

Eye on the World

Feb. 8, 2020

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. 8, 2020.

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).



A Reuters article by Omar Fahmy and Ulf Laessing titled “Palestinians Cut Ties With Israel and U.S. After Rejecting Peace Plan” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 1, 2020. Following is the article.

The Palestinian Authority has cut all ties with the United States and Israel, including those relating to security, after rejecting a Middle East peace plan presented by U.S. President Donald Trump, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Saturday [Feb. 1].

Abbas was in Cairo to address the Arab League, which backed the Palestinians in their opposition to Trump’s plan.

The blueprint, endorsed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calls for the creation of a demilitarized Palestinian state that excludes Jewish settlements built in occupied territory and is under near-total Israeli security control.

“We’ve informed the Israeli side . . . that there will be no relations at all with them and the United States including security ties,” Abbas told the one-day emergency meeting, called to discuss Trump’s plan.

Israeli officials had no immediate comment on his remarks.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority's security forces have long cooperated in policing areas of the occupied West Bank that are under Palestinian control. The PA also has intelligence cooperation agreements with the CIA, which continued even after the Palestinians began boycotting the Trump administration's peace efforts in 2017.

Abbas also said he had refused to discuss the plan by with Trump by phone, or to receive even a copy of it to study it.

"Trump asked that I speak to him by phone but I said 'no', and that he wants to send me a letter . . . but I refused it," he said.

Abbas said he did not want Trump to be able to say that he, Abbas, had been consulted.

He reiterated his "complete" rejection of the Trump plan, presented on Tuesday. "I will not have it recorded in my history that I sold Jerusalem," he said.

Palestinian rights

The blueprint also proposes U.S. recognition of Israeli settlements on occupied West Bank land and of Jerusalem as Israel's indivisible capital.

The Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo said the plan did not meet the minimum aspirations of Palestinians, and that the League would not cooperate with the United States in implementing it.

The ministers affirmed Palestinian rights to create a future state based on the land captured and occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, with East Jerusalem as capital, the final communiqué said.

Foreign ministers from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, three close U.S. allies, as well as Iraq, Lebanon and others said there could be no peace without recognizing Palestinian rights to establish a state within the pre-1967 territories.

After Trump unveiled his plan, some Arab powers had appeared, despite historic support for the Palestinians, to prioritize close ties with the United States and a shared hostility towards Iran over traditional Arab alliances.

Three Gulf Arab states—Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates—attended the White House gathering where Trump announced his plan alongside Netanyahu.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu said he would ask his cabinet this week to approve the application of Israeli law to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Such a move could be a first step towards formal annexation of the settlements and the Jordan Valley—territory Israel has kept under military occupation since its capture in 1967.

Most countries consider Israeli settlements on land captured in war to be a violation of international law. Trump has changed U.S. policy to withdraw such objections.



A Reuters article by Rene Wagner titled “Germany Ran World’s Largest Current Account Surplus [for the Fourth Successive Year at \$293 Billion]” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 2, 2020. Following is the article.

Germany’s current account surplus remained the world’s largest last year despite trade tensions, the Ifo economic institute said on Monday, in an estimate likely to renew criticism of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s fiscal policies.

The Ifo calculations, reported exclusively by Reuters ahead of publication by the economic institute, put Germany’s current account surplus—which measures the flow of goods, services and investments—at some \$293 billion in 2019.

It is the fourth successive year that Germany’s current account surplus has been the world’s largest, with Japan’s the next biggest at \$194 billion, according to Ifo calculations.

The International Monetary Fund and the European Commission have for years urged Germany, Europe’s largest economy, to do more to lift domestic demand and imports as a way to reduce global economic imbalances and stimulate growth elsewhere.

Since his election, U.S. President Donald Trump has also criticized Germany’s export strength.

Germany’s current account surplus can mainly be attributed to the fact that far more German products and services are sold overseas than imported into Europe’s largest economy.

Merkel said last year: “We are proud of our cars and so we should be.” But she added that many were built in the United States and exported to China.

Ifo economist Christian Grimme said the German surplus increased last year to some 7.6% of gross domestic product (GDP) from 7.3% in 2018.

“Stronger exports to the U.S. due to the stronger depreciation of the euro and increased exports to the UK, where demand recovered somewhat, saw total German exports rise sharply again in the second half of the year,” Grimme told Reuters.

“By contrast, imports expanded very weakly in the summer half of 2019—the ongoing industrial recession in Germany severely curbed imports of intermediate goods.”

The European Commission, the EU’s executive, considers a current account surplus of 6% as sustainable over the long-term when measured by the size of a country’s economy.



A Reuters article by Kevin Yao and Winni Zhou titled “China to Allow in U.S. Health Experts As Virus Shows No Sign of Slowing” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 2, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

China has agreed to allow U.S. health experts into the country as part of a World Health Organization (WHO) effort to help fight the fast-spreading coronavirus, as the number of cases and deaths continued to mount.

In central China’s Hubei province, epicenter of the epidemic, China state TV reported there were 2,345 new cases of the virus and another 64 deaths, bringing the total of virus-related fatalities in Hubei to 414 by Monday.

The Chinese stock market plunged about 8% on Monday, wiping \$393 billion off the value of the Shanghai bourse, on the first day of trading following an extended Lunar New Year holiday in a bid to help keep people at home and contain the virus’ spread.

The White House said on Monday China had accepted its offer to have U.S. experts as part of a WHO mission to study and help combat the virus that emerged in Hubei’s provincial capital of Wuhan.

