

# Eye on the World

## May 30, 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 May 30, 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).



An article by David Horowitz titled “The CDC Confirms Remarkably Low Coronavirus Death Rate [0.26% As Opposed to 3.4% Stated by WHO]; Where Is the Media?” was posted at [conservativereview.com](http://conservativereview.com) on May 22, 2020. Following is the article.

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Most people are more likely to wind up six feet under because of almost anything else under the sun other than COVID-19.

The CDC just came out with a report that should be earth-shattering to the narrative of the political class, yet it will go into the thick pile of vital data and information about the virus that is not getting out to the public.

For the first time, the CDC has attempted to offer a real estimate of the overall death rate for COVID-19, and under its most likely scenario, the number is 0.26%.

Officials estimate a 0.4% fatality rate among those who are symptomatic and project a 35% rate of asymptomatic cases among those infected, which drops the overall infection fatality rate (IFR) to just 0.26%—almost exactly where Stanford researchers pegged it a month ago.

■ Until now, we have been ridiculed for thinking the death rate was that low, as opposed to the 3.4% estimate of the World Health Organization, which helped drive the panic and the lockdowns.

■ Now the CDC is agreeing to the lower rate in plain ink.

Plus, ultimately we might find out that the IFR is even lower because numerous studies and hard counts of confined populations have shown a much higher percentage of asymptomatic cases.

Simply adjusting for a 50% asymptomatic rate would drop their fatality rate to 0.2%—exactly the rate of fatality Dr. John Ionnidis of Stanford University projected.

More importantly, as I mentioned before, the overall death rate is meaningless because the numbers are so lopsided.

Given that at least half of the deaths were in nursing homes, a back-of-the-envelope estimate would show that the infection fatality rate for non-nursing home residents would only be 0.1% or 1 in 1,000.

And that includes people of all ages and all health statuses outside of nursing homes. Since nearly all of the deaths are those with comorbidities.

The CDC estimates the death rate from COVID-19 for those under 50 is 1 in 5,000 for those with symptoms, which would be 1 in 6,725 overall, but again, almost all those who die have specific comorbidities or underlying conditions.

■ Those without them are more likely to die in a car accident.

■ And schoolchildren, whose lives, mental health, and education we are destroying, are more likely to get struck by lightning.

To put this in perspective, one Twitter commentator juxtaposed the age-separated infection fatality rates in Spain to the average yearly probability of dying of anything for the same age groups, based on data from the Social Security Administration. He used Spain because we don't have a detailed infection fatality rate estimate for each age group from any survey in the U.S.

However, we know that Spain fared worse than almost every other country. This data is actually working with a top-line IFR of 1%, roughly four times what the CDC estimates for the U.S., so if anything, the corresponding numbers for the U.S. will be lower.

As you can see, even in Spain, the death rates from COVID-19 for younger people are very low and are well below the annual death rate for any age group in a given year.

For children, despite their young age, they are 10-30 times more likely to die from other causes in any given year.

While obviously yearly death rates factor in myriad of causes of death and COVID-19 is just one virus, it still provides much-needed perspective to a public policy response that is completely divorced from the risk for all but the oldest and sickest people in the country.

Also, keep in mind, these numbers represent your chance of dying once you have already contracted the virus, aka the infection fatality rate.

Once you couple the chance of contracting the virus in the first place together with the chance of dying from it, many younger people have a higher chance of dying from a lightning strike.

Four infectious disease doctors in Canada estimate that the individual rate of death from COVID-19 for people under 65 years of age is six per million people, or 0.0006 per cent (1 in 166,666, which is roughly equivalent to the risk of dying from a motor vehicle accident during the same time period.)

These numbers are for Canada, which did have fewer deaths per capita than the U.S.; however, if you take New York City and its surrounding counties out of the equation, the two countries are pretty much the same.

Also, remember, so much of the death is associated with the suicidal political decisions of certain states and countries to place COVID-19 patients in nursing homes.

An astounding 62 percent of all COVID-19 deaths were in the six states confirmed to have done this, even though they only compose 18 percent of the national population.

We destroyed our entire country and suspended democracy all for a lie, and these people perpetrated the unscientific degree of panic.

Will they ever admit the grave consequences of their error?



Looking back to March, an article by Rosie Perper titled "WHO Says the Coronavirus Global Rate Is 3.4%, Higher Than Earlier Figures; Older Patients Face the Highest Risk" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on March 5, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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The latest global death rate for the novel coronavirus is 3.4%—higher than earlier figures of about 2%.

The coronavirus outbreak that originated in Wuhan, China, has killed more than 3,100 people and infected nearly 93,000 as of Tuesday. The virus causes a disease known as COVID-19.

Speaking at a media briefing, the World Health Organization's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, noted that the death rate was far higher than that of the seasonal flu, which kills about 0.1% of those infected.

The death rate is likely to change further as more cases are confirmed, though experts predict that the percentage of deaths will decrease in the longer term since milder cases of COVID-19 are probably going undiagnosed.

“There’s another whole cohort that is either asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic,” Anthony Fauci, the director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a briefing last month. “We’re going to see a diminution in the overall death rate.”

Tedros noted differences between the novel coronavirus and other infectious diseases like MERS, SARS, and influenza. He said the data suggested that COVID-19 did not transmit as efficiently as the flu, which can be transmitted widely by people who are infected but not yet showing symptoms.

He added, however, that COVID-19 caused a “more severe disease” than the seasonal flu and explained that while people around the world may have built up an immunity to the flu over time, the newness of the COVID-19 meant no one yet had immunity and more people were susceptible to infection.

“It is a unique virus with unique characteristics,” he said.

Tedros said last week that the mortality rate of the disease could differ too based on the place where a patient receives a diagnosis and is treated. He added that people with mild cases of the disease recovered in about two weeks but severe cases may take three to six weeks to recover.

A patient’s risk of dying from COVID-19 varies based on several factors, including where they are treated, their age, and any preexisting health conditions.

COVID-19 cases have been reported in at least 76 countries, with a vast majority in China.

A study conducted last month from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention showed that the virus most seriously affected older people with preexisting health problems. The data suggests a person’s chances of dying from the disease increase with age.

Notably, the research showed that patients ages 10 to 19 had the same chance of dying from COVID-19 as patients in their 20s and 30s, but the disease appeared to be much more fatal in people ages 50 and over.

About 80% of COVID-19 cases are mild, the research showed, and experts think many mild cases haven’t been reported because some people aren’t going to the doctor or hospitals for treatment.



Looking back to March, an article by Sarah Al-Arshani and Lauren Frias titled “Trump Argues 3.4% Death Rate From Coronavirus Is ‘False,’ Citing a ‘Hunch’ in Claiming It’s Far Lower” was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on March 5, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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President Donald Trump on Wednesday night disputed the latest official death rate of 3.4% from the novel coronavirus, telling the Fox New host Sean Hannity that his “hunch” was that the true number was “a fraction of 1%.”

“Well, I think the 3.4% is really a false number,” Trump said. “Now, this is just my hunch, but based on a lot of conversations with a lot of people who do this, because a lot of people will have this and it’s very mild. They’ll get better very rapidly. They don’t even see a doctor.”

The 3.4% figure, cited this week by the World Health Organization, was reached using the latest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths. It was an increase from 2% previously and is likely to change further.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of six articles deal with the relationship between China and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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■ Looking back to January, an article by Andrew Joseph and Megan Thielking titled “WHO Praises China’s Responsibility to Coronavirus, Will Reconvene Expert Committee to Assess Global Threat” was posted at statnews.com on Jan. 29, 2020.

■ Looking back to February, an article by Stuart Lau titled “Coronavirus: WHO Head Stands by His Praise for China and Xi Jinping on Response to Outbreak” was posted at scmp (South China Morning Post) on Feb. 13, 2020.

■ Looking back to February, an article by Michael Collins titled “The WHO and China: Dereliction of Duty” was posted at cfr.org on Feb. 27, 2020.

■ Looking back to March, an article by Bradley A. Thayer and Lianchao Han titled “China and the WHO’s Chief: Hold Them Both Accountable for Pandemic” was posted at thehill.com on March 17, 2020.

