 - An article titled “Iran’s Guards Praise ‘Timely’ Action Against Protesters” was posted at afp.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
 - An article by Leonid Bershidsky titled “Macron Wants to Slam the Door on EU Expansion” was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
 - An article Lajla Veselica titled “European Centre-Right’s New Leader [Donald Tusk] Vows to Fight Populism” was posted at afp.com on Nov. 20, 2019.

- An article by Nico Hines titled "Forgotten Genocide: How a Quarter of Europe's Roma Were Murdered by the Nazis, Then Erased From History" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Nov. 17, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Andrew MacAskill titled "'No One Needs to Be a Billionaire', Britain's Labour Party Says" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Catherine Garcia titled "Flight From London to Sydney Breaks 2 World Records" was posted at theweek.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by John Bowker titled "South African Airways Faces Regulator Inquiry Over Sale Plan" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 17, 2019.
- An article titled "Australian Man Survives Croc Attack by Gouging Its Eye" was posted at france24.com on Nov. 16, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Sam Nussey titled "Trump Asks Japan to Hike Payments for U.S. Troops to \$8 Billion: Foreign Policy" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 15, 2019.



An article by Derek Hunter titled "Why the Iowa Caucuses Matter (at Least for Democrats)" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 19, 2019. Following is the article.

You have to feel for the people of Iowa, every four years they're inundated by a bunch of people who want to be the next president. They can't go to a restaurant, bar, fair, store, and seemingly their basement without someone giving them a flyer or desperate to shake their hand. You might think it would make them feel special, but so few people participate relative to how many are eligible that most people see it as a bit of a pain in where they prefer to sit. But it matters, at least to Democrats.

In 2016, participation in the Democratic caucuses dropped significantly from the high of 236,000 in 2008, with only just over 171,000 showing up. There were tightly contested races in both years, but Barack Obama was a draw that no other Democrat could match. There's little reason to suspect 2020 will see higher turnout.

But it still matters because so much of politics is about momentum, real or perceived, and while Iowa is more of a landing strip for Republican candidates, it's a launching pad for Democrats.

Since 1988, the eventual Republican nominee has won the Iowa caucus only 4 times, with 2 of those being an incumbent running virtually unopposed (George H.W. Bush in 1992 and George W. Bush in 2004). George W. Bush in 2000 and Bob Dole in 1996 are the only candidates to win Iowa in an open year who went on to win the nomination. Other Iowa "winners" were Mike Huckabee (2008), Rick Santorum (2012), Ted Cruz (2016), and Bob Dole (1988).

For Republicans, the odds of securing the nomination increase if you don't win in Iowa. It's a completely different story for Democrats.

Since 1988, only two candidates who've won Iowa did not go on to secure the nomination—Dick Gephardt (1988) and Tom Harkin (1992). Granted, Hillary Clinton barely won in 2016 (only by .2 percent), but a win is a win.

History suggests that if you want to be the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party, you have to win in Iowa.

This history is why Kamala Harris has closed up shop everywhere else, including her home state of California (where her campaign was floundering anyway), and why you can't go to the bathroom in the Hawkeye State without someone trying to pitch some candidate or other—Iowa Democrats are too good at picking what their party wants.

That's why Mayor Pete Buttigieg opening a sizable lead in Iowa matters.

We're moving past the "it's still early" phase of primary season; voting is only a little over three months away. People who weren't paying attention, or were trying not to pay attention, are now. Or they can't escape it.

■ Joe Biden has ridden his high name recognition as far as it will go. The more that people pay attention, the less interest they have in him as a candidate, especially in Iowa.

This is Biden's third run for the nomination; in 1988 he dropped out of the race before anyone voted. In 2012, Biden only scraped together 1 percent, less than former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson. He's slipping, down now to a tie for third place with only 15 percent. Only Delaware has spent more time with Joe than Iowa, and Iowa isn't interested. This will likely be the first time he makes it to New Hampshire.

As for the other "top tier" candidates, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, Iowa doesn't seem all that interested in either of them right now.