A 1,000-bed hospital built in eight days to treat people with the virus in Wuhan was due to receive its first patients on Monday, state media said. A second hospital with 1,600 beds is due to be operational later this week.

With Wuhan and some other Chinese cities in virtual lockdown, travel severely restricted and China facing increasing international isolation, fears of wider economic disruption are growing.

Sources at the OPEC oil cartel told Reuters producers were considering cutting output by a further 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) to support prices.

The WHO last week declared the flu-like virus a global emergency. It has spread to 23 other countries and regions. The Philippines reported the first coronavirus death outside of China.

Airlines around the world have stopped flights to parts of China. A suspension by the United Arab Emirates on Monday will affect the Gulf airlines Etihad and Emirates.

Earlier on Monday, China accused the United States of spreading fear by pulling its citizens out and severely restricting travel.

Washington has “unceasingly manufactured and spread panic,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters, noting that the WHO had advised against trade and travel curbs.



An article by Gerry Shih titled “Chinese Doctor Who Tried to Raise Alarm on Coronavirus in Wuhan [But Was Silenced by Police] Dies on ‘Front Line’ of Medical Fight” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Feb. 6, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

A Chinese doctor who was silenced by police for trying to share news about the new coronavirus long before Chinese health authorities disclosed its full threat died after coming down with the illness, a hospital statement said.

Li Wenliang, a 34-year-old ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, became a national hero and symbol of the Chinese government’s systemic failings last month.

Li had tried to warn his medical school classmates Dec. 30 about the existence of a contagious new virus that resembled the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Numbers on February 6

China virus cases soar past 28,000, with more than 560 deaths.

Americans who were evacuated from Wuhan have expressed relief at returning to the United States after extended delays in leaving the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak.

Affected countries

The United States, Germany, Sri Lanka, France, Cambodia, the Philippines, India, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Nepal, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Vietnam, Macao and South Korea have all confirmed cases of the infection.

Local lockdowns

Travel bans were extended in central China to put more than 50 million people effectively on local lockdowns. Despite unprecedented measures, experts can’t yet say whether these efforts will contain the infection. Beijing officials accusing the Trump administration of overreacting with its travel restrictions.

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses whose effects range from causing the common cold to triggering much more serious diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.



“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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- An article by Joe McDonald titled "China Locked Down 50 Million People and Has to Keep Them Fed" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 30, 2020.
 - An article by Hyung-Jin Kim titled "Fears of New Virus Trigger Anti-China Sentiment Worldwide" was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 1, 2020.
 - An article by Morgan McFall-Johnson titled "Scientists Have Published Over 50 Studies on Wuhan Coronavirus in the Last 3 Weeks; They Learned That 75,800 People in Wuhan Could Be Infected" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 1, 2020.
 - An article by Connor Perrett titled "9,000 Hong Kong Hospital Workers Are Threatening to Strike Amid Coronavirus Outbreak If the Government Doesn't Close Its Border With Mainland China" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 1, 2020.
 - An article by Jerome Taylor titled "Hong Kong Shuts Most China Crossings Over Virus As Medics Strike" was posted at afp.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
 - An article by Ryan W. Miller titled "China Built a Hospital in 10 Days to Battle Coronavirus" was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
 - An article by Alexandra Thompson titled "Coronavirus 'Could Share 89% of Its DNA With SARS'—Supporting Theory It Started in Bats" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
 - An article by Lauren Frias titled "China Says It Will Ban the Trade in Wild Animals (Like Bats) Believed to Be Behind the Wuhan Coronavirus, and Tighten Supervision on 'Wet Markets' " was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
 - An article by Sophia Ankel titled "A County in China Is Offering People \$140 to Tell on Neighbors Who Have Visited Wuhan, and Another [Province] Is Threatening the Death Penalty to Anyone Deliberately Spreading the Coronavirus" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
 - An article by Oscar Williams-Grut titled "Oil Prices Rise Ahead of OPEC Meeting to Discuss Coronavirus" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
 - An article by Yaron Steinbuch titled "Chinese Baby Tests Positive for Coronavirus 30 Hours After Birth" was posted at nypost.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
 - An article by Rosie Perper titled "A Plane Had to Turn Around and Fly 1,000 Miles Back Home [Headed to Jamaica Returning to Toronto, Canada] Because a Man on Board Claimed to Have Caught the Wuhan Coronavirus" was posted at businessinsider.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
 - An article by Tim McGovern titled "Cathay Pacific [Airways] Asks Its 27,000 Employees to Take 3 Weeks of Unpaid Leave Due to Coronavirus" was posted at people.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
 - A Reuters article by David Stanway titled "China Virus Death Toll Jumps Past 500, More Cases Found on Cruise Ship Off Japan" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

