

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

March 2020

President's Byline: Keep Collin County and Texas Red



As I write this, the nation is going through a national crisis. The COVID-19 virus has spread worldwide with 766,336 confirmed cases and 36,873 deaths so far. In the US, we have 153,246 confirmed cases and 2,828 deaths as of March 30, 2020.

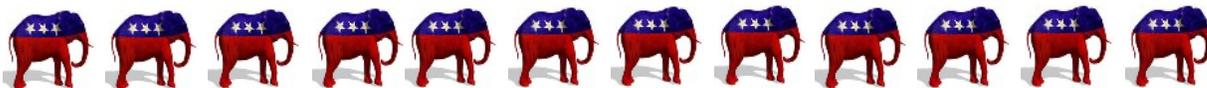
This crisis has led government officials to order people to stay home in order to slow the spreading of this illness. Restaurant dining rooms, gyms, and schools have all been closed. Only necessary businesses like grocery stores are open, and restaurants are only allowed to do carry out or deliver.

Not letting a crisis go to waste, the Democrats tried to pass a stimulus bill with things in it that have nothing to do with this crisis. For example, the first draft of the bill had the green new deal. The Republicans in the Senate cut the pork out of the bill, but Senator Schumer and his fellow Democrats killed the bill. The bill that finally got passed had money to combat COVID-19, however, it also had money for things like NASA and the Kennedy Performing Arts Center. Unfortunately, the Democrats would not pass a bill without some pork in it. People are struggling and dying, yet the Democrats held a bill hostage to get their liberal agenda passed. This is despicable even for them. It proves the Democrats don't care about the American people. They only care about power and control. That is why, when this crisis is over, we must do everything we can to win in November.

I hope everyone stays safe and health.

Jennifer Groysman

president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org



Calendar of Events

Due to the COVID-19 Shelter in Place orders Our April meetings Have been Cancelled.

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April Meeting

Due to COVID-19 our April general meeting has been cancelled.

**Thank you,
Jennifer Groysman**

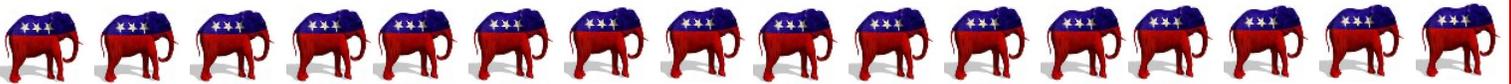
PRW Regular meeting information:

**Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East
3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074**

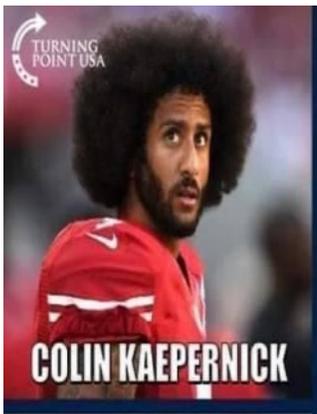
Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival
RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, March 13th, 2020**

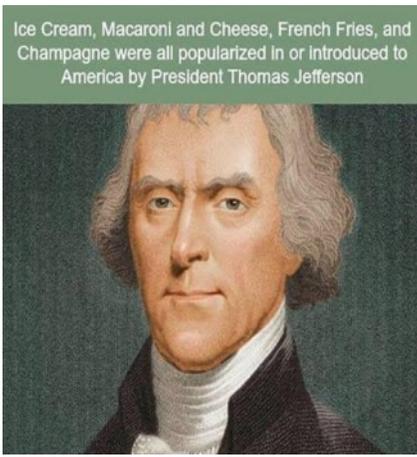
**RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting
We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!**



Constitution of the United States
The men who wrote the 2nd Amendment hadn't just finished a hunting trip.
They had just liberated a nation.



You have to really admire Trump, does anybody realize he just made all the Democrats attend Rush Limbaugh's award ceremony 🏆
LOL



BORN IN 1987
PLAYED FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
DRAFTED IN THE THIRD ROUND OF THE NFL DRAFT
REFUSED TO STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BECAUSE THE FLAG "STANDS FOR OPPRESSION"

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PLAYED FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
DRAFTED IN THE THIRD ROUND OF THE NFL DRAFT
GAVE UP A LAVISH NFL CAREER TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY AS AN ARMY RANGER

WHO'S THE REAL HERO?

PRW In Action

THANK YOU, PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN!!!!

As the Primary Administrator for the Collin County Republican Party and a member of Plano Republican Women, I would like to thank the following members who served on March 3, 2020 as Judges, Alternate Judges and Clerks and some have agreed to work the Primary Runoff which has been postponed to Tuesday, July 14, 2020 (God willing)

Diann Jones, Alternate Judge, Anna City Hall

Cathie Alexander, Clerk, Armstrong Middle School

Myrna Atkins, Alternate Judge, Bowman Middle School

Lynn McCoy, Judge, Clark High School

Marvelle Ditto, Clerk, Clark High School

Linda Waddill, Clerk, Clark High School

Semida Voicu, Judge, Davis Library

Joan Hart, Clerk, Dowell Middle School

Debby Arrant, Clerk, Harrington Library

Vickie Palmer, Judge, Islamic Association of Collin County

Peggy Sue Gleghorn, Clerk, Renner-Frankford Library

Pam Varney-Terrell, Clerk, Southfork Mobile Home Park

Cleo Marchese, Judge, UTD

Lisa Babb, Clerk, UTD

June White, Clerk, UTD

Some of these members have worked several elections and others worked for the very first time. Please thank each of them for their service the next time you see them (which could be awhile, thanks to the Corona virus). I hope other members will consider working in November when we will need workers for 30 more vote centers (normally we have 71 vote centers in November)!

Catherine Gibb





AMERICANISM REPORT

BY ANNE LOGAN, AMERICANISM CHAIR

Women's History Month

Every year March is designated Women's History Month by Presidential proclamation.

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contribution of women to events in history and contemporary society.

The roots of National Women's History Month go back to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was also in New York City in 1909 but Congress did not establish National Women's History Week until 1981 to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month.

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) recently highlighted several women, from various fields, that are part of our history.

Below is a list of a few of those featured in the PBS program.

- Susan B. Anthony, was instrumental in gaining the right to vote for women. She was highlighted in last month's newsletter.
- Eleanor Roosevelt, transformed the role of First Lady and changed the Democratic party. She dedicated her life to help others.
- Amelia Earhart, was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She became the best known female flier, not only for her daring and determination, but also for her outspoken personality.
- Danai Gurira, Tony Award -nominated writer from Zimbabwe. She wanted to bring African faces to Broadway thru her plays.
- Betty Friedan who in 1963 wrote *The Feminine Mystique* and exposed the happy homemaker myth. Many women wanted the opportunity of a career of their own.

In addition to the above, think about the contributions from these other women.