■ They got to know Bernie in 2016, almost handed him an upset win, but the romance seems to have faded. The biggest problem Sanders has is he's no longer unique. Last time, he was the only socialist in the race, now there isn't anyone in the race who isn't offering some degree of socialism. There's nothing "free" he can offer that someone else isn't promising as well. That leaves him being just another old, rich, white guy. And the "woke" party of identity politics isn't interested in selecting one of those.

■ Elizabeth Warren is an old, rich, white woman. The "woman" part helps her, but in the inverted victimhood food pyramid that dominates Democratic politics, simply being a woman isn't really victim enough to satiate their fetish, no matter how many yarns she spins trying to accentuate it.

■ It looks like, at least as of now, Iowa is Mayor Pete's to lose. There's still time for him to blow it, and his campaign seems to be flirting with trying, but with as white and woke as Iowa Democrats are, he's exactly where he wants to be. Pete's struggles with black voters won't matter till South Carolina, and who survives till then is an open question.

For now, it's all about Iowa. Momentum has a way of making a candidate more popular than they otherwise would be. Lack of it, and losses, snowball too.

So while the "it's still early" excuse has carried some weight until now, it's no longer early. Expect this to factor into the debate tomorrow night.

Being at the top of national polls is nice, but Iowa matters more for Democrats. Biden (26), Warren (20.8), and Sanders (17.8) are well ahead in the national polls, but Buttigieg (only 8 percent nationally) is leading where it matters. The gloves are about to come off, and it's going to be fun to watch.



An article by Chris Talgo titled "Green New Deal for Public Housing Act Doubles Down on Decades of Failure" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

On November 15, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act. The bill contains several "purposes," most notably "to transition the entire public housing stock of the United States, as swiftly and seamlessly as possible, into highly energy-efficient homes that produce on-site, or procure, enough carbon-free renewable energy to meet total energy consumption annually."

In other words, Ocasio-Cortez and Sanders want to renovate every single public housing unit in the United States into energy-efficient "green zones." The bill would allocate (at least) \$180 billion over the first decade to retrofit the nation's 1.2 million public housing units.

Once again, Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have identified a serious problem (although they may not have identified the right solution): public housing units throughout the country are dilapidated. Even worse, far too many of these places are plagued by violence, crime, illicit drug use, and all other sorts of societal scourges.

In Ocasio-Cortez's hometown of New York City, public housing authorities cannot even provide hot water and other essentials. How about this headline from November 19, 2019: "More than 10,000 New York City Housing Authority tenants were without heat and hot water on Tuesday, marking the largest unplanned one day outage of the season."

Sadly, the pitiful public housing situation in New York City is more the norm than the exception. In Chicago, the infamous Cabrini Green public housing units (built in the 1940s and 1950s) were so gang-infested and crime-ridden they were demolished in the 1990s. The equally notorious Robert Taylor homes met the same fate.

If public housing authorities are unable to deliver basic services, how confident should we be that they can "greenify" 1.2 million government housing units? Answer: Not very.

Unfortunately, the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act would do absolutely nothing to address the deep-rooted and pressing problems that seem to be so prevalent in most urban public housing developments.

This begs a question: Why are public housing units so prone to these problems in the first place? Well, this is certainly a complicated issue with many contributing factors. However, one very likely reason for the deplorable conditions could definitely be what is known as “the tragedy of the commons.”

In short, the tragedy of the commons is a “situation in a shared-resource system where individual users, acting independently according to their own self-interest, behave contrary to the common good of all users by depleting or spoiling the shared resource through their collective action.”

Put another way, so-called “public spaces” (i.e., public bathrooms, the office fridge, and definitely public housing) are especially vulnerable to shoddy maintenance and other destructive/negative behaviors because of lack of ownership.

Think about it, do you treat the office fridge or public bathroom the same way you treat your own fridge or bathroom? I bet not. Well, the same principle applies to public housing.

Of course, this is not the only reason public housing projects tend to become cesspools, but this lack of ownership is surely a major factor. Instead of doubling down on decades of government-provided housing failures, maybe it is time for a much different policy strategy.