- An article by Andy Weils titled "Coronavirus: [Two] Brits Told Not to Leave Cabins [for Two Months] on Quarantined Cruise Ship As 10 Passengers Test Positive" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article by Simon Denyer titled "Trapped on Virus-Ravaged Cruise Ship, Shocked Passengers Struggle to Keep Spirits Up" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article by Jayne Deerwester titled "Norwegian [Cruise Line] Won't Issue \$32,000 Refund to Family [From Hawaii] That Canceled Asian Cruise Over Coronavirus" was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article titled "China Declines Cambodia PM's Request to Visit Virus Epicenter [to Comfort Stranded Cambodian Students]" was posted at afp.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article by Jacob Passy titled "The Coronavirus Outbreak Is Making It Harder for Some Chinese Investors to Buy U.S. Real Estate" was posted at marketwatch.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article by Zachary Evans titled "Chinese Authorities Lock Citizens Inside Homes in Attempt to Stop Coronavirus Spread" was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled "WHO Says Too Early to Say Coronavirus Peaking in China" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- An article by Campbell Robertson titled "Thousands of Miles From Wuhan, a U.S. City [Pittsburgh, Pa.] Is Shaken by Coronavirus" was posted at nytimes.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Natalia Zinets and Babak Dehghanpisheh titled "Recording Shows Iran Knew Immediately It Had Shot Down Plane: [Said Ukraine President Volodymyr] Zelenskiy" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Orhan Coskun and Daren Butler titled "Turkey Hits Back After Syrian Shells Kill Turkish Troops" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 2, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled "Turkey Tests Russia With Strikes on Syrian Forces" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
- An article by Bassem Mrque and Daria Litvinova titled "Syrian Army Enters Key Town As Turkey Beefs Up Its Troops" was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- An article titled "Germany, Austria at Odds on European Financial Trade Tax" was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled "Philippines Step Up Security to Shield Power Grid From Foreign Control" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 3, 2020.

- An article titled “Mexican Farmers Take Over Dams to Stop Water Payments to United States” was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Linda Hutchinson-Jafar and Luc Cohen titled “Trinidad Cancels Gas Deal [With Venezuela] Over U.S. Sanctions on State-Run Venezuelan Company” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Krishna N. Das and Joseph Sipalan titled “Pakistan Pledges to Buy More Malaysian Palm Oil to Compensate for India’s Withdrawal” was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
- An article by Kate Ng titled “Church Stampede [in Tanzania] Leaves 20 Dead After Pastor Pours ‘Holy Oil’ on Ground” was posted at independent.co.uk on Feb. 2, 2020.
- An article by Joe Mwhia, Josphat Kasire and Ben Curtis titled “Spray Planes Combat the Huge Locust Outbreak in East Africa” was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 2, 2020.
- An article by Michael Snyder titled “360 Billion Locusts and Growing—a Plague of ‘Biblical Proportions’ Is Destroying Crops Across the Middle East and Africa” was posted at theeconomiccollapseblog.com on Feb. 3, 2020.
- An article by Richard Kaman titled “‘Locust Invasion, January Rain Not Normal; Repent’—Pastor Ng’ang’a Urges” was posted at nairobiwire.com on Feb. 4, 2020.



An article by (Retired) Sheriff David Clarke titled “Anarchy Disguised As Protest” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 4, 2020. Following is the article.

Protesting is a time-honored First Amendment activity in America. This right is a constitutionally protected guaranteed that should never be exploited.

How soon we forget that under the British Crown the colonists did not have this right. Thus, the Framers of the Constitution saw it as necessary to limit a tyrannical new government from infringing upon it. The Framers got it right.

Without protest, numerous periods of American history would not have effectuated change.

Take for example, in the 1960s blacks used protest to peacefully petition for more equal justice under the law and fairer voting rights. All across America in small towns, counties, and cities, when the government, police, politicians, and corporations, etc. infringe upon the populace, demonstrators gather and stand in defiance against the injustices.

Protest is good. But some of the protests we are witnessing today are not in the name of justice or an exercise of our constitutional rights. They’re not even protest, but outright political violence disguised as such.

Everybody knows it, yet many people in the liberal media are not calling it out for what it is.

For example, they call ANTIFA and Black Lives Matter protest groups. Really?

These groups are more gang-like than anything else. The media provides them cover by calling their looting and throwing rocks and bottles while holding signs that say kill the police a demonstration, as if it's akin to students on a college campus protesting increases in tuition fees for heaven's sake.

The liberal media also calls hiding your identity by wearing a mask and engaging in takeovers of public buildings, shutting down retail areas, and closing sections of the interstate roadway system during rush hour peaceful protest.

No, it's not, and they know it. These subversive groups are not protesters. Instead, they are socialist agitators, troublemakers whose tactics are unacceptable, have no place in an orderly society, and whose actions infringe upon other people's rights to these spaces. Has anybody ever thought about that?

It is crucial to identify these groups and call out their tactics so that effective countermeasures can occur. If we misidentify a problem, the wrong intervention will be applied. While everyone is afraid to call out these groups for exploiting a First Amendment guarantee, these disrupters continue to push the envelope and are becoming more dangerous.

Last week, ANTIFA staged a demonstration inside New York City's subway system. They masked it as an event to call out the police, demand that they are removed from patrolling the subway, and to demand free transit rides. This is not your grandfather's era protest. I have identified it for what it is. It is a move by these anarchists to mirror terror group behavior.

A *Newsday* story described these domestic terrorists as activist protesters.

- The story went on to describe threatened disruption and sabotage of the New York subway system.
- Signs stating, "NYPD: Keep Your [expletive] Hands Off Black Kids, Cops out of schools and subways" and "Transit is a Right" were carried.
- Picketers, as they were called, wore masks, even though it is unlawful in New York to congregate masked in public spaces.
- The story continued that social media posts showed graffitied buses and subway walls, sabotaged fare collections devices like turnstiles, and other vandalism.
- Chants of, "whose train, our train," and "this is a liberated train" were shouted.
- This behavior is what anarchy looks like. It is domestic terror designed to incite fear and intimidation.

Millions of people use the subway as their only means of transportation to get to jobs, school, and other vital activities. Shutting down the subway system would cause mass pandemonium in New York City, forcing pedestrians above ground to interact with dense vehicular traffic, creating a volatile mix.

ANTIFA is making demands of New York City to change its policies on the subway or else expect chaos.

The definition of terror is the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. Sounds familiar?