■ An article titled “Amid Attacks From Donald Trump, WHO Praises China for Handling Coronavirus Pandemic” was posted at deccanherald.com on May 2, 2020.

■ An article titled “World Health Organization Renews Praise for China in Response to Coronavirus” was posted at yahoo.com on May 25, 2020.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following three articles are submitted to provide information about the coronavirus. The first two articles list deadly viruses. The third article is a brief discussion about how difficult it is to make a good vaccine—mentioning that they have not been able to make an effective vaccine for HIV in 30 years.



An information sheet titled “Human Coronavirus Types” was updated at cdc.gov on Feb. 15, 2020. Following is the information sheet.

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Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface. There are four main sub-groupings of coronaviruses, known as alpha, beta, gamma, and delta.

Human coronaviruses were first identified in the mid-1960s. The seven coronaviruses that can infect people are:

■ Common human coronaviruses

1. 229E (alpha coronavirus)
2. NL63 (alpha coronavirus)
3. OC43 (beta coronavirus)
4. HKU1 (beta coronavirus)

■ Other human coronaviruses

5. MERS-CoV—(the beta coronavirus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS)
6. SARS-CoV—(the beta coronavirus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS)
7. SARS-CoV-2—(the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19)

People around the world commonly get infected with human coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1.

Sometimes coronaviruses that infect animals can evolve and make people sick and become a new human coronavirus. Three recent examples of this are 2019-nCoV, SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV.



Looking back to March, an article by Anne Harding and Nicoletta Lenese titled “The 12 Deadliest Viruses on Earth” was posted at livescience.com on March 4, 2020. Following is a list of viruses in the article.

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1. Marburg virus
  2. Ebola virus
  3. Rabies
  4. HIV
  5. Smallpox
  6. Hantavirus
  7. Influenza
  8. Dengue
  9. Rotavirus
  10. SARS-Cov
  11. SARS-CoV-2
  12. MERS-CoV



Looking back to March, an article titled “Coronavirus Vaccine in 18 Months Too Optimistic, Considering Our [Slow] Progress With HIV in 30 Years” was posted at [dailysabah.com](http://dailysabah.com) on March 31, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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What makes the world think scientists can come up with a coronavirus vaccine in just 18 months when we don’t even have one for HIV yet?

In the late 1980s, Michael Kinch, a young researcher, was trying to find a solution for the most important medical problem of that time, namely an HIV vaccine.

He moved on, however, as many medical research centers and labs across the world were focused on the problem and the solution seemed to be easily within reach.

■ Decades have past and Kinch, who’s now associate vice chancellor at Washington University in St. Louis, points out that there is still no approved HIV vaccine after 30 years and 30 million deaths.

■ Some approved vaccines end up with side effects and could have varying effects on different people.

■ For example, Sanofi’s dengue fever shot that was believed to defeat the insidious illness, but it instead worsened symptoms in some individuals who hadn’t yet been infected (a phenomenon called vaccine enhancement).

■ There was also the Lyme disease vaccine that was pulled in 2002 amid its links to arthritis.

The editor in chief of *Science* magazine, Holden Thorp, pointed out that there are no guarantees and expressed his concerns, saying, “People would get their hopes up and think that we’re going to achieve something sooner than we are, which will be demoralizing if we aren’t able to do that.”

“People are way more optimistic than they should be,” said Dmitry Kuzmin, the managing partner at *4Bio Capital*, a venture capital firm in London, to Bloomberg.



As a reminder to the honest words of Bill Gates back in 2019, here are excerpts of an article by Matthew J. Belvedere titled “Bill Gates: My ‘Best Investment’ Turned \$10 Billion Into \$200 Billion Worth of Economic Benefit” was posted at [cnbc.com](http://cnbc.com) on Jan. 23, 2019.

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Investing in global health organizations aimed at increasing access to vaccines creates a 20-to-1 return in economic benefit, billionaire Microsoft MSFT co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates told CNBC [in Davos] on Wednesday [Jan. 23, 2019].

Over the past two decades, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has donated “a bit more than \$10 billion” into mainly three groups: The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

“We feel there’s been over a 20-to-1 return,” yielding \$200 billion over those 20 or so years, Gates told CNBC’s Becky Quick on “Squawk Box” from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. “Helping young children live, get the right nutrition, contribute to their countries—that has a payback that goes beyond any typical financial return.”

As a comparison, Gates echoed what he wrote in an essay in *The Wall Street Journal* last week under the banner “The Best Investment I’ve Ever Made,” saying that same \$10 billion put into the S&P 500 would have grown only to \$17 billion over 18 years, factoring in reinvested dividends.



“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 Dr. Joseph Mercola titled “How Bill Gates Monopolized Global Health” was posted at [mercola.com](http://mercola.com) on May 21, 2020.
  - An article by Brett Horner titled “Bill Gates Conspiracy Theories Echo Through Africa” was posted at [afp.com](http://afp.com) on May 27, 2020.
  - An article by Mary Meisenzahl titled “WHO Announces It Will Temporarily Suspend Hydroxychloroquine Trials for COVID-19 Treatment” was posted at [businessinsider.com](http://businessinsider.com) on May 25, 2020.
  - An article by Karishma Vaswani titled “Coronavirus: Leading Economist [Nouriel Roubini Nicknamed ‘Dr. Doom’] Warns of 10 Years of [Global] Depression and Debt” was posted at [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) on May 22, 2020.
  - An article titled “Palestinian Government Ends Coronavirus Lockdown” was posted at [afp.com](http://afp.com) on May 24, 2020.
  - An article titled “‘This Is An Opportunity That We Will Not Let Pass’: Netanyahu Plans to Push Ahead With Annexation of West Bank Areas” was posted at [marketwatch.com](http://marketwatch.com) on May 25, 2020.
  - An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Iranian President Approves ‘Anti-Zionist’ Law: Cooperation With Israel Could Lead to Death Penalty” was posted at [cnsnews.com](http://cnsnews.com) on May 27, 2020.
  - An article by Mary Hui titled “While the World Wasn’t Looking, Beijing Rewrote the Rules in Hong Kong at Startling Speed” was posted at [qz.com](http://qz.com) on May 15, 2020.



- An article by Chris Matthews titled “ ‘The Worst Nightmare Is Happening Before Our Eyes,’ Says Democratic Legislator [in Hong Kong] After Beijing Moves to Impose Security Laws on Hong Kong” was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by Ramy Inocencio titled “China Plans a Clampdown That Could End Hong Kong’s Dreams of Democracy” was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on May 24, 2020.
- An article titled “U.S. Threatens China With Sanctions Over Handling of Pro-Democracy Protesters” was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Joe McDonald titled “China Demands U.S. Withdraw Sanctions on Tech Supplies” was posted at [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Mike Yeo titled “China Announces \$178.2 Billion Military Budget” was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by Julian Ryall titled “Japan to End State of Emergency As Coronavirus Cases Dwindle Despite Lack of Strict Lockdowns” was posted at [telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) on May 25, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Philippine Leader Answers Call of [24,000] Workers [on Cruise Ships or in Quarantine] Begging to Go Home” was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Nick Perry titled “CEO [Sinead Boucher] Buying Struggling New Zealand Media Company [“Stuff” Owned by Australia’s Nine Entertainment] for \$1.00” was posted at [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Sinead Baker titled “Major Pharma Companies Rejected a 2017 EU Proposal That Could Let Vaccines for Viruses Like the Coronavirus Be Developed Before An Outbreak” was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article titled “Norway ‘Could Have Controlled Infection Without Lockdown’: Health Chief [Camilla Stoltenberg]” was posted at [thelocal.no](https://www.thelocal.no) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by Eric Sylvers and Giovanni Legorano titled “Italian Leaders Threaten to Reimpose Restrictions After Sunshine Draws Out Crowds” was posted at [wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article by David Keyton titled “Sweden Steadfast in [No Lockdown] Strategy As Virus Toll Continues Rising” was posted at [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) on May 26, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “Belgium Will Not Return to Tough Lockdown: Interior Minister” was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article titled “Belgium Royal Family Says Crown Princess Elisabeth [Age 18] Will Make History by Attending the [Royal] Military Academy [in Brussels] This Fall” was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on May 25, 2020.
- A Reuters article titled “More Than 40 Diagnosed With COVID-19 After Frankfurt Church Service” was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on May 23, 2020.