There are all sorts of potential solutions that would likely avert the tragedy of the commons conundrum in public housing. For example, housing vouchers, relaxed zoning development rules, and tax breaks would incentivize more home ownership and reduce rents.

However, it is unlikely Ocasio-Cortez and Sanders would support these policies. Why? Because these solutions empower individuals, not the government. In essence, the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act is another Trojan horse to expand the size and scope of government.

By nature, most politicians (especially self-identified democratic socialists like Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez) believe more government involvement means better outcomes. If the history of public housing in the United States has taught us one thing, it is that more government involvement has made these places worse for those who live in them.

Maybe it is time for a different approach. Instead of doubling down on decades of public housing policy failure by retrofitting every single housing unit to become energy-efficient, perhaps the government should get out of the business of public housing altogether.

At the very least, it would avoid a \$180 billion boondoggle that will almost assuredly end in tragedy.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Quid Pro Quo, Ad Nauseum” was posted at patriotpost.us on Nov. 16, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

The way that the Democrats have been tossing that Latin term around, they must think it makes them sound smart. Right, the same way that the aviator-style sunglasses make Joe Biden seem smart. All it means is something in exchange for something else.

■ Trying to form a noose

In this instance, they are trying to use those three little words to form a noose they can put around the President's neck. Even if they are only recently aware of the term, they certainly understand the concept. When they vote a certain way because George Soros or some union has made a sizable contribution to their war chests, that is a quid pro quo; and when during a presidential campaign, a black church rents out its pulpit to a Democrat, so is that.

■ \$50 trillion short

We keep hearing Elizabeth Warren insist that she'll be able to come up with the \$52 trillion to finance her Medicare for All pipedream without raising taxes on the middle class. She keeps saying that all she has to do is raise taxes on rich people and corporation. But that is obviously nonsense. If you confiscated every last dollar from America's billionaires, you'd still be about \$50 trillion short. If she decided to concentrate on the major corporations, she would destroy them, overnight sending tens of millions of people into permanent unemployment while gutting their IRAs and pensions.

■ Stealing from the colleges next?

So long as she's going to invite us all to join her in Cloud Cuckooland, she could at least talk about sucking up the massive multi-billion dollar endowments at places like Princeton, Yale, Stanford, USC and her very own Harvard.

■ O'Rourke to Bloomberg

No sooner did Beto O'Rourke drop out of the race than little Michael Bloomberg decided to fill the anti-Second Amendment void by offering up himself and his billions.

■ Bloomberg different from Trump

I suppose Bloomberg decided that if one Manhattan tycoon could be elected president, there's no reason that a second one couldn't do the same. He ignores the obvious dissimilarities. For openers, Trump wasn't a politician. Bloomberg was New York City's mayor for 12 years and was guilty of having term limits removed so he could run for a third term.

Over the years, he has changed his party allegiance more often than his socks. Before 2001, he was a registered Democrat, but when he decided to run for mayor, he ran as a Republican. In 2009, he ran as an Independent. After supporting Hillary Clinton in 2016, he decided in 2018 to change his registration again. Now he's a Democrat, but it's anybody's guess how long it will last. Probably until he fails to get the party's nomination next summer. After all, as recently as last March, he said he would not be running for president. That promise lasted all of eight months.

■ Older than Biden

Bloomberg is even older than Biden and would be 78 next November, and a month shy of 79 on Inauguration Day.

Something else working against him is that he was married in 1975 and divorced in 1993, and since 2000, he has been shackled up with Diana Taylor, a former state banking superintendent. One has to wonder if he'll finally pop the question if he manages to secure the nomination.

One other thing working against him is that he claims to be 5-ft-8, but it's unlikely he's can reach that height except on a pogo stick. Americans will cast their ballots for Republicans, Democrats, Catholics, blacks, gays, women, Greenies, Libertarians and even Socialists, but they positively draw the line when it comes to electing midgets.