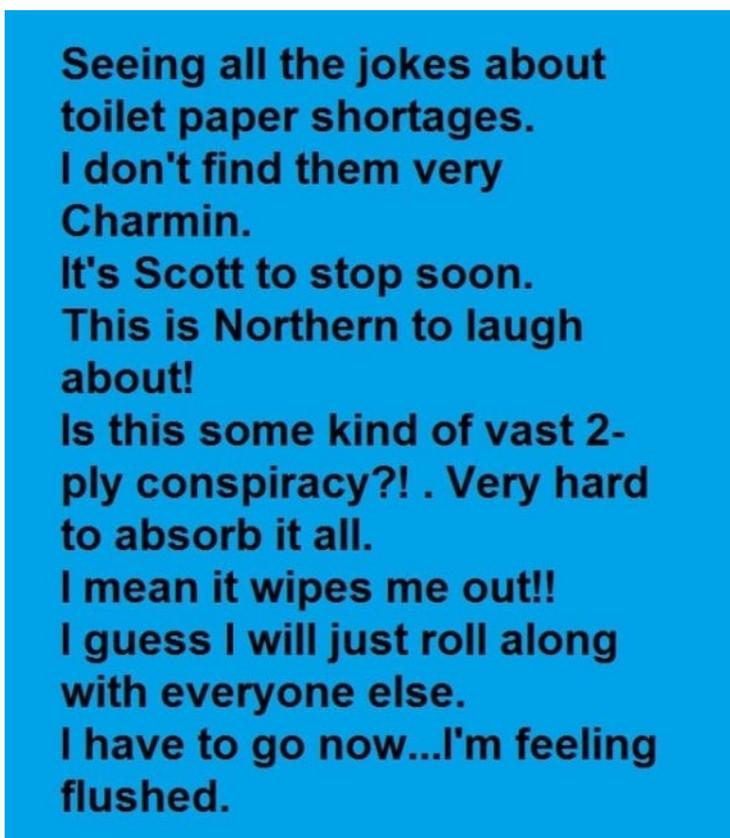
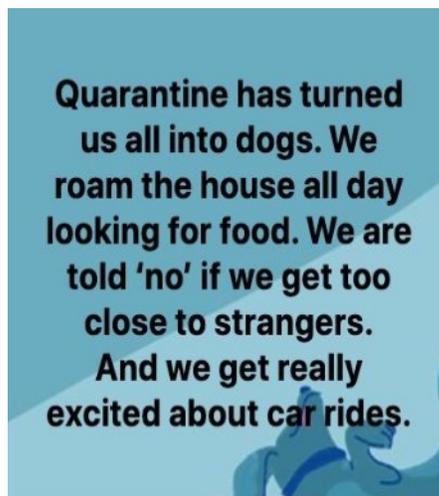
- Emily Dickinson known after her death for her complex poems. She is considered one of the leaders of American literature.
- Dorothea Dix was a nurse and social reformer who lead numerous campaigns seeking humane treatment for the mentally ill in the 1840s and 1850s.
- Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous "conductors" on the Underground Railroad smuggling hundreds of fugitives into the North and serving as a Union spy during the Civil War.
- Georgia O'Keeffe's career as an avant-garde painter spanned eight decades. She produced hundreds of lush, colorful paintings of shells, clouds, churches, and flowers that made her one of the foremost twentieth-century American artists.
- Dorothea Lange photographer known for her Great Depression photographs.
- Katharine Hepburn is the only woman to win four Academy Awards for Best Actress.
- Margaret Sanger, birth control advocate, waged a long, lonely battle against censors and hostile church leaders to legalize contraception and provide women with information about their reproductive choices.
- Toni Morrison is a Nobel Prize winner for Literature and known for her novels highlighting the Afro -American people and their history.

There are many more names we could add to this list of awesome women. If you have a woman you think should be included in this list me know and I will dedicate an article to her in a future newsletter.

An interesting fact from the United States Census Bureau: The number of females in the United States as of July 2018 was 166.0 million (males 161.1 million)

Pandemic Humor

Just heard a news report on the strains of isolation. Its reported people are going crazy and I had been talking about this with my microwave when toaster popped into the conversation and all of us agree things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as he always has to put a different spin on everything, and certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron calmed me down she said things will be fine, which surprised me since she usually the first to apply unnecessary pressure and get steamed up over nothing.





Legislative Report



Message from Congressman Van Taylor on the Coronavirus

Friends,

Our nation and world have experienced an unprecedented threat in the form of coronavirus (COVID-19). Please know, as your Representative, I remain fully committed to combatting coronavirus and am actively engaged with local, state, and federal health officials.

With my support, the House just passed H.R. 748, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*, also known as the CARES Act, and now this critical legislation has been signed into law by President Trump.

There is no doubt Americans need support at this very moment and this bipartisan package will deliver much-needed help directly to the families, workers, and businesses in need. For your awareness, I have compiled a summary of the major provisions included in this package. You can find additional information and details specifically for individuals, families, businesses, and seniors on my [website](#).

While the situation is constantly evolving, I want to make sure you have current information on the resources available to you and your family. Over the past few weeks, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in Congress to enact policies to help families impacted by coronavirus. Below I have included information to assist you and your loved ones.

This is an unprecedented moment for our nation and while families face mounting uncertainty about their future, one thing is clear - we are in this together. As you consider the impact of these provisions on you and your family, please don't hesitate to reach out. My staff and I are here to assist you in any way possible during these uncertain times. You can reach my office by calling (972) 202-4150 or send me an email [online](#).

More information about coronavirus, including information on the best way to prevent illness and avoid being exposed to this virus, can be found at CDC.gov. Remember, if you think you may have coronavirus, contact your healthcare provider for guidance

Making the Most of Social Distancing

As the father of three young girls, I know how important it is to keep children engaged while quarantined - particularly with the closure of schools and many parents working from home. While area school districts have provided a wealth of free educational and recreational resources to be used during this time, many experts recommend trying to keep daily routines as consistent as possible with wake-up times, meals, naps, physical activity, and bedtimes occurring as usual. Below, I have included some free federal educational resources my own children have been enjoying.

National Zoo Webcam

While zoos may be closed to the public, the National Zoo in Washington, DC has four different [webcams](#) to choose from - each providing a glimpse into the daily life of mole-rats, lions, giant pandas, and elephants!

Library of Congress Tour

Take a [virtual tour](#) of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and explore the beautiful, historic Thomas Jefferson Building online.

Explore and Learn with Smithsonian Museums

The Smithsonian Institute boasts a vast array of online information to educate and provide entertainment. Parents and educators can access an impressive collection of research, online content, and distance learning resources [here](#). Children can also utilize their [online portal](#) to find fun games, quizzes, and activities.

Space Racers

Created by NASA, [Space Racers](#) keeps young minds sharp and engaged while they're home from school. On the website, students can choose from a variety of games to play, activities to do together away from the screen, and even educational curriculums chock-full of STEAM-focused content.

Student Discovery Sets

[Free ebooks](#) from the Library of Congress bring together historical artifacts and one-of-a-kind documents on a wide range of topics from history, to science, to literature.



Legislative Report

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Message from Congressman Van Taylor on the Coronavirus

Talking to your Children About Coronavirus

Talking to your children about coronavirus and its effects in a way they can understand can be a daunting task for any parent. However, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has put together general principles for talking to children about the outbreak of COVID-19. The CDC recommends taking time to calmly discuss the outbreak with children and to be open to questions that children may have. The CDC also recommends limiting the amount of screen time that is focused on the outbreak that children are exposed to. Additionally, this is a great time to reinforce proper hygiene habits like cough and sneeze etiquette and hand washing techniques. More information and tips for talking with children about COVID-19 can be found [online](#).

Keeping You and Your Family Healthy

Keeping our families and loved ones safe and preventing the spread of the COVID-19 is critical. Below find information about government efforts to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure and ensure families have access to the medical care needed.