Therefore, call it what it is so we can apply appropriate countermeasures. The FBI and Department of Justice prosecutors should be dispatched to assist with identifying these goons, and if federal statutes are violated, federal indictments should be obtained.

Recently Democrat Virginia Governor Ralph Blackface/KKK Northam declared a state of emergency activating the national guard in a "sky is falling" over-reaction when supporters of the Second Amendment gathered for what was an actual peaceful protest at the state capital.

- No trouble.
- No vandalism.
- No threats made.
- No taking over of the capitol building occurred.
- In fact, reports said protesters cleaned up the area before they left.

Yet, when ANTIFA gathers to riot, the same Democrat leaders look the other way. Shame on them.

Law-abiding residents deserve to be protected from lunatics like ANTIFA, like when walking to a Trump rally wearing a MAGA hat. When there is a conflict of rights in the public square, the government i.e., the police, should step in to officiate and keep the peace, not be ordered by superiors to stand down. That is an abdication of their duty to keep the peace, and if need be, all reasonable force should be used to protect life and property.

It is time to take the gloves off to stop and deter anarchy. Sticking our heads in the sand and running while criminals pervert and exploit the First Amendment is not an effective remedy to deal with this.

If we do not confront it now, it will get worse, especially if President Trump is re-elected.

The left may see no other means to get their way using our democratic process and will resort to more rioting. Appeasement and inaction will only encourage these thugs and hoodlums. Tolerating bad behavior breeds criminality. Our liberal political and police leaders who allow chaos and disorder are failing us. We deserve better.



An article by Zelig Lorenzana titled "5 Ways Impeachment Has Helped Trump and Hurt Democrats" was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 4, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

President Donald Trump has once again sidestepped the pit Democrats dug for him, leaving them to eat their own dirt. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's impeachment efforts, designed to hobble Trump for the 2020 election, has turned into a series of unexpected boons for the president and his party.

Here are five of the most conspicuous ones.

1. Congress passed Trump's biggest bipartisan trade bill.
2. Polls moved in Trump's favor.
3. Biden Wobbles, Sanders Surges.
4. A United GOP.
5. The deep state may face criminal inquiry.



An article by David Marcus titled "The 5 Biggest News Media Lies During Impeachment" was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 5, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

There is no shortage of blame to go around for the impeachment follies that wasted America's time for the past five months. To be fair, congressional Democrats own the lion's share of this blame, but they could not have done it alone.

This ridiculous effort would never have gotten off the ground had Democrats not been confident that a compliant news media would play lap dog for them, licking up lies at every turn.

It was bad enough that most of the news media trumped up minor developments as major revelations throughout the process. In many cases, they simply failed to apply the slightest bit of incredulity when House Democrats made demonstrably false assertions.

Five incidents stood out over this impeachment process, but there were many, many more.

1. The Left claimed that Republicans were not arguing the facts.

Over and over during the House impeachment process we heard from the left that Republicans were not arguing the facts but instead just harping on what they called an unfair process. Did the GOP say the process was unfair? Yes. Was the process unfair? Yes. But the Republicans in the House were also arguing the facts, and arguing them pretty well.

This is a consistent theme in all of this. Confronted with several arguments from the president's supporters, the mainstream media always selected only the ones they thought helped Democrats. The House Republicans made a simple argument based on four facts that never change.

- There is no quid pro quo in the transcript.
- Both Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said there was no pressure.
- Zelensky did not know U.S. aid was held up.
- The aid was released with no announcement of investigations.

Those are not process arguments.

2. Gordon Sondland did not say he knew a quid pro quo happened.

European Union Ambassador Gordon Sondland caused a stir when he changed his testimony in the secret House hearings. He said there was no quid pro quo linking military aid to investigations, then said there was in open testimony.

Surely this was the final straw that would break Trump.

But when pressed by Republicans, Sondland admitted that he was just presuming this was why the aid was held up. He had no actual knowledge from anyone to back that up.

But this of course did not stop the news media from pointing at Sondland as the next big domino falling towards Trump's demise. Sondland's presumption somehow became a fact.

3. Alan Dershowitz didn't say the President could do anything.

The news media bungled Alan Dershowitz's presentation for the president in myriad ways, but none more awful than their misrepresentation of his remarks during questions from senators. There Dershowitz said that if the president did something in the national interest that also helped his chances at reelection, which he obviously also sees in the national interest, that cannot be impeachable.

Almost immediately this was twisted into Dershowitz saying that a president can do anything to get reelected because he thinks his reelection is in the public interest.

As Dershowitz clarified in the ensuing days, this was not what he had said at all. But that didn't stop the talking point from resonating across cable news and print outlets.

4. Of course there were witnesses.

How can you have a trial with no witnesses, the president's critics ask? In fact many go so far as to say that his acquittal is not a real acquittal because there were no witnesses.

The problem with this is that there were witnesses.

While the Senate voted against hearing from additional witnesses, they did have testimony from 17 witnesses and thousands of documents from the House.

Nonetheless, we kept hearing, "A trial without witnesses is not a fair trial." Never let the facts get in the way of a narrative.

5. Republicans didn't change their argument to 'guilty but not removable.'

In another case of the news media selecting only the facts that hurt Trump's case and no facts that helped it, Americans were told that nervous Republicans were abandoning the argument that the president did nothing wrong. Instead, we were told the GOP was going with, "He is guilty but his actions are not impeachable."

This just never happened.

A handful of senators, including Lamar Alexander, Marco Rubio, and Susan Collins, did criticize the president's handling of U.S. subsidies to Ukraine, but none went so far as to say he was "guilty." More importantly, the vast majority of GOP senators and in fact Republicans in general never embraced this.