■ Puzzling Jewish voting habits

When it comes to voting, my fellow Jews are a puzzlement. It used to astonish me that 75% of Jews, one of the most successful and best-educated segments of the population, weren't embarrassed to vote exactly like 95% of blacks, who are their polar opposite.

Even when they could see with their own eyes the damage done by the Democrats who ran the big cities for decades on end, they continued to troop out and re-elect the scumbags.

■ Racial bigotry

I figured it made them feel like a bunch of Lords and Ladies Bountiful to vote for the folks who never dare tell blacks the truth, which is that it's way past time to stop blaming their status on slavery and white bigots. When it comes to racial bigotry, whites can't even approach the number of black bigots. What's more, if a white politician voices animus towards blacks, he has no chance of getting elected dog catcher. On the other hand, if a black politician doesn't spend most of his time damning white people, he has even less of a political future than Beto O'Rourke.

■ Message of black conservatives

It takes someone like Larry Elder, Jason Riley or Candace Owens to tell their fellow blacks that if they ever wish to climb above society's bottom rung, they have to prioritize education—preferably at a trade school—and get married before having children so that those children can be raised in two-parent homes. It would also help if they stopped dealing or using drugs.

It's not Whitey holding them down and it's not white cops who are killing them. If they're looking for someone to blame, they need only look in the mirror.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Revisiting Edward Snowden" was posted at patriotpost.us on Nov. 18, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

When I first heard about Edward Snowden's stealing thousands of classified documents from the U.S. government, I wanted to see him hanged from a lamppost. He certainly didn't help himself in my eyes when he fled the country, first landing in Hong Kong before finally winding up in Moscow, where he remains six years after sounding the alarm about the widespread government surveillance of loyal, law-abiding Americans.

■ You don't care about privacy?

What brought him to mind is that I recently wrote that although I didn't approve of the intelligence community snooping on Americans who are above suspicion, I, myself, had no secrets. A few days later, I read an excerpt from Snowden's recent book "Permanent Record," in which he wrote: "Ultimately, saying you don't care about privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different from saying you don't care about freedom of speech because you have nothing to say."

Son of a gun, he could have been speaking directly to me, even though I hadn't said I didn't care about privacy, merely stating that I, personally, don't have any secrets since I spend my life divulging everything that occurs to me.

I realized I knew very little about the guy aside from the fact that he seemed to be arrogant, anti-American and sported that stubble look that's never quite a beard that nerdy guys adopt in their failed attempt to look like Don Johnson back in his "Miami Vice" days.

■ More favorable impression

Among the many things I didn't know about him was that he was anything but a Commie dupe. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in the hope of joining Special Forces because he wanted to serve in Iraq "to help free oppressed people." Unfortunately, his military career was cut short when he broke both legs during a training exercise.

When it came to the Second Amendment, he joked that he, "along with my lunatic gun-toting NRA compatriots," opposed the banning of assault weapons during the Clinton administration.

Later, he opposed Barack Obama's appointing a political hack like Leon Panetta to head up the CIA, but supported Ron Paul's call for a return to the gold standard.

His breaking point came when he saw Director of National Intelligence James Clapper lie under oath to Congress, insisting that the NSA never knowingly collects data on millions of Americans.

There are very few Republicans in Congress who can point to such a principled conservative record.

■ Winding up in Russia

As for his winding up in Russia, that was a matter of necessity once the U.S. government started to pressure Hong Kong to extradite him for prosecution.

Snowden made it to Russia, but it was his intention to move on to a country that would provide sanctuary. It had been his intention to end up in Latin America. But once again, the U.S. State Department began turning the screws and even though four South American countries held out, Snowden feared that, one, a change of government in that volatile part of the world could change his status overnight or, two, that eventually they'd cave to economic pressure exerted by the U.S. and hand him over.

■ Changed opinion

In the past, I would have said that he should have returned and faced the music, but that was then and this is now.

When I see the way that Trump's allies, people like Roger Stone, have been treated, I think Snowden would have to be a lot dumber than he is to allow himself to be brought back to stand trial.