Expanded Access to Telehealth

The *CARES Act* expands the available uses of telehealth services to respond to surging requests. This enables more providers to diagnose and treat patients in a safe and fast environment without requiring patients to leave their own homes. Specifically, this bill:

- Eliminates the need for a pre-existing relationship with a doctor in order to initiate a telehealth appointment
- Enables Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to host telehealth practitioners.
- Reauthorizes Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant programs promoting telehealth.
- Allows Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to cover the costs of telehealth services.
- Expands telehealth for use for hospice care by physicians and nurse practitioners.
-

Health Savings Accounts, Flexible Spending Accounts, and High-Deductible Health Plans

The *CARES Act* enables individuals to utilize HSAs or FSAs to purchase over-the-counter medications tax-free without a prescription. This bill will also enable High-Deductible Health Plans to provide coverage for telehealth before the patient hits their annual deductible.

While reports indicate treatments to treat COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, may be available soon, there is currently no vaccine for coronavirus and the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure altogether. It's important for communities and families to take the necessary steps, like washing your hands, social distancing, and staying home if you're sick, to avoid spreading the virus.

Prevention Tips from the CDC

Below are prevention tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap is not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

More information can be found at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). If you think you may have coronavirus, immediately contact your healthcare provider for guidance.

Financial Resources

In addition to strengthening our healthcare infrastructure and ensuring our healthcare providers have the equipment and resources needed to care for patients who may become ill, Congress has passed a series of reforms to create programs and support for the American people.



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Message from Congressman Van Taylor on the Coronavirus

Rebate Checks

Under the *CARES Act*, all Americans with a valid Social Security Number who meet certain income thresholds will receive a one-time rebate check of \$1,200 per adult, or \$2,400 per married couple, and \$500 for each child. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits are eligible for the rebate so long as they meet the income thresholds.

Eligibility Thresholds

The full rebate amount is available for those with an adjusted gross income (AGI) at or below \$75,000 for individuals, and \$150,000 for married couples. For individuals with an AGI above \$75,000, the rebate amount will decrease by \$5 for each \$100 increment earned above \$75,000, fully phasing out at \$99,000. For married couples with an AGI above \$150,000, the rebate amount will also decrease by \$5 for each \$100 increment earned above \$150,000 fully phasing out at \$198,000.

The Department of the Treasury will reference the adjusted gross income on your most recent tax return of the last two years. For example, if you have already filed your tax return for 2019, the IRS will consider your 2019 AGI. For individuals who have not yet filed for 2019, the IRS will look at your 2018 AGI.

Timeline for Payments

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has announced that he expects payments to begin going out the week of April 6, 2020. It may take several weeks or longer for all payments to go out. The Internal Revenue Service will send the funds via direct deposit if that information is included on your most recent tax return for either 2019 or 2018. Otherwise, the IRS will send you a check in the mail to the mailing address on your most recent tax filing.

Unemployment Insurance

In an effort to provide financial relief for those who have been laid off due to COVID-19, Congress has provided significant new funding and reforms that will provide greater Unemployment coverage, and get these needed resources to Americans more quickly.

As all unemployment benefits are administered by individual states, the Employment and Training Administration announced guidance on flexibility provided under federal law for states to amend their laws to provide unemployment insurance benefits in multiple scenarios related to COVID-19. Visit the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) website for more information. Employees can also go through the Department of Labor's website to apply for unemployment compensation.

Improved Unemployment Program

The *CARES Act* creates a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program that will cover individuals who wouldn't normally be eligible for traditional Unemployment Insurance benefits. This program particularly helps self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and those who are simply unable to work due to the Coronavirus outbreak. In addition to expanded eligibility, under this program Unemployment recipients would receive an additional \$600 per week on top of the amount given to them through their state program. In Texas, weekly Unemployment benefits previously ranged between \$69 to \$521 per week. Additionally, this program adds an additional 13 weeks of Unemployment benefits to the number of weeks states currently allow. In Texas, Unemployment beneficiaries were previously limited to 26 weeks of benefits. Lastly, under this bill, retroactive benefits can be applied for back to January 27, 2020. The *CARES Act* provided \$250 billion to cover the additional benefits described above.

Additional Financial Relief

In addition to tax relief, rebate checks, and expanded unemployment benefits, below is additional information on additional provisions to provide financial relief for Americans.

Tax Deadline Extension

The Department of Treasury and IRS have moved Tax Day from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020. While individuals and families have an additional 90 days to file and make payments without interest or penalties, those who may receive tax refunds should file now to get your money. Details can be found on the IRS [website](#).



Legislative Report

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Message from Congressman Van Taylor on the Coronavirus

Charitable Contributions

The CARES Act creates a \$300 above-the-line charitable contribution allowance for those who don't itemize on their tax return.

Guaranteed Sick Leave Reforms

If your ability to work has been impacted by COVID-19, your employer may be required to temporarily provide for fully paid sick leave. Public and Private employers with less than 500 employees will now be required to provide full-time employees with two weeks (80 hours) paid sick leave as well as part-time employees on a pro-rated basis. Employers are required to cover employees not working for specific reasons found [here](#).

Changes to the Paid Family Medical and Leave Program

Due to COVID-19, some employers may be required to temporarily extend Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits to employees who must stay home to care for a minor child whose school or care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19. If this situation applies to you, employers would be required to provide you with ten weeks paid leave at two-thirds of your wages. Find specific information [here](#).

Modifications to Retirement Plan Rules

H.R. 748 enables Americans to tap into their 401(k)s, IRAs, and other qualified retirement accounts for up to \$100,000 for the entirety of 2020 without facing a 10% penalty for early withdrawals. For older Americans, the bill also waives required minimum distributions for retirement accounts for the entirety of 2020.

Mortgages and Rent

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), those who are unable to pay rent or their mortgage on time due to the coronavirus outbreak should contact their lenders or landlords to let them know about the situation. There are a number of options that lenders or landlords may be willing to provide like waiving certain fees or delaying or adjusting certain payments. Detailed information on options can be found [here](#).

At the direction of President Trump, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has suspended all evictions and foreclosures on HUD-backed properties until the end of April. You may also contact a [HUD approved housing counselor](#) to get free, expert assistance on avoiding foreclosure and advice on which programs you qualify for given your specific situation.

The Federal Housing and Finance Agency also directed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to suspend all foreclosures and evictions for at least 60 days for homeowners with mortgages backed by the government-sponsored enterprises. Those looking to determine whether their mortgage is backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or another entity, can visit this [website](#) to determine who owns your mortgage.

Furthermore, on March 19, 2020, the Texas Supreme Court issued an order halting eviction proceeding statewide until April 19, 2020. At the end of the period, the chief justice can choose to renew the order.

Bills

Many utility providers are taking steps to help their customers. For example, TXU Energy is waiving late fees, reducing down payments, and extending due dates for payments and while Atmos Energy is halting natural gas disconnections.

Telecommunication providers like AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile, are postponing service termination for customers who cannot pay their bills. Check with your service providers to learn if they have programs available to those impacted.

Student Loans

At the direction of President Trump, the United States Department of Education [announced](#) all borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments, without worrying about accruing interest, for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility. More information about student loans impacted by coronavirus can be found on the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid's [website](#).



Legislative Report

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Message from Congressman Van Taylor on the Coronavirus

School Meal Assistance

Several school districts in Collin County are providing grab-and-go meals, or other food assistance services to students and families in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. In collaboration with local education agencies (LEAs), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has created a tool for parents to help them to locate LEA facilities serving meals. Access the Meal Finder Tool [here](#).