Rather, they continued as always to argue that the president was acting within his legitimate authority.

But opponents of the president were so desperate for this narrative to be true that they simply ignored that vast majority.

Lies didn't win

The good news for Trump and the American people is that the lies didn't win. A Republican Party with backbone stiffened by Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stayed the course throughout the bombardment of falsehoods. Today their resolve will be rewarded by the acquittal of President Trump.

There is a lesson here for the media as well. No matter how much they hate Trump, no matter how badly they want to hurt him, lies will never achieve that end.

Just as quickly as the left can make up talking points, conservatives can shoot them down. Perhaps the liberal media will learn that lesson this time. But don't hold your breath.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Don't Fall for Economists' Outright Myths, Lies and Tricks" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Feb. 5, 2020. Following is the article.

I have been teaching economics since 1967—40 years of it at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. During that interval, economic reality has not changed.

Just as Galileo's law about the independent influence of gravity on falling objects has not changed, neither have the fundamental principles of economics.

Economics is fun and simple. It's made complicated by some economics professors—fortunately, not by my colleagues at George Mason University.

Let's apply some simple tools of economics to reveal outright myths, lies and tricks.

■ Who is punished by tariffs on imported goods?

Let's go through the steps.

The Canadian government imposes high tariffs on American dairy imports. That forces Canadians to pay higher prices for dairy products and protects Canada's dairy producers from American competition.

■ What should be the U.S. government's response to Canada's screwing its citizens?

If you were in the Trump administration, you might retaliate by imposing stiff tariffs on softwood products built from pine, spruce and fir trees used by U.S. homebuilders.

In other words, the U.S. should retaliate against Canada's harming its citizens by forcing them to pay higher dairy product prices, by forcing Americans through tariffs to pay higher prices for wood and thereby raising the cost of building homes.

Many politicians, pundits and some economists would have us believe that corporations pay taxes, but do they?

Economists distinguish between entities who ultimately bear the tax burden and those upon whom tax is initially levied. Just because a tax is levied on a corporation doesn't mean that the corporation bears its burden.

Faced with a tax, a corporation can shift the tax burden by raising its product prices, lowering dividends or laying off workers. The lesson here is that only people pay taxes, not legal fictions like corporations. Corporations are simply tax collectors for the government. Similarly, no one would fall for a politician telling a homeowner, "I'm not going to tax you; I'm going to tax your property."

I guarantee that it will be a person, not the property, writing out the check to the taxing authority. Again, only people pay taxes.

Here's a question: Are natural or manmade disasters good for the economy?

Dr. Larry Summers, top economic adviser to President Obama, said about the Kobe, Japan, earthquake: "(The disaster) may lead to some temporary increments ironically to GDP as a process of rebuilding takes place. In the wake of the earlier Kobe earthquake Japan actually gained some economic strength."

After devastating Floridian hurricanes, it's not uncommon to read newspaper headlines like the following.

- "Storms create lucrative times."
- "Economic growth from hurricanes could outweigh costs."
- "It's a perverse thing . . . there's real pain, but from an economic point of view, it is a plus."

Then there's Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman who wrote in his *New York Times* column "After the Horror," after the 9/11 attack, "Ghastly as it may seem to say this, the terror attack—like the original day of infamy, which brought an end to the Great Depression—could do some economic good."

He went on to explain that rebuilding the destruction would stimulate the economy through business investment and job creation.

One would never hear my colleagues in George Mason University's economics department spouting such insanities.

Just ask yourself whether the Japanese economy would have faced even greater opportunities for economic growth had the earthquake also struck Tokyo, Hiroshima, Yokohama and other major cities?

Would the 9/11 terrorists have made a greater contribution to our economy had they also destroyed lives and buildings in Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles and Atlanta?

The belief that a society benefits from destruction is sheer lunacy.

French economist Frederic Bastiat (1801-1850) explained it in his pamphlet "What is Seen and What is Not Seen."

He said, "There is only one difference between a bad economist and a good one: the bad economist confines himself to the visible effect; the good economist takes into account both the effect that can be seen and those effects that must be foreseen."

That's why my George Mason University colleagues are good economists.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Movies and the Impeachment" was posted at patriotpost.us on Feb. 1, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

I watched as much of the opening day of the Senate impeachment hearings as I could, feeling it was my job as your faithful servant. But after a while, when I found myself wishing my torturers would show me some mercy and move on to the rack and thumb screws, I realized that very few of you would

demand that I continue to sacrifice myself to the torment doled out by Adam Schiff and his fellow House hacks.

The Democrats did themselves no favor by placing racial diversity above the ability to read. Val Demings and Hakeem Jeffries obviously failed remedial English and should have been allowed to lip sync their lyrics the way that Milli Vanilli did back in 1990s. On the other hand, they both tried to make up for their failing by pounding the podium and delivering their lines with the sort of over-the-top emotionalism rarely seen since the death of Rod Steiger.

The best you could say for Rep. Adam Schiff is that he reads better than his colleagues.

The single biggest laugh line came when Chief Justice John Roberts told the two sets of lawyers that in debating the rules of the trial, things were getting too heated, and he felt called upon to remind them that "Those addressing the Senate should remember where they were."

Where they were? Where they were, John, was in the marble-walled mental ward where the likes of Lyndon Johnson, Robert Byrd, Harry Reid, John McCain and Ted Kennedy, have all been lionized.