- A Reuters article titled "Germany Tries to Trace People Who Attended Church Service at Which COVID-19 Spread" was posted at reuters.com on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Joshua Posaner titled "German Government Takes Control at Lufthansa With Bailout" was posted at politico.com on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Jeremy Hill and Eduardo Thomson titled "Latam Air [Latin America's Largest Air Carrier] Files Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, Stymied by Lockdowns" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 26, 2020.
- An article by Scott Smith titled "Venezuela Celebrates Docking of Tanker With Iran Gasoline" was posted at apnews.com on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Iran and Venezuela Celebrate U.S. Sanctions-Busting Gasoline Shipments" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 27, 2020.
- An article by Premila D'Sa titled "Most Canadians Want the U.S. Border to Stay Closed Longer During Coronavirus Pandemic: Survey" was posted at huffpost.com on May 24, 2020.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of nine articles deals with the events (police killing a black man and the subsequent riots) in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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- An article by Amy Forliti and Jeff Baenen titled "Four Minneapolis Officers Fired After Death of Black Man" was posted at apnews.com on May 26, 2020.
  - An article titled "Minneapolis Mayor Calls for Charges Against Arresting Officer in Death of George Floyd" was posted at fox9.com on May 27, 2020.
  - An article by Joshua Caplan titled "Ice Cube: How Many Cops Have to Kill Black Americans 'Before We Strike Back?'" was posted at Breitbart.com on May 27, 2020.
  - An article by Jeff Wagner titled "'I'm Not Gonna Stand With Nonsense'" 2nd Night of Minneapolis George Floyd Protests Marked by Looting, Tear Gas, Fires" was posted at cbsminnesota.com on May 27, 2020.
  - An article by Nicole Darrah titled "Maxine Waters Blames Trump for 'Cops Killing Black People'" was posted at the-sun.com on May 28, 2020.
  - An article titled "Protesters Breach Minneapolis Police's 3rd Precinct [Building], Set Fires Inside" was posted at cbsminnesota.com on May 28, 2020.
  - An article by Nicole Russell titled "Looters Trash Minneapolis After George Floyd's Needless Death; But They [Rioters and Looters] Won't Bring Justice" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 28, 2020.
  - An article by Tim Blotz titled "Minneapolis [Black] Activists Call for Calm, End to Violence During George Floyd Protests" was posted at fox9.com on May 28, 2020.

■ Looking back to 2018, an article by Zeke Miller titled “Why Martin Luther King Jr.’s Lessons About Peaceful Protests Are Still Relevant” was posted at time.com on Jan. 12, 2018.



Looking back to April, an article by Margaret Menge titled “Mail-In Ballots Make Voter Fraud Easy; I Know Because I Did It” was posted at sunsentinel.com on April 16, 2020. Following is the article.

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The coronavirus outbreak is wreaking havoc on America’s elections, as evidenced by the fight this month over Wisconsin’s primary.

One proposed solution is moving everyone to voting by mail, but President Trump isn’t a fan. “A lot of people cheat with mail-in voting,” he said last week.

He’s got a point. I’ve done it myself.

In 2011, when I was living in Palm Beach County, Florida, I decided to test the system, and so I asked for three voter registration applications.

I filled them out, listing three different names—two that I pulled out of my head Rebecca Bugle and Hannah Arendt—and my own name, Margaret Menge.

I listed my real date of birth, and made up dates of birth for the other two. On the lines where the application asked for a driver’s license number or last four of Social Security number, I wrote “none” as the instructions said to do if a person has neither of these.

A few weeks later I got two notices back, saying applications for Rebecca Bugle and Margaret Menge could not be processed because a driver’s license number or Social Security number was not provided.

But I also received in my mailbox a new voter information card for Hannah Arendt.

On the outside of the card, my mailman had circled the name and address and written a question mark in pencil. But he still put it in my mailbox.

A few days later, I checked the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections website and sure enough, there was Hannah Arendt, listed as an eligible voter—a person who existed in history, the celebrated author of “Eichmann in Jerusalem”—but not a person who was in existence in 2011 in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Not long after, with an election approaching, I called the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, said I was Hannah Arendt, and asked for an absentee ballot.

The employee on the phone asked for a date of birth, and when I gave her information on my initial application—July 20, 1991—she said she’d send one.

The absentee ballot for Hannah Arendt appeared in my mailbox a week or two later.

I called a former Florida secretary of state in 2012 and asked him how was it possible that I was able to do this.

Well, he said, the fact is that they check names of people applying to register to vote against several different databases, but they have no way to check to see whether someone exists.

That's just one way people can cheat with absentee ballots. There are many more.

- Last year, a political operative working for North Carolina Republican congressional candidate Mark Harris was charged with fraud for directing a group of people to fill out as many as 1,000 absentee ballot requests on behalf of voters—most of whom were unaware the ballots were being requested.

These people then collected the ballots and filled them out themselves. Harris defeated Democrat Dan McCready by just 905 votes and, though it was never shown that the number of tainted ballots was enough to account for Harris's win, the election results were thrown out and a new election was held. (Republican Dan Bishop beat McCready in a special election by 2,400 votes.)

- Also in 2019, a Democratic city clerk in Southfield, Michigan, was arrested and charged with six felonies for falsifying absentee ballot records to say that 193 of the ballots in one election were missing signatures or a return date, when in fact they had both. The correct records were found in the trash can in her office.

In the new \$2.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill, Congress awarded \$400 million to states to support elections—specifically, to help pay for changes that need to be made to elections, including a shift to more voting by mail.

But J. Christian Adams of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, says if states aren't careful, they'll be issuing "an open invitation to fraud."

"There are two big problems with vote by mail," Adams said. "Number one, are the sort of things we discovered in the Justice Department when I was there—of people voting the ballot for other people through undue influence. That's the first one. The second one—the voter rolls are a mess."

Adams' organization has sued several states and counties for refusing to maintain accurate voter rolls, allowing the names of thousands of dead voters, felons and non-citizens to remain in the system. Messy voter rolls make election fraud much easier, Adams says.

The foundation is currently suing Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, for allowing the same person to register to vote seven times.

"It's the exact same name, the exact same date of birth," Adams said, as well as the same address. But the city and state won't remove the extra registrations.

"In a vote by mail scheme, they'll mail seven ballots," he said.

States, I've since discovered, have no access to any master list of American citizens. So they can check to see if "Hannah Arendt" is a felon, or if she passed away as they can access death records. But they have no way of

checking to see whether an American citizen with that birth date exists. It's an enormous hole in the ballot security system.

Eight years have passed, and I assumed that someone had taken 'Hannah Arendt' off the rolls by now.

But sure enough, when I checked the county website a few days ago, she was still there—with a message that read: "We have been unable to verify that this is your correct address. Please confirm or update your address with our office or use this website's 'Change of Address' feature before voting in the next election."

I won't be casting that fraudulent ballot. But I have to wonder: Will my vote in the next election be canceled out by somebody who did?



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "H.R. 6666 and Beyond; Who's Cashing In on Contact Tracing?" was posted at unz.com on May 27, 2020. Following is the article.

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Look out. An "army of contact tracers" is about to be unleashed on America. Corporations, political lobbyists and government bureaucracies all win. Privacy, freedom and family autonomy all lose. Big time.

You may have already heard of the aptly named House Bill 6666, sponsored by Illinois Dem. Bobby Rush.

Known as the Testing, Reaching and Contacting Everyone (TRACE) Act, the legislation would allocate \$100 billion in public funding to "eligible entities" to "conduct diagnostic testing for COVID-19, and related activities such as contact tracing, through mobile health units and, as necessary, at individuals' residences, and for other purposes."

The cash could be used to hunt down infected individuals, quarantine them in their homes for undefined periods under unknown conditions and subsidize a hiring spree of untold thousands of trackers from nonprofits, schools and medical facilities.

As for "other purposes," the proposal does not define them—leaving Swamp public health bureaucrats and their pet grantees' imaginations to run wild.

- What recourse or appeals process to citizens have when the "experts" get diagnoses and assessments wrong? Or when, say, homeschool families refuse to submit to intrusive phone call monitoring or forced quarantine?
- What are the opt-in or opt-out mechanisms?
- H.R. 6666 is silent on all these fundamental issues of autonomy and sovereignty. Feel safer yet?