Expands Access to Care for Patients

Patients who need care will be able to receive care, especially those most vulnerable. The legislation expands the available uses of telehealth services to respond to surging requests. This enables more providers to diagnose and treat patients in a safe and fast environment without requiring patients to leave their own homes.

The *CARES Act* also creates a Ready Reserve Corps to ensure our nation has enough trained doctors and nurses to respond to the this, and future outbreaks.

Resources for Hospitals, Doctors, and Healthcare Providers on the Front Lines

The Phase III package includes unprecedented resources to providers during these unprecedented times. The *CARES Act* provides resources and funding for hospital and health provider reimbursements, procurement of new medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), medical research, state and local preparedness grants, improvements to public health data infrastructure, and greater access to Coronavirus healthcare for all Americans.

More information on each of the provisions included in this bill can be found on my website as well as resource packets for [families](#), [workers](#), and [businesses](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to [contact](#) my office.

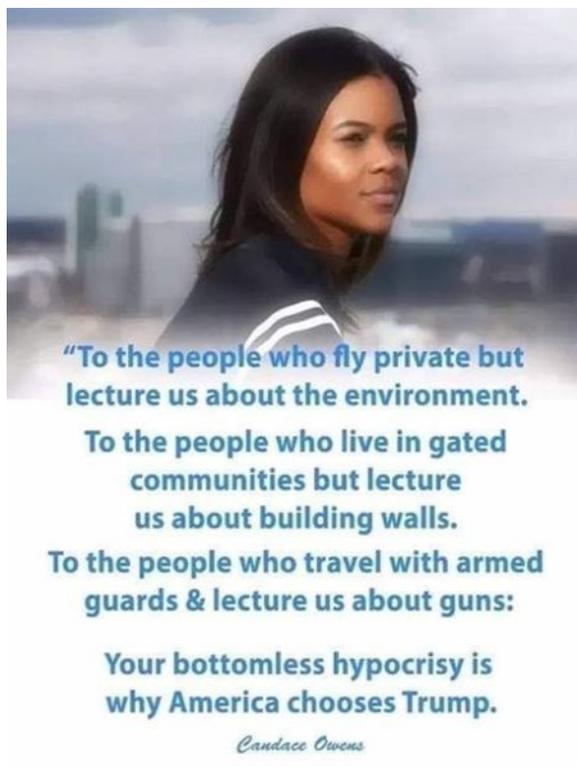
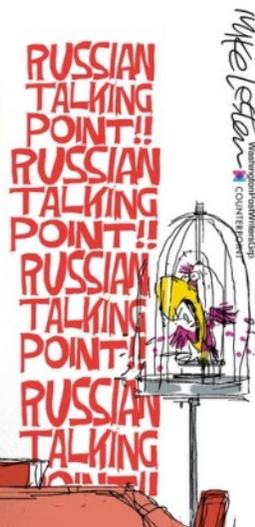
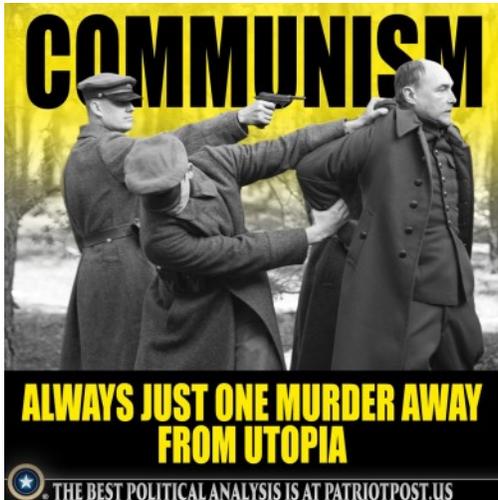


Semper Fidelis,

Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Political Cartoons



When Wuhan Virus Departs, World Will Be Changed

By Michael Walsh

No one knows how long the international alarm, bordering on panic, over the Wuhan virus will last. Whether it turns out to be the dire event some fear, or just a bad sort of virus that opportunistically kills the elderly and those with compromised immune systems (which is what, at this writing, it seems to be), one thing is certain: When it finally runs its course, a whole lot of things are going to be very, very different.

That's not necessarily a bad thing; after all, it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good. For more than half a century, the Western world has divided itself into two antithetical camps. One constantly pushes for the overthrow of years, decades, centuries, and even millennia of societal traditions and political norms in a headlong pursuit of "change" at all costs, while the other has tried to resist, but has inexorably been pushed back on nearly every front, shedding religious tenets and constitutional rights in a doomed bid to appease its opponents.

The situation resembles the parable of Chesterton's Fence, in which two men encounter a mysterious barrier across a road: "The more modern type of reformer goes gaily up to it and says, 'I don't see the use of this; let us clear it away.' To which the more intelligent type of reformer will do well to answer: 'If you don't see the use of it, I certainly won't let you clear it away. Go away and think. Then, when you can come back and tell me that you do see the use of it, I may allow you to destroy it.'" Problem is, the left went ahead and destroyed the fence anyway. And with the arrival of the coronavirus, we now see the results. Herewith, a list of the biggest

Wuhan losers:

THE EUROPEAN UNION. The EU's pipe dream of a superstate, passport-free in its interior, could only work as long as all the disparate countries herded within shared the same cultural values. But Germany—surprise!—turned out to be nothing like Greece or Italy, while Britain and Ireland bore only a passing resemblance to Belgium and France.

Further, differing economies, marked by vastly different work ethics, made the marriage of currencies such as the Deutschmark and the drachma effectively impossible. The unwieldy union, originally designed to keep France and Germany from each other's throats, was always shaky, but two things have now happened to knock it off its pins: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's destabilizing decision to admit more than a million non-European immigrants from the Middle East and Afghanistan in 2015, giving them free access to the rest of the EU, triggering social destabilization from Lampedusa to Stockholm, and partially setting off the UK's "Brexit" and the Wuhan virus.

With Italy and Spain now bearing the brunt of COVID-19, one member state after another has turned its back on the EU charter, and batted down the hatches against foreigners, including fellow Europeans; sympathy for Syrians and Afghans has had to take a back seat as grandma expires painfully in the back bedroom.

Even Germany has had enough and has closed its border to many of its immediate neighbors, while the Schengen Zone, in which citizens of member states (not all of them in the EU) could travel freely, is now "verboten" to outsiders. So say "auf Wiedersehen" to the European Union as we knew it as the Europeans remember the joys and protective uses of nationalism, and those more interested in national survival than the Brussels pipe dream follow Britain out the door. All of which means the effective end of—

OPEN BORDERS. Across the Atlantic, the United States has been under pressure from the Democrats to render the southern border with Mexico effectively nugatory, blocking President Donald Trump's wall at every turn in the courts, ignoring federal authority regarding immigration, and doing their best to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from arresting and deporting criminal illegal aliens.

Just a few days ago, presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden was calling Trump's handling of the Wuhan virus crisis "xenophobic." But now that the virus has shut down commerce and travel from New York to California, Americans are less tolerant of law-flouting than they were a month ago. That old folks should be confined to quarters for up to four months while the homeless turn the sidewalks into open-air latrines, Hollywood, the lifeblood of Los Angeles, essentially shuts down production, and movie theaters across the nation close. As 30,000 illegals continue to cross the southwest border per month, open borders have suddenly become a luxury even a liberal can no longer afford. Meanwhile, across the Pacific—

CHINA is now seen as more of a threat than a trading partner, and will never again have the same economic and political relationship with the West; its hegemonic aspirations are now over, and it will likely return to being a nonexpansive regional power.