The few things I actually learned were that the senators could not bring their electronic devices to the trial. Neither could they bring food or alcohol to the floor; all they could have in the way of beverages was milk or water (the milk, at the insistence years ago of Illinois senator Everett Dirksen) and the only food were the products of the Pennsylvania-based Hershey Candy Corporation. The donated candies were kept in a drawer overseen by Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA).

If this had been a big budget movie instead of a big budget impeachment, Hershey would have paid upwards of five million dollars for the product placement.

■ Paul Krugman

After I pointed out that Paul Krugman, the NY Times' resident Nobel Prize-winning economist, had never been held up to public scorn for insisting that Trump's election would lead to a crash from which the Stock Market would never recover, Jack Hughes sent me the following email: "You are right about Mr. K. He is a devoted disciple of John Maynard Keynes, more or less the creator of what is laughingly called 'Keynesian Economics,' the theory that all wealth and success flows from government to its willing and grateful recipients. There are no REAL economists who are still followers of Keynes. Those who do are all Democrats or Socialists."

"Jack," I replied, "you are so 2016, pretending there's a difference between Democrats and Socialists."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Religion in America" was posted at patriopost.us on Feb. 3, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

Considering that I'm not religious, I find myself often dealing with religious questions and not from a negative standpoint. I suppose that's because I often find myself aligned with religious people; perhaps, I can best explain the dichotomy by explaining that I share their values, but not their beliefs.

■ Oppose imposing non-beliefs

In addition to which, I despise the atheistic activists. If someone chooses not to believe in God, that's his inalienable right as an American. But when he takes to the courts to impose his non-belief on others, I will oppose him with my dying breath.

■ School prayer

It was only recently that I discovered that the war on religion in this country took a turn for the worse on June 25, 1962. That was the date that the Supreme Court weighed in with a decision in the case of *Engel v. Vitale*.

The case had been brought by a some of the parents of students attending New Hyde Park, a public school in the Herricks Union Free School District. "Engel" was Steven I. Engel, the Jewish father of one of the public school children. "Vitale" was William J. Vitale, the school board president.

In the final vote, with Justices Felix Frankfurter and Byron White abstaining, Chief Justice Earl Warren, together with Hugo Black, William O. Douglas, Tom C. Clark, John M. Harlan and William J. Brennan, ruled in favor of the plaintiff. Only Potter Stewart had the good sense to write a dissenting opinion, contending that the Establishment Clause was originally written to abolish the idea of a state-sponsored church, and not to stop a non-mandatory "brief non-denominational prayer."

The school prayer, itself, is all of 24 words long: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country. Amen."

In case you're interested, three of the justices who voted the wrong way had been appointed by Eisenhower, two by FDR, one by Truman. The two who abstained were installed by FDR and JFK. Stewart had been appointed by Eisenhower, which suggested that Ike wasn't totally out to lunch when it came to the all-important presidential responsibility of seating justices capable of reading and comprehending the U.S. Constitution.

■ "Separation of church and state" malarkey

It's been over 57 years since the Court blew this decision, which provided the Left with the basis for its lies about "the separation of church and state" existing anywhere in the Constitution.

■ Divine birth or divine nature

As I have written elsewhere, I have no objection to people believing in the divine birth of Jesus Christ because it helps them and doesn't harm me. But

as a non-believer, I would be more likely to recognize the divine nature of George Washington.

■ Shrinking with age

I paid a recent visit to the doctor who oversees my rheumatoid arthritis and remembered to have my height checked out. It's something I hadn't done in at least 10 years. It seems I am now a smidgen over 5'5." I used to 5'7." It seems to me that if I live long enough, I won't die exactly, I'll simply disappear.

■ Make rape a capital crime

Speaking of death, it occurred to me that there can be extenuating circumstances for killing someone, if, for instance, he's threatening you or someone else. But there can never be an excuse for rape.

The act has little or nothing to do with achieving sexual release. The sole reason a man rapes is to instill fear, pain and humiliation on his victim. His [private part] is simply his weapon of choice.

So, while killing can sometimes be justified, as in a war, rape never can be. That is why I would make it a capital crime. The idea that the rapist can be rehabilitated is ludicrous. Let him plead his case to God.

■ Bloomberg's apology

Of all the mea culpas I have ever heard, Michael Bloomberg's is perhaps the screwiest. As the mayor of New York, he continued Rudy Giuliani's policy of "Stop and Frisk." As a result of the police questioning suspicious-looking characters and checking them for weapons, thousands of thugs were jailed and an equal number of unregistered handguns were taken off the streets. The result was to make New York the safest big city in America.

But now that Bloomberg is seeking his party's presidential nomination, instead of bragging about his success as mayor, he is apologizing for it.

As he recently explained to an audience of left-wing zombies: "I used to focus on saving lives, but I didn't think about what effect 'Stop and Frisk' was having on the black and Latino communities."

■ Seeking to appease Leftists

If the Democratic contenders weren't such pathetic creatures, you might actually feel sorry for the ways in which they must debase themselves lest the loony Leftists turn on them like a pack of piranhas.

But, really, when it comes right down to it, isn't he saying that it wasn't worth saving the lives of decent blacks and Latinos because the price of doing so was to imprison the thugs who prey on them and their children?

■ Exporting deadly viruses

As you've heard, China has been quarantining several major cities, preventing millions of its citizens from leaving their homes, in order to prevent the spread of the potentially lethal coronavirus.

It might not be a bad idea if the world would simply add another 50 feet to the China Wall. China is obviously the largest dung hill on the face of the earth. If they're not exporting tainted dog food and shoddy steel, they're exporting deadly viruses, including their putrid politics to Africa, Asia and South America.