Heck, just look at the way that Trump himself is being treated by the House Democrats, who are so eager to get him out of office, they'd be willing to impeach him for sneezing in a hospital zone.

■ Snowden and the Deep State

Snowden was simply the first person to realize that the Deep State exists and that the creatures who lurk in the depths of the swamp are far more dangerous to this Republic than China, Iran and North Korea, put together.

■ Is Biden's age showing?

Considering the nature of his competition, it's no wonder that Joe Biden is holding his own in the polls. But the other day, while on the campaign trail, Biden told the audience how happy he was to be in Ohio. Unfortunately, he was in Iowa at the time. Anyone who thinks this 70-something is going to be able to compete in a general election with a 70-something who can come up with "pre-existing physician" on his own is delusional.

■ Hunter Biden on Air Force Two

Speaking of Biden, why isn't anyone, so far as I know, asking what the heck Hunter Biden was doing on Air Force Two in the first place. Perhaps a wife, particularly a First Lady, might accompany her husband when he's engaged in official state business. But a middle-aged son? If he wasn't up to financial monkey business, why did he tag along to Ukraine and China?

■ Trump asked, Biden warned

Also, how is it a crime even if Donald Trump actually asked Ukraine to look into Hunter Biden's connection to Burisma, but not a crime when we know for a fact that Vice-President Biden warned them not to pursue an investigation and then bragged about getting them to back off within the six hour deadline he'd given them?

There's no question that Ukraine is one of the most corrupt spots on the globe, and that the best thing you can say for it is that it's at odds with Russia. It's a lot like sticking up for Saudi Arabia because they hate Iran as much as we do.

■ Miffed because she was replaced

But, suddenly, Ukraine has captured the interest of the Democrats. They are particularly miffed because President Trump replaced our ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch. Of course, it's the president's prerogative to hire and fire ambassadors for any reason or no reason beyond feeling obliged to reward a particularly generous campaign contributor. Inasmuch as Ms. Yovanovitch, an Obama appointee, had not only bad-mouthed Trump, but was alleged to have been promoting George Soros's interests in that godforsaken country, a better question is why Trump didn't replace the Deep Stater three years earlier.

Bruce Bass, who has wormed his way into my affections by being the only subscriber who regularly calls out certain lines for special attention, sent along this very perceptive and timely joke about my home state.

Question: What is the difference between California and the Titanic?

Answer: The Titanic had its lights on when it sank.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Groundhog Day: The Sequel" was posted at patriotpost.us on Nov. 19, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

History will record that a president was impeached by his partisan enemies, not because he had committed high crimes and misdemeanors but simply because he opposed them and did so in what they complained was unpresidential speech and demeanor.

They accused him of being boorish and a would-be dictator out to destroy America's institutions. They deplored and denounced what they regarded as his "intemperate, inflammatory and scandalous harangues" with which he aroused the passions of the crowds at his political rallies.

■ Andrew Johnson

Actually, history has already recorded it. The president was Andrew Johnson, the year was 1868. I venture that most of us don't know much about the man, aside from the fact that he was the vice-president who assumed the presidency when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Aside from that, he pretty much disappears until another president such as Nixon and Clinton is impeached, and we're all reminded that Johnson was the first one to face removal from office.

Johnson, a Democrat, had been a senator from Tennessee when Lincoln selected him as a running mate in 1864. It was felt that because Johnson was a southerner, but one who was opposed to secession, the ticket could help unify the nation after the Civil War.

But when Lincoln was killed, the Republican-dominated House viewed the 17th president with suspicion and resentment.

Johnson had been raised in abject poverty. He was in his teens before he learned to read and it was his wife who would later teach him to write. But he was politically ambitious and won a series of elections before Lincoln plucked him out of the Senate.

I only know some of this because of an article by Steve Byas in *The New American*.

Johnson opposed slavery on moral grounds, but felt, as a confirmed federalist, that the issue was best left to the states. He supported the Civil War only because he believed in preserving the Union.