Forget the conspiracy-mongering notion that the Wuhan virus was deliberately weaponized by the Chinese government; what's bad enough is that Beijing deliberately concealed the outbreak for as long as it did and has been dissembling ever since.

The coronavirus has also put the spotlight on the Peoples Republic of China's (PRC) outsized influence in the United States, including its penetration of U.S. colleges and universities to implant or suborn professors to steal research and technology, and agents masquerading as students who were actually officers in the People's Liberation Army.

When Wuhan Virus Departs, World Will Be Changed

By Michael Walsh

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Dependence on China for, among other things, prescription drugs and medical devices, is now a thing of the past, especially after a Chinese threat to withhold life-saving pharmaceuticals. And extensive Chinese investment in places such as northern Italy (where the worst of the European outbreak has occurred, thanks to PRC control of the Italian textile industry) is undergoing immediate reassessment. As is—

“ **CLIMATE CHANGE.**” The massive scheme to separate rich nations from their money and their standard of living has faded from the headlines as Greta Thunberg relinquishes her media-fueled role as a seer and resumes her life as an obscure Swedish teenager.

The urgency of keeping the rise in the planet’s temperature to less than 2 degrees’ Celsius matters little when your own body temperature is soaring to 103 degrees Fahrenheit and ICUs are filled to capacity. An enormous industry of global-warming alarmists and rent-seekers is going to have to make do with less fools’ gold as rational countries redirect critical resources to infectious-disease care and prevention.

Besides, the coronavirus cannot thrive in warm and humid climates, so maybe a heatwave is just what the doctor ordered.

After all, we’re all in this together, right?

It’s just that—

GLOBALISM AND “ FREE TRADE” are on the way out. The Wuhan virus means the end of cheap, even slave, labor and thus of inexpensive electronic goods at the low end and overpriced gadgets (such as the iPhone and Nikes) at the high end, with huge markups that gouge consumers even as Asian labor gets shortchanged and U.S. workers get sent to the unemployment offices.

One of the cornerstones of the leftright consensus, and an unholy alliance between the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and outfits such as La Raza, globalism (along with open borders) has enriched the few at the expense of the many and beggared everybody else. Look for “American made” to mean something again. And, speaking of beggaring—

THE IRS AND THE INCOME TAX is an institution whose time has gone. A product of the so-called progressive era, the income tax was forced upon the U.S. public with the adoption of the 16th Amendment in 1913, which overturned the constitutional mandate that direct taxes had to be apportioned among the states.

The result was a diminution of Americans’ personal freedom, a massive expansion of the federal government, and a soaring national debt, now completely out of control. To fight the economic effects of the Wuhan virus, however, the administration is bruited an immediate cash benefit of up to \$1,000 to every American, an amnesty without penalties in the late filing of federal income taxes, as well as a “payroll tax” (FICA) holiday, proving that while death may be inevitable, taxes are not.

Other things likely to change include college and professional sports (seasons delayed or canceled), the summer Olympics (sayonara, Tokyo), public transportation (the private automobile turns out to be the perfect social-distancing vehicle, not buses or subways), the Democrats (after wasting three years indulging their “Russian collusion” hoax and conducting a sham impeachment, nobody cares which of the two anti-America geezers the party is going to run this fall, and at least one Democratic primary, in Ohio, has already been postponed), animal rights (testing experimental vaccines on lab animals?—bring it on!), and rule by judges (as governors and the feds impose emergency measures that override state and local statutes in the interests of public safety).

Indeed, one of the happiest results of the virus crisis will be the end of “nationwide injunctions” from the last and least of the three constitutional branches of government, which can now return (in Chief Justice John Roberts’ formulation) to calling balls and strikes, and staying out of policy.

Hardest hit of all, however, is the media, whose anti-Trump mania, reliance on manipulative if not imaginary “anonymous sources,” eagerness to be seduced by former members of the intelligence community, general ignorance of almost every specialized field they encounter, political naiveté, and absolute fidelity to the party line (“Wuhan” is now racist) has rendered a once-proud profession little more than a mouthpiece for the Democratic National Committee and a constant reproach to truth, justice, and the American way.

At a time of dying newspapers and laidoff reporters, the media has chosen to go down with its “principles,” rather than adhering to its former standards of objectivity and professionalism. They wanted “change” and now they’ve got it—as H.L.

Mencken famously said: good and hard.

Maybe the next time we come to a fence, we’ll think twice about tearing it down.

Michael Walsh is the author of “The Devil’s Pleasure Palace” and “The Fiery Angel,” both published by Encounter Books. His latest book, “Last Stands,” a cultural study of military history, will be published later this year by St. Martin’s Press. This article was published in the March 19-25, 2020 Edition of “Epoch Times.”

Coronavirus Fears Fed by Soviet-style Agitprop From Russia, China and Iran

By: Helle C. Dale, March 10, 2020

Key Takeaways

1. Never letting a crisis go to waste, propagandists are using the coronavirus to spread disinformation and conspiracy theories about the United States.
2. Coronavirus propaganda fits into classic Soviet-era propaganda strategies, dating back to the Cold War.
3. The U.S. will have to be equally deliberate in its efforts to fight not just the spread of the virus, but also the conspiracy theories spread by foreign actors.

Never letting a crisis go to waste, propagandists are using the coronavirus to spread disinformation and conspiracy theories about the United States.

In China, Russia, and Iran, conspiracy theories about the origins of the coronavirus are swirling through government-run media outlets, pointing fingers at the U.S. military's biological-warfare labs or the CIA.

Not only do these falsehoods distract from identifying the real source of the problem (the Chinese government's delayed public acknowledgement of the epidemic), they also slander the image of the United States globally.

The Chinese military news website Xilu.com recently wrote that the coronavirus virus is "a biochemical weapon produced by the U.S. to target China."

In Iran, the Tehran government downplayed the virus and irresponsibly encouraged pilgrims to visit the holy city of Qom, which is now ground zero of the coronavirus outbreak in Iran, one of the worst globally.

Clerics have accused the United States of introducing the virus "to damage [the city's] culture and honor." Iranians now widely believe the United States is behind the virus.

Russia lost no time weaponizing the coronavirus against the United States. Thousands of Russian social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter have been spreading the line that the U.S. government created the virus to "wage economic war on China" and propagate anti-China messages.

"By spreading disinformation about coronavirus, Russian malign actors are once again choosing to threaten public safety by distracting from the global health response," Philip Reeker, acting assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia, told The Guardian.

Coronavirus propaganda fits into classic Soviet-era propaganda strategies, dating back to the Cold War. In 1983, a pro-Soviet Indian newspaper, the Patriot, first published an article to the effect that the AIDS virus was a biological weapon created by the U.S. military.

After circulating for several years in KGB-controlled publications, the slander was picked up in 1985 by the Soviet cultural newspaper Literaturnaya Gazeta (Literary Gazette), opening the propaganda floodgates. In 1987 alone, it was reprinted or broadcast in more than 80 countries in 30 languages.

The story was highly damaging to the U.S. international image.