■ Chinese eating habits

I thought the streets of L.A. and San Francisco, filled with druggies and crazy people defecating in public was about as bad as it gets. But in China, apparently people regularly dine on bats, snakes, badgers, rats, pandas, camels, kangaroos and, worst of all, dogs, which verges on cannibalism, so far as I'm concerned.

Is it any wonder that with a diet that consists in large part of what we'd consider road kill, the whole country serves as a giant incubator for whatever flea-transmitted disease has ever existed on this planet.

■ Feeling sorry for senators

I don't usually feel any sympathy for members of the U.S. Senate, but after listening to the likes of Adam Schiff, Val Demings, Hakeem Jeffries and Jerry Nadler, drone on for 24 relentless hours and with no access to alcoholic beverages, they must have been wondering why the 8th Amendment, the one about not having to endure cruel and unusual punishment, didn't apply to them.

■ Adam Schiff's lectures

Sen. Lindsey Graham got off the best line of the week when he cracked "Quite frankly, having Adam Schiff lecture the Senate about fairness and due process is like listening to an arsonist talk about fire prevention."

■ Worsening reflection in mirror

Barney Rummel let me know that his wife thought I looked very distinguished in my new photo. His response was to schedule an immediate appointment for her with an optometrist.

My feelings weren't hurt. In fact, he pretty much summed up my own response every time I see my reflection in a mirror. That's why I am considering covering the mirrors in my house with Vaseline the way that cinematographers in Hollywood are wont to do when having to shoot an actress who's slightly past her sell date.

■ Opiate of the masses

We have all heard Karl Marx's most famous line about religion being the opiate of the masses. I think it's time it was retired in favor of Marxism is the opiate of the masses.



“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 Jim Tankersley titled “U.S. Budget Deficit to Top \$1 Trillion for Next Decade” was posted at nytimes.com on Jan. 28, 2020.

Finances

■ An article by Kelly Tyko titled “Is Your Sears or KMart Store Closing in February? [Nearly 100 Stores Are in Final Days]” was posted at usatoday.com on Jan. 31, 2020.

■ An article by Kelly Tyko titled “Macy’s Is Closing Nearly 30 Stores in 19 States” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 4, 2020.

■ An article titled “7-Eleven Tests Cashierless Store at North Texas Headquarters [in North Texas]” was posted at cbsdfw.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

■ An article by Joel B. Pollak titled “Van Jones [on CNN] Warns Democrats: Trump Is Helping African-Americans ‘In Real Life’ ” was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

■ An article by Jeff Cox titled “January Adds a Much Stronger-Than-Expected 225,000 Jobs, With a Boost From Warm Weather” was posted at cnbc.com on Feb. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Reade Pickert titled “U.S. Jobs Top Estimates With 225,000 Gain; Wages Accelerate” was posted at bloomberg.com on Feb. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Government Grew by 177,000 Workers Over Past Year [Rising from 22,506,000 to 22,683,000]” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 7, 2020.

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “U.S. Lost 12,000 Manufacturing Jobs in January [After Gaining 26,000 Manufacturing Jobs in 2019]” was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 7, 2020.

Trade war

■ An article by Leticia Miranda titled “Amid Bitter Trade War With China, U.S. Companies Pledge Millions of Dollars in Aid” was posted at nbcnews.com on Feb. 6, 2020.

Green New Deal

■ Looking back to July, an article by Adam Shaw titled “AOC’s Top Aide Admits Green New Deal About the Economy, Not Climate” was posted at foxnews.com on July 12, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Tobias Hoonhout titled "Trump Accuses Dems of Sheltering Illegal Immigrant Criminals Rather Than Creating 'A Sanctuary for Law-Abiding Americans' " was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
- An article by Rob Shimshock titled "Report: Taxpayers Forking Over Up to \$6,500 Per Illegal Alien" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 6, 2020.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Tobias Hoonhout titled "Bloomberg Super Bowl Ad Inflates Child Deaths to Push for Gun Control" was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 3, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Scott Jennings titled "Opinion: Thanks to Their Impeachment Meltdown, Democrats Have Made Trump Stronger" was posted at courier-journal (Louisville, Ky.) on Feb. 3, 2020.
- An article by Mollie Hemingway titled "Impeachment Theater Could Not Have Gone Worse for Democrats" was posted at thefederalist.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

Reminder about Mueller obsession

- Looking back to March, an article by Sean Rossman titled "Nearly 500 Witnesses, 675 Days: The Mueller Investigation by the Numbers" was posted at usatoday.com on March 24, 2019.

Impeachment obsession

- Looking back to 2017, an article by Jeet Heer titled "The Democrats' Dangerous Obsession With Impeachment [The Party Needs to Focus on Winning Elections, Not Removing Trump]" was posted at newrepublic.com on Dec. 5, 2017.
- Looking back to 2018, an article by Kayle Root titled "222 Times in One Day—Big Media Obsessed With Impeaching Trump" was posted at cbn.com on Aug. 24, 2018.
- Looking back to September, an article by Bill D'Agostino titled "35 Straight Months: Even Before Trump Took Office, Media Began Impeachment Obsession" was posted at newsbusters.org on Sept. 24, 2019.
- Looking back to October, an article by Bill D'Agostino titled "Most of TV's Impeachment News Pushes Claims by Anonymous Sources" was posted at newsbusters.org on Oct. 29, 2019.
- Looking back to November, an article by Rich Noyes titled "Impeachment Frenzy: TV Networks Blast Trump With 96% Negative News" was posted at newsbusters.org on Nov. 12, 2019.
- Looking back to December, an article by Debra J. Saunders titled "Pelosi's 'Hurry Up and Wait' Tactic Shows Insincerity" was posted at heraldnet.com on Dec. 13, 2019.
- An article by Paul Blumenthal titled "Adam Schiff: Convict Trump Or 100% Chance He Will Cheat in 2020 Election" was posted at huffpost.com on Feb. 3, 2020.