The Republicans in Congress wanted to punish the South, but Johnson thought that was both mean and short-sighted. If the country was to be made whole again, recriminations would only delay—perhaps indefinitely—that ever taking place.

Johnson was also at odds with the House over voting rights for slaves. The Republicans fought for those rights, not from any sense of moral obligation, but because they realized that if the freedmen were denied the vote, the Democrats would soon retake control of Congress. The law was passed and was soon enshrined as the 14th Amendment.

There followed a series of unconstitutional laws passed by the House in order to neuter Johnson's power. He naturally vetoed them, but with their super majority, the Republicans had no trouble overriding his objections.

Johnson then increased their fury when he replaced Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who had openly colluded with the Republicans, with General Ulysses Grant. But the House then voted to remove Grant, who resigned. In response, Johnson refused to allow Stanton's return.

That finally led the House to impeach Johnson by a margin of 126-47. In the meantime, Stanton reclaimed his office at the War Department with armed volunteers stationed outside to prevent his removal.

Things looked bleak in the Senate, where the GOP held more than two-thirds of the seats. Although the Democrats could be counted on to vote against the President's removal, it would require that seven Republicans break ranks and vote against impeachment.

Not willing to take any chances, the Republicans employed bribery, intimidation and even tried to rush statehood for Colorado, with its tiny 40,000 population, through the system. They failed. Colorado would have to wait until 1876.

Johnson's lawyer, William Evarts, argued that not only were the charges vague and bogus, but that the Republicans were trying to have it both ways by denying they were a court—and therefore did not have to grant Johnson the constitutional protections of a man on trial—but which meant they were instead enacting a bill of attainder, which is specifically forbidden by the Constitution.

Evarts had come loaded for bear. He argued that nearly all the items of impeachment involved Johnson's removal of Secretary Stanton, but that President Lincoln had argued that the president should be aided by a Cabinet that agrees with him "in political principle and general policy," which Stanton clearly did not. Evarts also pointed out that among those who had publicly

agreed with Lincoln were now two of the ringleaders calling for Johnson's head on a platter, Senators Charles Sumner and John Sherman.

In the end, it came down to one vote. Because six Democrats had already voted their consciences not to impeach, the vote stood at 35 guilty, 18 not guilty. It was up to Sen. Edward Ross of Kansas to cast the all-important deciding 36th vote.

To set the scene, Ross, 42 at the time, had already been threatened with assassination. At the very least, a not-guilty vote would constitute political suicide in Kansas. Also, he was known to not only oppose Johnson's policies, but to despise him personally. So his vote might have gone either way. Which is why the Senate chamber was totally silent when he rose to vote . . . not guilty.

As Ross later wrote: "I almost literally looked down into my open grave. Friendships, position, fortune, everything that makes life desirable to an ambitious man were about to be swept away by the breath of my mouth, perhaps forever."

As Ross and the other six recalcitrant Democrats fully expected, they lost their bids for re-election in 1870.

Years later, Ross reported that he had no regrets. "In a large sense, the independence of the executive office as a coordinate branch of government was on trial. If the president must step down, a disgraced man and a political outcast, upon insufficient proofs and from partisan considerations, the office of the president would be degraded . . . and a guilty verdict would have subjected the United States to that intolerance which so often characterizes the sway of great majorities and makes them so dangerous."

Pretty well said for a man who didn't learn to write until he was in his 20s and married.

■ Parties reversed, parallels astonishing

Although the positions of the two political parties are reversed, the parallels to our own time are astonishing. Just as Johnson caused consternation because he didn't speak or act, in the words of his political foes, presidential, the Democrats now carry on as if Donald Trump somehow snuck into the White House while everybody's back was turned, blithely ignoring the 63 million votes he garnered and the 30 states he won in spite of widespread voter fraud.

The Democrats condemned Trump for exercising his constitutional authority to fire the disloyal likes of FBI Director James Comey and the ex-ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, just as the Republicans carried on over Johnson's dumping the backstabbing Edwin Stanton.