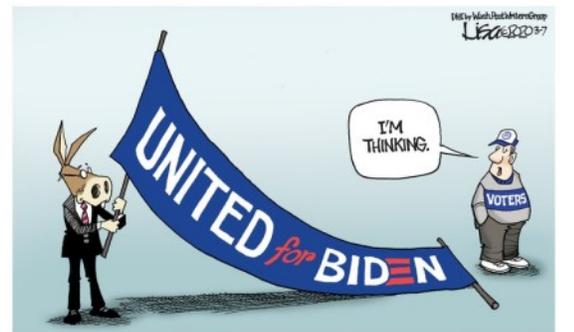
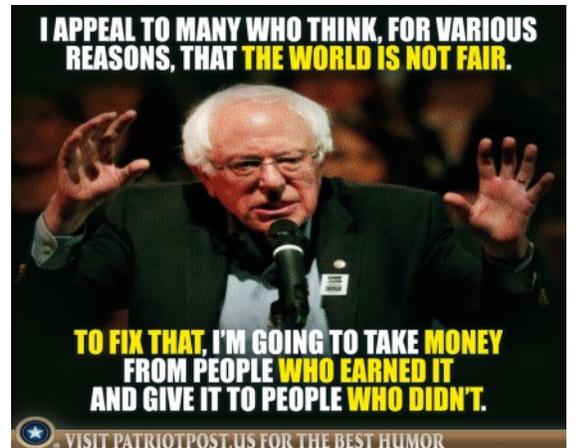
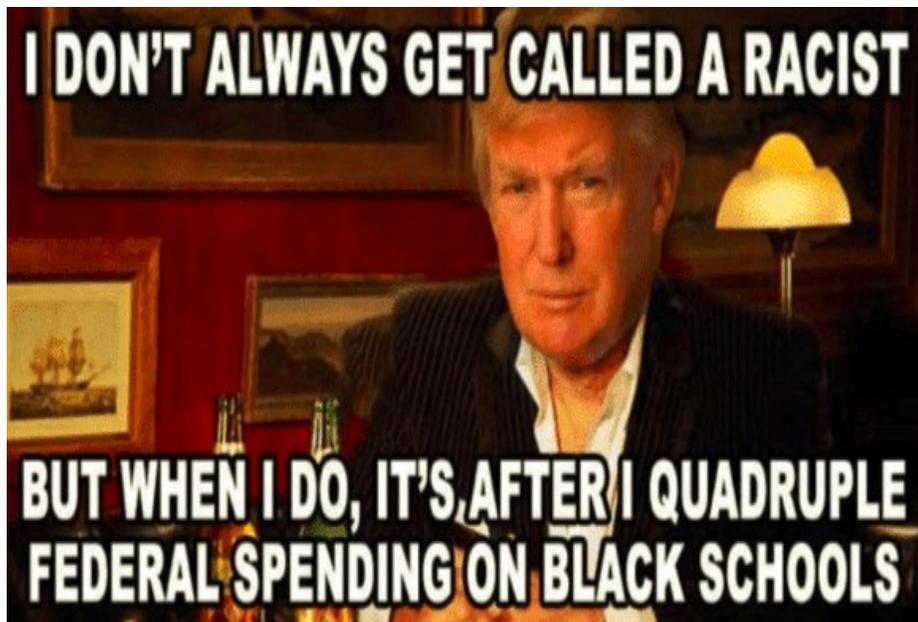
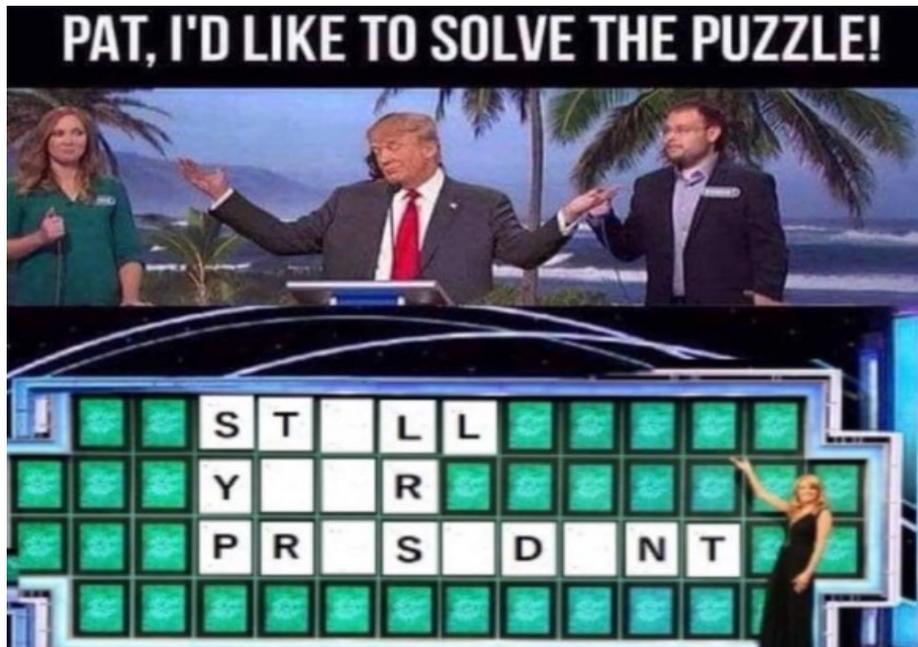
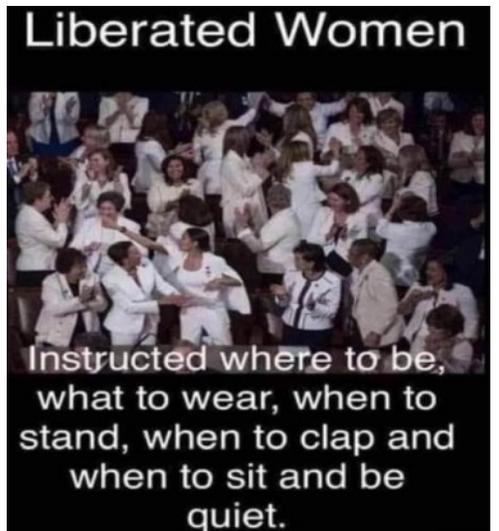
Similar damage is entirely possible today if coronavirus disinformation stands unchallenged. During the Cold War, the Reagan administration created the Active Measures Working Group to expose Soviet propaganda.

Today, the U.S. government will have to be equally deliberate in its efforts to fight not just the spread of the virus itself, but also the conspiracy theories spread by foreign actors.

This piece originally appeared in The Daily Signal

Helle C. Dale, Senior Fellow for Public Diplomacy

Political Cartoons



Didn't Go To College? You Still Have To Pay \$207 Billion To Bail Out People Who Did

Helen Raleigh, March 13, 2020, The Federalist

The federal student loan program has enriched Sallie Mae, private banks, and colleges, but exposed U.S. taxpayers to enormous financial risk.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently released a new assessment of the cost of the federal government's income-driven repayment (IDR) plan for student loans. The numbers are depressing. The federal government expects to write off \$207 billion in student loan debt in the next decade.

How did we get here? Back in the 1960s, based on the notion that going to college is a good investment and hoping to level the playing field for minorities and the poor to go to college, President Lyndon Johnson signed the 1965 Higher Education Act. It lets the government guarantee student loans made by private financial institutions, essentially putting all risk on the shoulders of taxpayers.