■ An article by Lindsey Ellefson titled “Mike Pence Says Pelosi Hit a ‘New Low’ When She Tore Up Trump’s State of the Union Speech” was posted at thewrap.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Gabriel T. Rubin titled “Moderate Democrats Fear Suburban Backlash to a Bernie Sanders Nomination” was posted at wsj.com on Jan. 31, 2020.

■ An article by Lisa Lerer and Sydney Ember titled “ ‘Nobody Likes Him’: Hillary Clinton Risks a Party Split Over Bernie Sanders” was posted at nytimes.com on Jan. 21, 2020.

■ An article by Jeanine Santucci titled “Rep. Rahisda Tlaib Boos Hillary Clinton at a Bernie Sanders Event in Iowa Over ‘Nobody Likes Him’ Comment” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 1, 2020.

■ An article by Natasha Korecki, Alex Thompson and David Sider titled “ ‘It’s a Total Meltdown’: Confusion Grips Iowa With No Official Results in Sight” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 3, 2020.

■ An article titled “Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders Are Fighting for First Place in the Protracted Iowa Caucus Count [Warren Is Third and Biden Is Fourth]” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

■ An article by Natasha Korecki titled “Buttigieg Hasn’t Won Yet—But He’s Crushing the Spin Game” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

■ An article by Nolan D. McCaskill titled “Buttigieg and Sanders Separated by Razor-Thin Margin With Iowa Count Nearly Done” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 6, 2020.

■ An article by Natasha Korecki and Marc Caputo titled “Biden Campaign Agonizes Over Iowa Shellacking” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 6, 2020.

■ An article by Jim Geraghty titled “Joe Biden Is in Real Trouble” was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 6, 2020.

■ An article by Jeanine Santucci titled “Just After Trump Acquittal, Republican Senators Requested Hunter Biden’s Travel Records” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 5, 2020.

■ An article by Ross Barkan titled “An Oligarch [Michael Bloomberg] Has Bought His Way Into the 2020 Race; Why Is No One Talking About This?” was posted at theguardian.com on Feb. 1, 2020.

■ An article by Jonathan Allen and Alan Smith titled “John Kerry Overheard Discussing Possible 2020 Bid Amid Concern of ‘Sanders Taking Down the Democratic Party’ ” was posted at nbcnews.com on Feb. 2, 2020.

■ An article by Natasha Korecki titled “Kerry Unloads on NBC After Report He Was Overheard Talking About 2020 Bid” was posted at politico.com on Feb. 2, 2020.

- An article by Mairead McArdle titled "Stacey Abrams Predicts She Will Be Elected President in the Next 20 Years: 'That's My Plan' " was posted at national-review.com on Jan. 31, 2020.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Bette Midler Takes Trump's Video Seriously: 'If He Wins Again, He Will Rule You Until He Dies, You Die or Both' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- An article by S.V. Date titled "Taxpayers Get \$3.4 Million Tab So Trump Can Host Super Bowl Party for His Club Members" was posted at huffpost.com on Feb. 2, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Salvador Rodriguez titled "Facebook Refutes Soros Claim of a 'Special Relationship' Between Trump and Zuckerberg" was posted at cnbc.com on Jan. 31, 2020.
- An article by Samuel Smith titled "Fox Won't Show Abortion Survivors' Super Bowl Ad, But OKs Drag Queen Commercial" was posted at christian-post.com on Jan. 30, 2020.
- An article by Nola Ojomu titled "Shakira Beat J-Lo in 'Epic' Booty Shake at Super Bowl Half-time Show, Claim Fans" was posted at thesun.co.uk on Feb. 3, 2020.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "MSNBC Contributor [Zerlina Maxwell]: 'The Iowa Caucus Is Essentially the Perfect Example of Systemic Racism' " was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Chris Matthews Trashes Bernie Sanders" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 4, 2020.
- An article by Dominic Patten and Dino-Ray Ramos titled "State of the Union Viewership Down Double Digits [46.8 Million to 37.2 Million] From 2019; Fox News Tops All, Only Network to Rise Over Last Year" was posted at deadline.com on Feb. 5, 2020.
- An article titled "Outrage After Limbaugh Given Medal of Freedom" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 6, 2020.
- An article by Matt Wilstein titled "Alec Baldwin and 'The View' Clash With Meghan McCain Over Rush Limbaugh Honor" was posted on Feb. 5, 2020.

General interest

- An article titled "School District [in Ohio] Closes for Two Days After 600 Students Call In Sick" was posted at cbsdetroit.com on Jan. 30, 2020.
- An article by Matthew Leimkuehler titled " 'It's a Shame to Let It Die': Loretta Lynn Shares Her Frustration With Country Music" was posted at usatoday.com on Jan. 31, 2020.
- An article by Ian Birrell titled "Liberalism's 'Cesspit'? Ian Birrell Says Tech Giants Have Turned San Francisco Into a Dystopian Nightmare of Addiction, Homelessness and Criminality" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Feb. 1, 2020.

■ An article by Olivia Harvey titled “Jay-Z Says He and Beyonce Didn’t Even Realize They Were Sitting During the National Anthem at the Super Bowl” was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 5, 2020.



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.”