This federally supported surveillance-state bonanza comes on top of the \$631 million in Centers for Disease Control funding for contact tracing already in the pipeline after the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic

Security (CARES) Act, plus another \$75 billion in proposed contact-tracing spending embedded in the House Democrats' supplemental stimulus bill known as the HEROES Act.

Who benefits?

Let's take one prominent entrant into the "digital transformation services" arena: a company called MTX. Founded in Albany, New York, and now based in Frisco, Texas, the small software company is raking in hundreds of millions of tax dollars to construct "virtual call centers" of 25,000 COVID data-mining agents.

- In Chicago, MTX has partnered with Google to create an app so residents can "pre-register" for the vaunted coronavirus vaccine and receive alerts on treatments and testing.
- In Georgia, the company nailed a five-year government contract for a new online contact-tracing platform.
- In New York and Massachusetts, MTX's mission has spread to monitoring jobless claims and child care facilities.
- Lynn Davenport, a Texas public school mom and student privacy activist, reports that MTX is "also donating its newly launched tracking application to all public school districts in the U.S."

Generous . . . or opportunist?

As Davenport and other education technology watchdogs who have documented the proliferation of billions of dollars in invasive student data-mining schemes often remind us: "When it's free, YOU (and your children) are the product."

Never forget: The price of "free" apps is access to your kids' search engine queries, website and video browsing, and undoubtedly just around the corner: their temperature, weight and mental health.

Contact tracing makes sense for some types of infectious disease epidemics. But with something as widespread as COVID-19, with possibly hundreds of millions of asymptomatic people, it amounts to yet another cost-ineffective, virtue-signaling boondoggle.

Sure, they tell us our privacy is guaranteed. Medical privacy is sacrosanct in America, right?

But did you know that the U.S. Health and Human Services has quietly relaxed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act data security and privacy requirements for pandemic testing sites, which will allow Big Pharma interests and other business interests to access previously protected personal health information?

Nothing to see here; move along.

If you do try to see and know more, good luck. Houston Chronicle reporters tried to shed sunlight on MTX's deal with top Texas GOP officials and were lucky to obtain a heavily redacted copy of the company's \$295 million con-

tract (paid with your money and mine). You know that creepy phrase “Operation Warp Speed” being used to ram a COVID vaccine through expedited, short-circuited clinical trials?

Well, the same phrase applies to the adoption of these high-stakes contracts.

Both anti-establishment Republicans and Trump-skeptical Democrats in Texas have raised red flags about the failure by Gov. Greg Abbott to provide advance notice to the state legislature of the enormous deal. The state took a hasty two days to approve MTX’s proposal after putting the project out for bid. The scheme was rolled out in just a little over two weeks.

Who greased the wheels?

Follow the money, of course. The Houston Chronicle revealed that “The deal appears to have been put together within just a few days . . . MTX hired Austin-based lobbyists Andrea and Dean McWilliams for up to \$50,000 each, according to public disclosure documents.”

The McWilliamses are the Matt and Mercedes Schlapp of Texas—consummate insiders and six-figure Bush bundlers looking out for their corporate clients over our constitutional rights and medical freedom.

Not coincidentally, MTX reflects the “America last” values of the open borders Bush empire. The firm runs a “development center” out of offshore outsourcing hub Hyderabad, India, and CEO Das Nobel aspires to lead a “diverse” “billion-dollar-company” from which he hopes to “advance our culture initiatives.”

Where’s our protection from the globalism virus?



An article by Elliot Fuchs titled “The Democrats Lack a Farm System [Which is a Term Used in Major League Baseball]” was posted at townhall.com on May 28, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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- No fresh-faced media darlings.
  - Ineffective female senators—including Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren.
  - Left-wing extremists.

The GOP has been grooming the next generation for the post-Trump era—including Tom Cotton, Dan Crenshaw and Nikki Haley.



An article by Jonathan Capehart titled “Biden Has Four Great Options for a Black Female Running Mate; One Is His Best” was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 18, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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- Stacey Abrams—She is the former Democratic leader of the Georgia House of Representatives for 6 years before she resigned to run for Governor [which race she lost].
  - Rep. Val Demings (D-Fla.)—She has been in Congress since 2017.
  - Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.)—She went to Washington D.C. in 2017, after serving 6 years as California Attorney General.
  - Susan Rice—She was the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. in Barack Obama’s first term and was National Security Adviser in Barack Obama’s second term.
- [Mr. Capehart recommended Kamala Harris.]



An article by Beth Baumann titled “ABC News’ Pierre Thomas Puts ‘Old, White, Males’ Running for Office on Notice” was posted at townhall.com on May 24, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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An ABC News panel reflected on former Vice President Joe Biden’s comments that someone “ain’t black” if they choose to re-elect President Donald Trump. The network’s Chief Justice Correspondent, Pierre Thomas, put Biden, and other white candidates, on notice.

“Note to older, white, male candidates: do not tell black people what is black enough or who is black enough. It’s just not going to fly,” Thomas said.

“Now, I’m not sure how it’s going to play. Some of the younger African American voters, they don’t like this notion of how Biden speaks about black people. Sometimes they believe in some cases Democrats take black votes for granted. They’re not down with that.”

- The truth is this: Democrats have taken African American voters for granted for generations.
- Democrats automatically assume that black voters are locked in place, that they don’t have to do anything to win these voters over.
- The Democratic Party makes this assumption because they believe African Americans have voted for Democrats for so long that it’s ingrained in them to vote for whoever has the D next to their name, regardless of how the candidate’s policy positions will impact them.

The First Step Act highlighted injustices that Democrats—including Joe Biden—have championed over the years.

When Republicans got the legislation passed and signed into law by President Trump, Democrats were baffled. Criminal justice reform was supposed to be their go-to topic that blacks agreed with them on.



Now what do Democrats have left?

A candidate who can't remember what race he's running for, where he's at or who his spouse is. He makes things worse by making racist comments about the very people he's harmed in the past with things like the 1994 crime bill.

And Democrats sealed their fate when they go to bat for Joe.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Insane New Tidbits" was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on May 27, 2020. Following is the article.

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Is it important to have racial or sexual diversity in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic?

Heather Mac Donald suggests that some think it might be in her *City Journal* article questioning if identity Politics dictate should vaccine research.

The funding priorities of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control suggests that they think diversity is an important input in making headway in the fight against the coronavirus.

On April 20, NIH and CDC announced the availability of grants to increase the "diversity" of biomedical research labs. For example, academic virology researchers studying respiratory failure could receive hundreds of thousands more taxpayer dollars if they could find a woman or a minority to add to their project.

High school students and college students are eligible for the program even though they cannot contribute anything of value. No scientific justification for the new diversity hire is needed. The scientists must promise to mentor the new hire, which will take time away from their research with no offsetting gain.

Mac Donald has written another article on academic insanity "The Therapeutic Campus" bearing the subtitle: "Why are college students seeking mental-health services in record numbers?"

Many colleges have created safe spaces where students can be sheltered from reality and not have their feelings hurt by others exercising their free speech rights.

- Yale University has created a safe space that would be the envy of most other universities. They have named it the Good Life Center. Mac Donald says it has "a sandbox, essential oils, massage, and mental-health workshops," and that "the center unites the most powerful forces in higher education today: the feminization of the university, therapeutic culture, identity politics, and the vast student-services bureaucracy."

- George Mason University has a Center for the Advancement of Well-Being, headed by a chief well-being officer. At George Mason, well-being refers to social justice and "building a life of vitality, purpose, resilience, and engagement," the Center's

chief well-being officer told *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. By the way, a George Mason University student can minor in well-being as a part of his college education.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, in justifying his draconian coronavirus measures, said during a press conference: "This is about saving lives. If everything we do saves just one life, I'll be happy."

Cuomo knows that many Americans buy into such a seemingly caring statement that would be easily revealed as utter nonsense if one had just a modicum of economic knowledge. If one looked at only the benefits of an action, he would do anything because everything has a benefit. Prudent decision-making requires one to compare benefits to costs.