President Richard Nixon followed with the Higher Education Act of 1972, which codifies the system we have today: students can get a combination of grants and loans from the federal government to pay for college. The 1972 act also established Sallie Mae, a government-sponsored enterprise. Sallie Mae was authorized to borrow from the U.S. Treasury at below-market rates to purchase federally guaranteed student loans from banks, thus freeing capital so private banks could make even more student loans.

There is no academic criteria to prevent anyone from getting a student loan because college debt has become an entitlement available to all. There is also no concern about dropouts and the borrower's ability to repay.

With this abundant supply of cheap taxpayer money, the demand for college went up, so colleges raised tuition and fees, which then caused Congress to increase student loan limits and grant amounts. This vicious cycle keeps repeating itself as colleges become more and more expensive and the outstanding student loan debt has increased. Pell Grants today cover less than 30 percent of college tuition and fees, even though they used to cover 80 percent in 1975.

It's Other People's Money, So Who Cares?

The federal student loan program has enriched Sallie Mae, private banks, and colleges, but exposed U.S. taxpayers to enormous financial risk. Undeterred, President Clinton decided to get the federal government even more involved in student lending by having the U.S. Department of Education launch a Direct Loan Program in 1993.

When President Obama came into office, he decided that a federal government takeover was the best way to fix the student loan problem. In 2010, the President signed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (HCERA) Act, which kicked private lenders out and made the federal government the only issuer of all federal student loans.

We were told the federal government takeover would "put an end to wasteful subsidies to banks and used much of the more than \$40 billion in savings to strengthen college access." The CBO even projected in 2012 that the federal takeover would generate a \$219 billion profit over a decade.

The HCERA Act also offered the income-driven repayment (IDR) option to help student borrowers manage repayment. The IDR capped monthly student loan repayments at 15 or 10 percent of income for borrowers after 2014, and made taxpayers pay the rest of their tab after 20 years.

President Obama sweetened the offer further by announcing a "Pay as You Earn Plan," which allowed about 1.6 million students to take advantage of IDR as early as 2012. People who work in government jobs will see any remaining debt paid entirely by taxpayers after 10 years. Not surprisingly, the federal government takeover and the IDR were welcomed by many back then, and President Obama easily won his reelection.

A decade later, we learned the truth. Instead of generating \$219 billion in profit, now the CBO projects an \$11 billion loss through 2029 based on its own questionable accounting. The Wall Street Journal, based on fair value accounting that American businesses use, estimates the loss will be \$263 billion by the end of this decade.

Borrowers Were Happy To Get Other People's Money

The Obama administration grossly underestimated the number of borrowers who would sign up for the IDR. By 2016, close to six million borrowers took advantage of the IDR plan, more than the 1.6 million original estimate we were given. Borrowers are attracted to IDR because there is no concern for the value of their education or how much they can make in the future.

Actually, the IDR incentivizes borrowers to find a low-paying first job so they can keep their initial repayment low and expect a final loan payoff at the end of 10 or 20 years. CBO's own data shows "borrowers who select income-driven plans tend to borrow more money. CBO also expects the average subsidy rate of loans in income-driven plans to be higher for loans to graduate students than loans to undergraduate students, mainly because graduate students take out larger loans, which are less likely to be paid off."

Didn't Go To College? You Still Have To Pay \$207 Billion To Bail Out People Who Did

Helen Raleigh, March 13, 2020, The Federalist

Continued from Page 16

The CBO also estimates that if there is no change in current law, the federal government will disburse \$1.05 trillion in federal student loans in the next decade, out of which “undergraduate borrowers would have \$40.3 billion forgiven and graduate borrowers would have \$167.1 billion forgiven. The forgiven amounts are equal to 21 percent of the disbursed amount for undergraduate borrowers and 56 percent of the disbursed amount for graduate borrowers.” So even based on CBO’s questionable accounting, taxpayers will bail out more than \$200 billion in student loans in the next decade.

Free College Is A Scam

The fiasco of the IDR is merely the latest episode of our nation’s student loan crisis, a crisis created by the government that has been worsened by a succession of “well-intentioned” fixes. Today student loan borrowers collectively owe more than \$1.5 trillion and an average of \$34,000 per person. About 40 percent of them never even completed a degree despite accumulating mountains of debt. Some will still be paying their student loans after retirement.

Sen. Bernie Sanders’ free college proposal may seem to help current student borrowers, but does nothing to address the root cause of the rising costs of attending colleges, nor will his proposal ensure quality education. Instead, his proposal will end up costing students more in subpar education outcomes and will cost taxpayers even more unsustainable debt because there is no such thing as a “free college,” and someone still has to pay for it.

How To Stop the Madness

To fix the student loan crisis, the nation must do several things. First, the federal government must get out of the student lending business, stop lending to students and their parents, and stop guaranteeing private student debt. Let private financial institutions impose time-tested sound lending criteria such as a borrower’s ability and willingness to repay in order to minimize future losses.

Second, adults should stop promoting the idea that “borrowing money to pay college tuition is a good investment.” In an op-ed, Walter V. Wendler, president of West Texas A&M University, wrote that adults have a responsibility to inform students and their parents that not every college degree is worth whatever it costs.

Based on starting salaries by college majors, the marketplace clearly values some majors more than others. Adults also need to help students understand the pitfalls of borrowing. “Borrowing the amount you can’t afford to pay back or you have to spend a lifetime to pay back is not an investment,” wrote Wendler.

He advises prospective students not to borrow to pay college tuition because “student loan debt can have a negative, long-term effect on people financially and emotionally.” If a student must borrow, he recommends following the “60 percent Rule,” which means never borrow more than 60 percent of one’s anticipated starting salary at the first job.

You Don’t Need College to Make Your Way In Life

Adults should also let students know that not everyone needs to go to college to have a successful and fulfilling life. The most recent Deloitte Skill Gap Study shows that 2.4 million jobs will likely go unfilled over the next decade because businesses can’t find workers with the right skill sets.

Many colleges do not have the flexibility nor the resources to equip students with the most desirable and marketable skills that businesses need today. Apprenticeship and vocational schools are better investments and better alternatives for some students than college. There are also lucrative careers that don’t require a college degree at all.

Third, colleges need to have a skin in the game, which means they must invest in their students’ future success. Purdue University started an income sharing program in which the university lends money directly to students, in exchange for a share of their income for a period of time after graduation.

Students who attend the San Francisco-based online computer coding school Lambda pay nothing upfront. The school gets to claim 17 percent of their future income for two years, but only if graduates get a job making \$50,000 per year.

We need more colleges to invest in their students’ success like Purdue and Lambda do. Austen Allred, the co-founder and CEO of the Lambda School, said, “If your job as a school is effectively promising a job, it doesn’t make sense that student pays you a bunch of money that doesn’t work out on the other side.” Amen to that.

Helen Raleigh is a senior contributor to The Federalist. An immigrant from China, she is the owner of Red Meadow Advisors, LLC, and an immigration policy fellow at the Centennial Institute in Colorado. She is the author of several books, including "Confucius Never Said" and "The Broken Welcome Mat." Follow Helen on Twitter @HRaleighspeaks, or check out her website: helenraleighspeaks.com.

174 House Dems: Convicted Terrorists Must Not Be Barred from Working for TSA

March 12, 2020 Robert Spencer

Of course. Voting the other way would have been "Islamophobic."