The major difference I see between the events of 1868 and today is that there is nobody in the Senate who even faintly resembles Edward Ross. He was, as illustrated in John Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage," one of those rare men in public life who make you proud to be a fellow member of the human race, a man who put principles above politics, the nation ahead of personal ambitions.

Edward G. Ross eventually moved to New Mexico. In 1907, shortly before he died, General Hugh Cameron of Lawrence visited the 80 year old, bringing

with him a slew of testimonials from a great many Kansans who had finally, belatedly, come to recognize the greatness of the man and the tremendous debt the nation owed him.



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

Deficit

■ An article by Daniel Horowitz titled “Spending for First 2.5 Years of Trump Administration 13% Higher Than Same Period Under Obama” was posted at conservativereview.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

Finances

■ An article by Fred Imbert titled “Dow Jumps More Than 200 Points to 28,000, Posts 4-Week Winning Streak” was posted at cnbc.com on Nov. 15, 2019.

■ An article by Michael S. Derby titled “Fed Adds \$102.44 Billion to Financial System in Latest Repo Transactions” was posted at wsj.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

■ An article by Amy Graff titled “This Bay Area Zip Code [94027, the Silicon Valley town of Atherton] Ranks As the Most Expensive in the Country” was posted at sfgate.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

■ An article by Alex Tanzi titled “Many American Over 65 Face Economic Insecurity, Even If They’re Healthy” was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 19, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Hilary Russ titled “U.S. Restaurants Remove Dining Rooms to Speed Off-Site Food Frenzy [Increasingly Using Apps Such As Uber Technologies Inc’s Uber Eats and GrubHub Inc.]” was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 15, 2019.

■ An article by Korin Miller titled “According to Retail Experts, 2019 Will Be the Most Rushed Holiday Season in Years [With Thanksgiving Falling on Nov. 28—the Latest Day Possible for Turkey Day]” was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 16, 2019.

Trade war

■ A Reuters article by Stella Qiu and Ryan Woo titled “China Says It Will Strive to Reach ‘Phase One’ Trade Deal With U.S.” was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

■ An article by Jon Swartz titled “Trump Says He’s ‘Looking’ at Exempting Apple From China Tariffs” was posted at marketwatch.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

Green New Deal

■ An article by Zachary Evans titled “Sanders, AOC to Introduce Over \$100 Billion Plan to Make Public Housing Environmentally Friendly” was posted at nationalreview.com on Nov. 14, 2019.

- An article by Sebastian Blanco titled "California Is Done With the Gasoline Engine [As State Agencies Can No Longer Buy Gasoline-Powered Sedans for Their Fleets]" was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 16, 2019.
- An article by Francis X Rocca titled "Pope Francis Weighs Adding 'Ecological Sin' to Church Teachings" was posted at wsj.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "German Parliament Approves Climate Protection Law [to Meet Its 2030 Target for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions]" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Michael Brown titled "The Religion of Climate Change and the New Doomsday Scenarios" was posted at townhall.com on Oct. 3, 2019.
- An article by David Breitenbeck titled "You Don't Need to Be a Scientist to Be Legitimately Skeptical of Climate Alarmism" was posted at thefederalist.com on Oct. 11, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- A Reuters article by Ted Hasson titled "U.S. to Change Migration Rules in a Bid to Send Asylum Seekers Elsewhere" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Michele Kambas titled "Struggling With Influx, Greece Gets Tough With Asylum Seekers" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 20, 2019.
- An article by Joe Parkin Daniels titled "Columbia to Close Its Borders in Attempt to Contain Mass Protests" was posted at theguardian.com on Nov. 20, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article titled "Upshur County [Which Includes Big Sandy, Texas] Latest to Call Itself Second Amendment Sanctuary [As the 9th Texas County Out of 254 Counties]" was posted at news-journal.com on Nov. 15, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- A Reuters article by Patricia Zengerie and Doina Chiacu titled "Republican Elise Stefanik [35-Year-Old Who Has Been Rated As One of the Most Bi-partisan Members of the House] Tangles With Schiff to Defend Trump During Hearings" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled "Adam Schiff Does Not Like It When a Republican Woman Speaks Without His Permission" was posted at thefederalist.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Julie Carr Smith titled "Measure Introduced in Ohio Would Ban Abortion Outright" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 15, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Warren Declares Abortion Rights Are Human Rights" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