For example, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that in 2019 36,120 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Virtually all those lives could have been saved with a mandated 5 mph speed limit. Those saved lives are the benefit. Fortunately, when we consider the costs and inconvenience of setting a 5 mph speed limit, we rightly conclude that saving those 36,120 lives isn't worth it.

There are other news tidbits about politicians drunk with power that we Americans have given them.

■ Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot told city residents who disobeyed her stay-at-home order: "We will arrest you and we will take you to jail. Period. We're not playing games." Meanwhile, in violation of her own stay-at-home order, Lightfoot slipped out and got her hair done. She explained her decision, "I take my personal hygiene very seriously."

■ Ventura County, California, health director Dr. Robert Levin said that his department would forcibly remove COVID-19 infected people from their own homes and put them "into other kinds of housing that we have available." Facing stiff criticism, Levin later explained: "I either misspoke or it was misinterpreted. I'll take the blame of having misspoke."

The biggest casualty from the COVID-19 pandemic has nothing to do with the disease. It's the power we've given to politicians and bureaucrats. The question is how we recover our freedoms.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Upside of the Shutdown" was posted at patriotpost.us on May 23, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Considering that the insane response to the Chinese virus has resulted in about 40 million unemployed workers, many of whom may not have jobs to return to, it is a herculean task to find something good to say about the current situation.

But if there is a ray of sunshine sneaking through, it's that more and more people are rising up and saying "Enough is enough! We're willing to risk coming down with a virus that is very contagious but not terribly dangerous. We had a

booming economy in January and now it may take us a decade to climb out of the financial malaise, and the response of Democratic mayors and governors is to prolong the suffering with additional regulations. Well, in the immortal words of Howard Beale: We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore!"

Recently, there were signs of the old revolutionary spirit popping up in places not known for their conservatism.

In Maine, restaurant owner Rick Savage opened up his place of business in spite of Governor Janet Mills' threat to pull his liquor license.

In New Jersey, a guy who owns a gym in Bellmawr is opening up his place and daring Gov. Phil Murphy to do something about it.

In the meantime, in Pennsylvania, State Health Secretary Rachel Levine, announced that moving Covid-19 victims into nursing homes was a perfectly safe policy. But she, herself, moved her 95 year old mother out of just such a facility.

In the meantime, the state's governor, Tom Wolf, vowed to crush any store owner who opened his business before Wolf gave him permission.

In Illinois, Gov. Pritzker is still taking flak for allowing his wife to fly down to Florida for the duration while he imprisons everyone else in their own homes and apartments.

Even before the arrival of the virus, we all had a hunch that politicians felt there was one set of laws and rules for them and another for the rest of us. But not even someone as cynical as I ever dreamed they all saw themselves as King George.

#### ■ Showing their spunk

The good news is that more and more Americans are rising up and showing the kind of spunk we have long associated with the likes of Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry and the farmers and townspeople of Lexington and Concord.

#### ■ China trying to steal

The bad news is that China is once again trying to steal our intellectual property. This time, they're trying to snatch the research that several of our facilities are conducting in the hunt for a vaccine. It's bad enough that the creeps unleashed the virus on the world and spent at least a month keeping it a secret, but now they want to take credit for finding a cure if there's one to be found.

#### ■ Surprising election result

The good news is that in a special congressional election here in California, a Republican named Mike Garcia beat out a liberal. What makes it newsworthy is that it's the first time in several years that a district that had previously been represented by a Democrat has been flipped.

A portent of things to come? We can only hope so.

### ■ Schumer tried to ignore evidence

After Chuck Schumer has spent the past three years hyping a non-existent Russia-Trump collusion, it's amusing to see the very rattled Senate minority leader trying to dismiss the documented evidence of President Obama and his flying monkeys' attempt to destroy Gen. Michael Flynn as a "ridiculous conspiracy."

### ■ Richard Grenell declassified info

Acting Director of National Security Richard Grenell did the nation a great service when he declassified the information relating to the members of the Deep State who were determined to destroy Michael Flynn's life.

### ■ Unconstitutional bidding

Among the 39 people who were anxious to do Obama's unconstitutional bidding by unmasking Flynn were the despicable "J's": Joe Biden, John Brennan, James Comey, James Clapper and Jack Lew (Treasury Secretary), in addition to Chief of Staff Dennis McDonough and U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power.

### ■ Who was the leak?

The remaining question is who went the extra step of leaking Flynn's name to the *Washington Post*, which then resulted in the FISA warrants that, in turn, led to the three year, \$35 million, fiasco known as the Mueller investigation.

Apparently, Obama wasn't one of the people who filed paperwork requesting the unmasking of Flynn. But, then, why would he, when he had 39 eager beavers anxious to do it for him?

### ■ Climate and energy adviser

Joe Biden is so desperate to ensure he can get Bernie Sanders' fans to support him, he announced from his bunker, I mean his basement, that he has appointed none other than the Green New Deal's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to be his climate and energy advisor.

What's next? Will he be appointing Ilhan Omar or Rashida Tlaib to be his ambassador to Israel?

### ■ Experts and tunnel vision

The problem with experts is that they tend to have tunnel vision. They tend to be so focused on their single area of expertise that their solution to a problem is often myopic.

I've made no secret of my antipathy to Dr. Anthony Fauci, but even if he hadn't been consistently wrong about the virus, his advice should have been taken with a grain of salt the size of Mount Everest.

### ■ Cure is worse than disease

When the cure is worse than the disease, some adult has to step in and stop the madness.

It's true that the virus has killed a lot of people, most of whom weren't long for this world, but a death is still a death.

But one has to weigh the danger of the virus against a cure that leads to a total disruption of normal life. Economics aside, people do not thrive in isolation and unemployment. They often turn to booze, opioids and even suicide. Poverty and despair are far greater dangers than any damn virus.

#### ■ Begging for federal funds

The only adult around who can bring this nonsense to an end is President Trump. With so many states begging for federal funds, if I were in his position, I would release the money based on how quickly or slowly the governors were returning their states to normalcy.

#### ■ AA sometimes helps

Something I've been remiss about is Alcoholics Anonymous. I have never written about the organization even though it's played a fairly important role in my life, not because I was ever a member, but because others that I cared about have been.

One of my dearest friends nearly drank himself to an early grave in his 40s. Fortunately, a serious driving violation brought him before a judge who offered him jail time or enrollment in the A.A. program. Wisely, he went for door two, the one without bars. He's now 81 and has been sober since 1982.

The second person was my first wife, Diane. It was a very short marriage, mainly because even half a glass of wine acted on her the same way that the potion worked on Dr. Jekyll. It turned her into a monster.

I take some credit for her salvation because I had moved away from L.A. for a few years and once, in the wee hours of the morning, she decided to phone and leave a series of vile messages on my answering machine. I wasn't aware of the calls until I woke up the following morning and heard the three obscene phone calls. Luckily, I had a brainstorm. Figuring if she phoned after I'd gone to bed, she would still be sleeping. So I dialed her number and played back the messages. Then I hung up without saying a word.

It worked because Diane never thought she had a drinking problem because she drank such a small amount. But, apparently, she was one of the unfortunates who was actually allergic to alcohol.

In any case, as I later found out, the shock of the reality was so great, she joined A.A. that same day and remained sober until she died a few years ago. Her sobriety at least allowed us to salvage a friendship if not a marriage.

My second wife also had a bit of a drinking problem. But she was just as mean when she was sober, so I doubt if even A.A. would have made any difference.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Things We Think About" was posted at patriotpost.us on May 25, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Some people are shocked when they hear that I have a telephone but only use it to call out on those rare instances when I have an urgent reason to forego email.

Charles Patterson let me know that he had an Uncle Grover who was of like-mind. He recalls that years ago, he and his dad were visiting Grover at his home in Velvet Ridge, Arkansas, a suburb of Bald Knob.

The three of them were sitting on the front porch when the phone rang. When it kept ringing, Charley's dad asked his brother: "Grover, aren't you going to answer that?"

"No," replied Grover, "I had that thing put in for my convenience, not everybody's else's."

It will probably surprise nobody that Grover didn't have indoor plumbing, only a well and an outhouse.

I, on the other hand, have indoor plumbing, along with the bills that go with it.

#### ■ Opening soon in some states

Some restaurant owners are already preparing for the day they can open up, but only so long as they agree to abide by certain ongoing restrictions.

In some cases, they will try to maintain social distancing by seating mannequins and blow-up dolls in every other chair. To make them appear more life-like, I suggest they equip them with iPhones.

#### ■ Helping struggling actors

I had been thinking along the same lines as a meme sent along by Stephen Hanover. It read: "Great Idea for Socialists: The Screen Actors Guild should resolve that any actor being paid \$20 million for a movie will redistribute most of it in order to give hundreds of struggling actors a living wage!"

It had often occurred to me that, in spite of Hollywood being full of self-congratulatory left-wingers who are always nattering on about the fellowship of actors, there has always existed an enormous differential between what the stars are paid and what every other actor in the movie is paid. How is it that an actor like Robert Downey, Jr., who is occasionally paid \$50 million plus a percentage of the gross to star as Ironman or Sherlock Holmes, never even thinks of, say, doling out a million or two among his fellow cast members? It would set a nice example and he'd never miss it. Heck, his agent gets \$5 million and, basically, all he does for the money is take a phone call and say: "Yes, Bobby would love to do 'Spider Man 14. Have a certified check here by 4 p.m."

#### ■ C-19 gags

I suppose that so long as the lockdown lasts, the C-19 gags will keep coming. Here is a batch from Russ Mothershed.

"Cops these days are like 'Come out with your hands washed.'"

"My homeschooled child just said: 'I sure hope I don't have the same teacher next year.'"

"Never in my whole life would I have imagined my hands would be consuming more alcohol than my mouth."

"50 million children are being homeschooled by gun-owning parents and not a single mass shooting has taken place. Arming teachers works!"

"Sitting at the bar in the kitchen last night, I tried picking up my wife. She gave me a fake phone number."

"Have you noticed that since beauty salons are closed, selfies are down 88%?"

"It's been a real blessing being home with my wife for all these weeks. We've finally had a chance to catch up on all the things I've done wrong for the past 15 years."

When a friend told me she was scared of coming down with the coronavirus, I tried putting her mind at ease by pointing out that it made more sense for her to be frightened of coming down with pneumonia, influenza, cancer, diabetes or heart disease, since they were all far likelier to kill her.

I'm not sure I succeeded.



An article by Michael R. Bloomberg titled "Trump's Firings of Watchdogs Must Be Checked" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 24, 2020. Following is an excerpt of the article.



When Donald Trump's supporters in 2016 imagined him bringing his television catchphrase—"You're fired!"—to Washington, they probably didn't think he meant ethics officers and government watchdogs charged with rooting out illegal activity. The president's removal of such officials has become so brazen that even a few of his allies in Congress are expressing concern.

Expressing concern isn't good enough. Senate Republicans should join with House Democrats in holding hearings that probe why the president fired four inspectors general over the past two months—without, as a 2008 law requires, giving Congress 30 days' notice and providing a written explanation.



An article by John Daniel Davidson titled "How the Obama Administration Weaponized Surveillance Laws to Target Trump" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 21, 2020. Following is the article.



The drip-drip-drip of newly declassified documents related to the Trump-Russia investigation, together with recent reports that a classified leak against

former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn might not have come from an unmasking request, leaves little doubt that the Obama administration weaponized federal surveillance laws to target Trump associates and undermine the incoming administration.

The story thus far is complex, but it reveals a disturbing abuse of power by the Obama administration that suggests congressional reform of federal surveillance laws is needed to ensure this never happens again.

The latest declassified document, an email written by former White House National Security Adviser Susan Rice detailing a high-level Oval Office meeting on January 5, 2017, directly implicates then-President Obama and other top officials in the targeting of Flynn, including then-Vice President Joe Biden and fired Federal Bureau of Investigations Director James Comey.

According to Rice's bizarre email, which she wrote to herself as President Trump was being inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2017, Comey told Obama and Biden he had "some concerns that incoming NSA Flynn is speaking frequently with Russian Ambassador Kislyak," and that "the level of communication is unusual."

How did Comey know this? Because the FBI had been spying on Flynn as part of a counterintelligence investigation it launched in August 2016.

Flynn's conversations with the Russian ambassador became national news after someone in the Obama administration illegally leaked to *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius, who revealed in a Jan. 12, 2017, column that Flynn had spoken to Kislyak several times on Dec. 29, 2016.

That touched off an effort by Republicans to find out who leaked to the *Post*.

Last week, responding to a request from Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell released a list of former senior Obama administration officials who requested the unmasking of Flynn between Nov. 30, 2016, and Jan. 12, 2017.

The list was revealing. During those weeks, no fewer than 39 Obama administration officials unmasked Flynn, from senior people like Comey and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, to people who had no conceivable reason for unmasking Flynn, like former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power and Obama's chief of staff, Denis McDonough. Even Biden was on the list.

The sheer number of unmasking requests for Flynn, combined with a disturbing pattern of deception by former Obama officials about the unmaskings, raises serious questions about why the outgoing Obama administration was targeting Trump's incoming national security advisor, and whether it did so as a pretext to continue the Trump-Russia collusion probe after Trump took office.

But the dates of the unmasking requests don't match up with Flynn's Dec. 29 conversations with the Russian ambassador, which suggests Flynn was identified in an intelligence report that didn't require the concealment of his identity.



On Wednesday, the *Washington Post* reported that, according to an anonymous former senior U.S. official, "When the FBI circulated [the report], they included Flynn's name from the beginning," and that, "There were therefore no requests for the unmasking of that information."

This report matches with a theory floated over the weekend by *National Review Online's* Andrew McCarthy, that Flynn's call with Kislyak might have been "intercepted under an intelligence program not subject to the masking rules, probably by the CIA or a friendly foreign spy service acting in a nod-and-wink arrangement with our intelligence community."

Others have speculated that Flynn's identity was not masked because he was the target of a counterintelligence investigation by the FBI, a fact Comey never shared with Trump as he was preparing to take office.

Even worse, the counterintelligence investigation continued at a "deep state" level after Trump took office, as the FBI agents involved appear to have concealed the fact of the investigation from Department of Justice leadership.

All of this leaves more questions than answers.

- But Democrats and the mainstream media are scrambling to dismiss the whole thing by insisting Obama committed no crime in the course of the Trump-Russia investigation, and neither did Biden, and neither did anyone else.

- The media even construed Attorney General William Barr's comments Monday, in which he called the Trump-Russia probe a "grave injustice" that was "unprecedented in U.S. history," as a dismissal of the "Obamagate" plot to undermine Trump's presidency, even though Barr appeared to suggest that the Department is looking for potential criminality by Obama administration officials other than Obama and Biden.

- In other words, [they report] nothing to see here folks, move along.

### **A brief history of surveillance abuse and FISA**

But Obama and Biden and other top law enforcement and intelligence officials need not have committed crimes to have egregiously abused their power.

It now appears that Obama officials used intelligence authorities to defeat the entire purpose of the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act—that is, to do the very thing that led to the creation of FISA: spy on their political opponents.

To understand how they did this, a bit of historical context is in order.

Congress passed FISA in 1978 as a result of the Church Committee hearings, which were convened in response to revelations that President Richard Nixon and prior presidents had used the FBI and CIA to spy on U.S. citizens and organizations, including antiwar groups and political dissidents.

The Nixon administration's widespread wiretapping of U.S. citizens, including his political opponents, shocked the nation.

But, strictly speaking, it wasn't illegal.

Before FISA, the U.S. Supreme Court had upheld warrantless wiretaps if the primary purpose was gathering foreign intelligence, but had also ruled that court approval was required for domestic surveillance to satisfy the Fourth Amendment, citing the "inherent vagueness of the domestic security concept" and warning of the potential for abuses.

That's why Congress passed FISA.

The law established procedures for collecting intelligence and conducting electronic surveillance on "foreign powers" and "agents of foreign powers" suspected of espionage or terrorism.

It also created the FISA court to oversee request for surveillance warrants by U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

The idea was that if executive branch agencies were going to conduct secret electronic surveillance, there needed to be some congressional and judicial oversight so foreign intelligence collection wasn't used as an excuse to spy on Americans.

Toward that end, FISA relied on privacy protections for U.S. citizens called "minimization procedures" that redact or "mask" the identities of Americans incidentally caught up in the surveillance of foreign nationals and suspected clandestine agents of foreign powers.