- An article titled "Obama Cautions Democratic Hopefuls on Tacking Too Far Left" was posted at apnews.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Joseph Zeballos-Roig titled "Here's Why Europe Has Mostly Ditched Wealth Taxes Over the Last 25 Years—Even As Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders Seek Them For the US" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 17, 2019.
- An article by Adriana Belmonte titled "Warren Defends Wealth Tax: 'I'm Tired of Freeloading Billionaires' " was posted at yahoo.com on Nov. 20, 2019.
- An article by Onar Am titled "The Long March Has Paid Off: Millennials Love Socialism" was posted at libertynation.com on Nov. 4, 2019.
- An article by Melanie Arter titled "The View's Joy Behar: Buttigieg Has a 'Very Traditional Marriage' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 18, 2019.
- An article by Michael Macagnone titled "New Census Data: About 1 Million Same-Sex Households in US" was posted at rollcall.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Bloomberg Spending \$15 to \$20 Million on Voter Registration Drive to Defeat Trump" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 20, 2019.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "Andrew McCabe: There Is 'No Deep State' or Government Resistance 'Pushing Against This President' " was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Mike Brest titled "Ocasio-Cortez: Impeaching Trump 'Is About Preventing a Potentially Disastrous Outcome' in 2020" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Nov. 14, 2019.
- An article by Joe Newby titled "AOC Admits: Impeachment About Partisan Politics, Keeping Trump Out of White House in 2020" was posted at conservativefiringline.com on Nov. 14, 2019.

Deval Patrick

- An article by Stephanie Murray titled "Deval Patrick Takes Swipes at Rivals As He Busts Into Presidential Primary" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 14, 2019.
- An article by Chrissy Clark titled "Obama Advises Democrats to Be 'Rooted in Reality,' Not to Swing Far Left in 2020" was posted at thefederalist.com on Nov. 16, 2019.
- An article by Holly Otterbain and David Siders titled "The Left Smells a Rat in Bloomberg, Patrick Bids" was posted at politico.com on Nov. 18, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Marina Pitofsky titled "Kamala Harris Receives New Iowa Endorsements After Debate Performance" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 21, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Jeremy Walker titled "Beto O'Rourke Casts Long Shadow Over 2020 Senate Race in Texas" was posted at houstonchronicle.com on Nov. 18, 2019.

News about the media

- An article titled "Most Say Media Working With Democrats to Impeach Trump" was posted at rasmussenreports.com on Nov. 12, 2019.
- An article by Zachary Stieber titled "Poll: Majority Believe Media Working With Democrats to Try to Impeach Trump" was posted at theepochtimes.com on Nov. 14, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Rep. Nunes Blasts Media As 'Puppets of the Democratic Party,' Lurching From Hoax to Hoax" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Tom Elliott titled "MSNBC Debate Moderators Challenge Dems From Left, Urge GOP Attacks" was posted at grabien.com on Nov. 20, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Will Martin titled "American Airlines Flight Attendants Have Literally Begged Not to Work on the Boeing 737 Max When It Returns, Union Boss Says" was posted at businessinsider.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Margaret Thatcher Out, Grete Thunberg In: Hillary Clinton's 'Book of Gutsy Women' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 15, 2019.
- An article by Alex Gangitano titled "US Airlines Expect to Carry Record 31.6 Million Passengers Over Thanksgiving" was posted at thehill.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Sarah Pulliam Bailey titled "How Kanye West Put Joel Osteen's Prosperity Gospel Back Under the Spotlight" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Nov. 19, 2019.
- An article by Gopal Ratnam titled "Christians Turn to Artificial Intelligence to Stop Porn Use" was posted at chicagotribune.com on Nov. 20, 2019.



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."