Officials with national-security or foreign-relations responsibilities have the authority to unmask these Americans if they believe that information is necessary.

Usually, unmasking requests are made by specialists in the FBI or the NSA, and careful records are kept of these requests by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The practice of unmasking became more widespread during the Obama administration and has continued under Trump, although in theory it's meant to be limited only to situations where intelligence agencies need to know the identity of a U.S. citizen in order to understand the full context or meaning of the intelligence being collected.

### **Obama admin distorted FISA beyond recognition**

Proponents of FISA likely never imagined that warrants for electronic surveillance or unmasking requests might be used by an outgoing administration to spy on an incoming one, but that appears to be what happened in the Trump-Russia investigation and the targeting of Flynn.

We'll likely know more soon. Sens. Johnson and Grassley have since expanded their request, calling for the release of records related to the unmasking of Trump campaign affiliates by Obama officials from January 2016 to January 2017.

The senators say they're concerned that surveillance of the Trump campaign began long before the FBI launched its counterintelligence investigation,

Crossfire Hurricane, which became the basis for the Robert Mueller probe and years of conspiracy theories about Trump colluding with Russia.

We don't yet know where all this will lead, but it seems increasingly clear that the Obama administration managed to thwart the entire purpose of FISA, particularly its minimization protections, transforming them from a safeguard against domestic political spying into a vehicle for Obama to do just that.

Like the aftermath of the Nixon presidency, now might be the time for a 21st-century version of the Church Committee.

■ If Obama used intelligence capabilities to spy on the Trump campaign—and gave the green light to Comey to continue spying on the administration after Trump took office—then our intelligence and surveillance laws will need to be reformed to ensure this never happens again.

Last week Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham said he would begin holding hearings on the origins of the Trump-Russia investigation, FISA abuses, and the appointment of special counsel Mueller.

The first thing on Graham's agenda, he said, will be "the government's decision to dismiss the Flynn case as well as an in-depth analysis of the unmasking requests made by Obama administration officials against Gen. Flynn."

He says he intends to subpoena witnesses over the unmasking of Flynn.

Good. The Church Committee worked to ensure the abuses perpetrated by the Nixon administration could never happen again.

Let's hope the "Graham hearings," as we might call them, will help ensure the abuses of the Obama administration are never repeated.



"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.

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### **Deficit**

■ An article by Megan Henney titled "U.S. Debt [Estimated to Be \$20.61 Trillion on Oct. 1] Set to Exceed Nation's GDP [\$20 Trillion] for First Time Since World War II; Watchdog [Committee for a Responsible Budget] Warns" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on May 26, 2020.

### **Federal reserve**

■ An article titled "Boston Fed CEO [Eric Rosengren] Says 'It's Likely to Be Double-Digit Unemployment Through the End of the Year' " was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Megan Henney titled "Fed's [St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President James] Bullard Warns Prolonged Coronavirus Lockdown Could Trigger An Economic Depression" was posted at [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) on May 26, 2020.

### **Coronavirus and civil liberties**

■ An article by Christine Weerts titled "'Socially Distanced' Funerals Inflict Even More Suffering on the Bereaved" was posted at [thefederalist.com](https://www.thefederalist.com) on May 22, 2020.

■ An article by Sam Biddle titled "Coronavirus Monitoring Bracelets Flood the Market, Ready to Snitch on People Who Don't Distance" was posted at [theintercept.com](https://www.theintercept.com) on May 25, 2020.

■ An article by Jason Allen titled "Some Fort Worth ISD Students to Return to Elementary Schools Next Week" was posted at [cbsdfw.com](https://www.cbsdfw.com) on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Ted Amus titled "Some Businesses [Like the Liberty Tree Tavern in Elgin, Texas] Pledge to Keep Out Customers Who Cover Their Faces ['Sorry, No Masks Allowed']" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on May 28, 2020.

### **Coronavirus and religion**

■ An article by Michelle Mark titled "A Mississippi Church That Violated Coronavirus Orders Was Burned Down; A Spray-Painted Message Said 'Bet You Stay Home Now'" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 22, 2020.

■ An article by Jerry Waldrop (pastor of the First Pentecostal Church of Holly Springs for 31 years) titled "Mississippi Pastor: My Church Was Burned Down Because We Want to Worship in Person" was posted at [usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com) on May 27, 2020.

■ An article by [Preacher] Samuel Rodriguez titled "Trump Is Right: Churches, Other Houses of Worship Are Essential to America" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on May 23, 2020.

■ An article by Alex Norcia and Johanna Billings titled "'Jesus Is Essential': These Churches Answered Trump's Call and Defied Lockdown" was posted at [thedailybeast.com](https://www.thedailybeast.com) on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Bill Hutchinson titled "Federal Court Backs California Gov. Gavin Newsom's Orders Keeping Churches Closed" was posted at [abcnews.com](https://www.abcnews.com) on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Anita Bennett titled "Compton Pastor Vows to Reopen Church When Holy Spirit Directs Him" was posted at [urbanhollywood411.com](https://www.urbanhollywood411.com) on May 25, 2020.

■ An article by Musadiq Bidar titled "[Gavin] Newsom Issues Guidelines for Houses of Worship to Reopen" was posted at [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com) on May 25, 2020.

■ An article by Jeremy Fuster titled "California to Reopen In-Store Shopping and Places of Worship, Pending County Approval" was posted at [thewrap.com](https://www.thewrap.com) on May 25, 2020.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled "Chicago Pastor Urges DOJ to Intervene After Cops Sent to Stop Church Service" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Melanie Arter titled "Trump: 'I Will Override Any Governor That Wants to Play Games' on Reopening Churches" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Group of [70] NY Pastors Rally [in Hamburg, New York Last Thursday] in Preparation to Reopen on Sunday [May 31]" was posted at townhall.com on May 27, 2020.

### **Stimulus checks**

■ An article by Quentie Fottrell titled "With Over 35 Million People Filing for Unemployment Since March, \$1,200 Stimulus Checks Are Only a Band-Aid for Americans" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Andrew Keshner titled "Two-Thirds of Laid-Off Workers May Temporarily Be Receiving More Money in Unemployment Benefits Than They Did From Their Jobs" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 26, 2020.

### **Finances**

■ Looking back to March, an article by Erica Werner, Paul Kane and Mike De-Bonis titled "Trump Signs \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Bill Into Law As Companies and Households Brace for More Economic Pain" was posted at washingtonpost.com on March 27, 2020.

■ Looking back to April, an article by Natalie Andrews titled "Trump Signs [\$484 Billion] Coronavirus Stimulus Bill As Focus Shifts to State Funding" was posted at wsj.com on April 24, 2020.

■ An article by Kay Coles titled "States Want Coronavirus Aid to Pay for Years of Fiscal Mismanagement; Not Coronavirus Fight" was posted at townhall.com on May 29, 2020.

■ A Reuters article by Tom Bergin and Lawrence Delevingne titled "U.S. Taxpayers' Virus Relief Went to Firms That Avoided U.S. Taxes" was posted at reuters.com on May 28, 2020.

■ An article by Jacob Passy titled "Over 4 Million Americans Are Now Skipping Their Mortgage Payments" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Jeff Cox titled "Another 2.1 Million File Jobless Claims, But Total Unemployed Shrinks" was posted at cnbc.com on May 28, 2020.

■ An article by Jacob Pramuk titled "Trump Administration Warms Up to Sending Out More Coronavirus Relief Money" was posted at cnbc.com on May 22, 2020.

### **Coronavirus and sports**

■ An article by Dominic Patten titled "Reopening Sports: 'Real Sports' Bryant Gumbel on 'Greed' Fueled Pro Leagues Wanting to Start Up Amidst COVID-19 Realities and Second Wave Worries" was posted at deadline.com on May 26, 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 Michael W. Chapman titled "Sen. [Tom] Cotton [of Arkansas] Unveils 'No Bailouts for Illegal Aliens Act' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 21, 2020.

## **Comments about weapons**

■ An article by Lisa Maria Garza titled "Authorities 'Slammed' [Overworked] in Daytona Beach During Memorial Day Weekend With Shooting [6 People Injured], Massive Crowds" was posted at [orlandosentinel.com](https://www.orlandosentinel.com) on May 24, 2020.

## **Comments about Mail-In Ballots**

■ Looking back to March, an article by Jessica Huseman titled "Voting by Mail Would Reduce Coronavirus Transmission, But It Has Other Risks [Including Voter Fraud]" was posted at [propublica.org](https://www.propublica.org) on March 24, 2020.

■ An article by Rosie Perper titled "Republicans Sue California Gov. Newsom Over His Executive Order to Allow Mail-In Voting for the November Election" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Beth Baumann titled "Alabama Secretary of State Shreds CNN Host [Brianna Keilar] for Saying Absentee Ballot Fraud Doesn't Exist" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Katie Pavlich titled "School in Session: McEnany Reminds the Media That Registered Voters in Many States Are Also Dead" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 28, 2020.

## **Comments about Trump support**

■ An article by Ted Johnson titled "Ted Cruz Introduces Bill to Restrict U.S. Government Help for Studios If They Alter Movies [to Get Past China's Censors] to Gain Entry Into Chinese Market" was posted at [deadline.com](https://www.deadline.com) on May 21, 2020.

■ A video and an article by Bronson Stocking titled "Watch: Dem Strategist [Joel Payne] Wrongly Assumes Two Black Models Won't Vote for Trump" were posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 24, 2020.

■ An article titled "Sen. Kennedy [of Louisiana]: Trump Is the Only World Leader Standing Up to China" was posted at [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) on May 26, 2020.

## **Comments about Trump opposition**

■ An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Former CBS News President [Van Gordon Sauter]: Most Media 'Dedicated to Ousting the President' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Justin Vallejo titled "Ilhan Omar Says She Believes Woman Who Claims Joe Biden Sexually Assaulted Her [But Will Vote for Him Anyway to Defeat Trump]" was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on May 25, 2020.

■ Looking back to March, an article by Benjy Sarlin titled "Top Obama Economist [Jason Furman]: Coronavirus 'Potentially More Serious' Than 2008 Crash" was posted at [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) on March 13, 2020.

- An article by Ryan Lizza and Daniel Lippman titled "The General Election Scenario That Democrats Are Dreading [Is Jason Furman's Statement That the Economy Will Probably Improve Before the Election]" was posted at [politico.com](https://www.politico.com) on May 26, 2020.
- An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled "Jerry Nadler and AOC: 'Releasing a Significant Number of Incarcerated People . . . Will Surely Save Lives' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 26, 2020.
- An article by Nicholas Ballasy titled "Some Inmates Released Due to COVID-19 Went on to Allegedly Commit Crimes Including Murders" was posted at [justthenews.com](https://www.justthenews.com) on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Eric Bradner, Sarah Mucha and Arlette Saenz titled "Biden: 'If You Have a Problem Figuring Out Whether You're for Me or Trump, Then You Ain't Black' " was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on May 22, 2020,.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "[Black Conservative] Senator Tim Scott: 'Arrogant, Condescending' Biden Telling 1.3 Million African-Americans That 'You're Not Black' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "BET Founder [Robert Johnson]: Biden Should Apologize to Every Black Person He Meets" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by David Choi titled "'This Is More Than Just a Little Offensive': [Black] Fox News Host [Ms. Harris Faulkner] Blasts Joe Biden's 'Hurtful' Comments About Black Voters" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by Todd J. Gillman titled "Accused of Racism, Biden Apologizes for Saying 'You Ain't Black' If You'd Vote for Trump Over Him" was posted at [dallasnews.com](https://www.dallasnews.com) on May 22, 2020.
- An article by [Black Conservative] Ken Blackwell titled "Joe Biden's Words (and Actions) Cut Deep" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 23, 2020.
- An article by Tariro Mzezewa titled "Biden's 'Breakfast Club' Controversy Shows What His Rivals Already Knew [He 'Underestimates Black Voters, Sees Them As a Monolith and Takes Their Support for Granted']" was posted at [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) on May 23, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Watch: Biden Attempts to Flip the Script and Blame Charlamagne for His Racist 'Ain't Black' Comments" were posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on May 26, 2020.
- Looking back to March, an article by Charles P. Pierce titled "Jim Clyburn [Black Congressman From South Carolina] Summoned the Votes to Save Joe Biden's Campaign" was posted at [esquire.com](https://www.esquire.com) on March 1, 2020.
- An article by CNSNews.com Staff titled "Maxine Waters: 'Trump Is a Dangerous Example for Children' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on May 25, 2020.

- An article by Tal Axelrod titled “[Robert Francis Beto] O’Rourke on Texas Reopening: ‘Dangerous, Dumb and Weak’ ” was posted at thehill.com on May 23, 2020.
- An article by Dorn Calicchio titled “Beto O’Rourke Mocks Texas Governor’s Reopening Message—Then Hears Back From Crenshaw, Cruz” was posted at foxnews.com on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Tim O’Donnell titled “[Elizabeth] Warren [Who Rejected Donations From Wealthy Donors During Her Presidential Run] Reportedly Turning Back to Wealthy Donors in Effort to Boost Biden” was posted at the-week.com on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Nina Goigowski titled “Michigan Governor Whitmer Says She Censors Herself on Trump to Keep Federal Aid” was posted at huffpost.com on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Mary Papenfuss titled “Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions Slams Trump and His ‘Anger’ on Twitter” was posted at huffpost.com on May 23, 2020.
- An article by Carlin Becker titled “[Conservative] Ann Coulter Sounds Off on ‘Blithering Idiot’ Trump for Attacks on ‘Gentleman’ [Jeff] Sessions” was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on May 24, 2020.
- An article by Lindsey Ellefson titled “Ann Coulter Doubles Down on Trump Criticism: ‘Jackass President Being a Big Baby’ ” was posted at thewrap.com on May 26, 2020.

### **Kamala Harris**

- Looking back to 2019, a video and an article by Maggie Aster titled “Watch Kamala Harris Criticize Politicians for Taking Black Women for Granted” were posted at nytimes.com on Nov. 21, 2019.
- An article by Morgan Phillips titled “Kamala Harris Introduces Senate Resolution Saying Phrase ‘Wuhan Virus’ Is ‘Anti-Asian’ ” was posted at foxnews.com on May 20, 2020.

### **News about the media**

- An article by Larry Sanger (co-founder of Wikipedia for which he coined the name and wrote much of its original governing policy before leaving the project in 2002) titled “Wikipedia Is Badly Biased [Because the ‘Neutral Point of View’ Policy Is Dead]” was posted at larrysanger.org on May 14, 2020.
- An article by the Post Editorial Board titled “Sorry Media: You’re Not Victims No Matter How Much ‘Abuse’ You Take” was posted at nypost.com on May 25, 2020.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “Katha Pollitt [Columnist for *The Nation*]: I’d ‘Vote for Joe Biden If He Boiled Babies and Ate Them’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 21, 2020.
- An article by Van Gordon Sauter titled “The ‘Liberal Leaning’ Media Has Passed Its Tipping Point” was posted at wsj.com on May 25, 2020.



■ An article by J. Clara Chan titled “Fox News’ Harris Faulkner [A Black Woman Hosting a Daily Show] Scores First May Sweeps Viewer Victory Over ABC” was posted at thewrap.com on May 26, 2020.

### General interest

■ An article by Eric Lutz titled “Chicago’s Population Is Just 30% Black, But Makes Up 60% of It’s Covid-19 Deaths” was posted at theguardian.com on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Hilary Weaver titled “Naomi Osalca [22-Year-Old Tennis Player] Set the Record for Highest-Paid Female Athlete in History [\$37.4 Million in 12 Months, Which Is \$1.4 Million More Than Serena Williams]” was posted at elle.com on May 24, 2020.

■ An article by Kyle Mizokami titled “The New and Improved Tomahawk Missile Now Runs on Corn” was posted at popularmechanics.com on May 25, 2020.

■ An article by Christopher Rowland titled “Taxpayers Paid to Develop Remdesivir, But Will Have No Say When Gilead Sets Price” was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 26, 2020.

■ An article by Curtis M. Wong titled “Protester Who Hanged Effigy of Kentucky Governor Fired From Job” was posted at huffpost.com on May 27, 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.”