As old [Joe Biden would say](#), Look, Fat, look, here's the deal: I've been warning for years that it would sooner or later become "Islamophobic" to offer even the mildest opposition to jihad violence, and that the "Islamophobia" mongers would become increasingly open about their support for jihad terrorists, and here we are. On Thursday, 174 Democrats in the House of Representatives voted against an amendment to the Rights for Transportation Security Officers Act that would prevent the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from hiring convicted terrorists.

Yes, you read that right: if these House Democrats had gotten their way, on your next flight, you could have gotten a pat-down from a TSA agent who previously conspired to down the airplane you were planning to fly on. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) [explained](#) that the amendment "was pulled back by leadership because the socialist wing of the party did not want to have that amendment go forward on this bill. When it was offered, overwhelmingly the majority of the House would like to see the TSA not hire terrorists or those who have been convicted of sexual misconduct with minors and others. But the socialist wing of the party, that controls now the Democratic Party, said that that could not be offered."

Allahu akbar, as these prospective TSA employees might have said, the whole thing exploded in their faces: enough Republicans and renegade Democrats votes for the amendment to pass it. But [among the luminaries](#) who thought it so important to avoid even the appearance of "Islamophobia" that they opposed an amendment barring terrorists from pawing through your belongings as you made your way through security were the infamous "Squad," Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D., N.Y.), Ilhan Omar (D, Minn.), Rashida Tlaib (D., Mich.), and Ayanna Pressley (D., Mass.), along with the supposedly sane and responsible House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D., Md.).

The TSA has always been more security theatre than actual security, but that's beside the point here: AOC, Omar, and Tlaib and the 171 other House Democrats who opposed this measure didn't vote against it because it would be ineffective, but clearly because it would offend a key portion of their constituency, which for most, if not all, Democrats today consists of people who believe that terrorists are victims and American imperialism is the real problem, and that Donald Trump is "racist" for wanting to protect Americans from jihad terror attacks by foreign nationals coming from the countries included in his Travel Ban and violent crimes by illegal aliens coming into the country from Mexico.

The Democrats' vote was not just about pandering to their increasingly unhinged base. You have to give these feted and cosseted anti-Americans credit for one thing: they're consistent. Ever since shortly after 9/11, and in the cases of some even before that, Democrat Party leaders have denounced even the weakest, most token anti-terror measures as "Islamophobic." The American people have been relentlessly conditioned to believe that it is "racist" to offer even the smallest murmur against jihad violence and Sharia oppression of women and others.

The establishment media, of course, has gone along with this, never asking the likes of the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) or the sinister and discredited Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) what analysis of the motivating ideology behind jihad violence would not be "Islamophobic," and treating these groups as if they were dispassionate, objective, carefully judicious authorities when they smeared, demonized, and marginalized all those who spoke with any reasonable degree of accuracy about the jihad threat.

The outcome of years of this propaganda pounded into the American people without any respite or pause, while establishment Republicans jumped on the bandwagon and echoed the same rhetoric, was inevitable: now even an agency that was established in order to protect Americans from jihad terrorists must, in the view of a majority of House Democrats, hire the very people it was created to stop in order to avoid falling into the "racism" that the miseducated hordes who vote Democrat see behind almost everything. It has been clear where all this has been tending for years. Now it is even clearer.

Will these outrageously anti-American Democrats be voted out of office in November? No, that would require a thoughtful Democratic voter base and a responsible establishment media. Unfortunately, those ships have long since sailed.

Robert Spencer is the director of [Jihad Watch](#) and a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center. He is author of 19 books, including the New York Times bestsellers [The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam \(and the Crusades\)](#) and [The Truth About Muhammad](#). His latest book is [The Palestinian Delusion: The Catastrophic History of the Middle East Peace Process](#). Follow him on Twitter [here](#). Like him on Facebook [here](#).

IT'S LIKE A VAMPIRE BEING FORCED TO HOLD A CROSS



TOO BAD RUNNING A CAMPAIGN



Why 'Real' Socialism Leads to Tyranny

Jarrett Stepman, March 11, 2020

"Real socialism hasn't been tried!"

Anyone who's gone to college in the past few decades has probably heard some form of this phrase to excuse the failures of socialism and distinguish between "nice" socialism and the "mean" socialism of, say, Fidel Castro's Cuba.

Oh, and maybe communist Cuba isn't all bad, they say. Well, yes it was and still is.

Regardless of the excuses for actual authoritarian regimes, socialists typically try to soften what their ideas would look like in reality and dodge the endless historical and present examples of the ideology's failure.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I.-Vt., continually tries to thread this needle—essentially relying on the old Cold War leftist analogy of not wanting to be like Washington or Moscow.

Sanders was asked by a Russian immigrant and student from the University of Michigan at a Fox News town hall Monday how his brand of "democratic socialism" would be different than the kind that led to the horrors of the USSR.

"What happened and existed in the Soviet Union was not socialism. It was authoritarian communism," Sanders replied. "And communism, whether in Cuba, whether in the Soviet Union, or whether in other countries, was marked by totalitarianism, was marked by throwing millions of people into the Gulag."

The Gulag, the Soviets' infamous network of prison camps, held as many as 17 million political prisoners in the 1930s and 1940s, many convicted based on false testimony.

It's good to hear Sanders at least recognize this, and it's a shame he didn't take this more seriously in the 1980s when the Soviet Union was still a threat and Sanders was telling Americans about all the neat things the Soviets do better than America.

Not to mention his efforts to look at the bright side of various other socialist, communist, and authoritarian regimes. Sanders has a knack for dumpster diving in the ash heap of history

But if we take Sanders at face value that he makes a huge distinction between good and bad kinds of socialism, what should we make of that? Choose the right path on the road to socialism and end up in utopia, choose the wrong one and end up with dictatorship?

National Review's David Harsanyi wrote about why this is an absurd way to look at socialism as an idea. He noted that it's true not every socialism system leads to absolute economic collapse and dictatorship. For instance, Israel's early socialist experiments, Harsanyi explained, merely kept people poor, not starving.

Here is the critical point, though.

Although socialists see things such as private property rights as suspicious, a tool for the rich to exploit the weak, nearly the opposite is true. Strict private property rights are a protection for the weak against the strong, a protection against the mob as well as the elite, powerful, and connected.

"[L]eftists like Bernie like to act as if socialist ideology is incompatible with totalitarianism, when the opposite is true," Harsanyi wrote, adding:

The nationalization of industry and dispensing with property rights—necessary for any genuine socialism to occur—can't be instituted without coercion and a centralized authoritarian effort. And even if the effort to redistribute property is first supported by the majority, as soon the state comes for your stuff—and it always does—the 'democratic' part of the equation starts to dissipate.

This is essentially the reason why a socialist system leads to tyranny and why a constitutional system, such as the one created by our founding generation, leads to liberty and prosperity.

In the most basic sense, the distinction between the outcomes of these systems comes down to an understanding of human nature.

The Founding Fathers were deeply concerned with placing limitations on power to protect the equal, natural rights of citizens and create a free and functioning country.

A socialist society can't rely on strict limitations on government power, as a free society is inherently, materially unequal. Left to pursue their own goals, people of various abilities and motivations will achieve different outcomes. Even the general desire to "pursue happiness" as each of us sees it typically will end with highly varied outcomes.

And no system, no matter how crafted, can make up for the individual variances of our lives. Socialism is the tool that leftists dream will

Why 'Real' Socialism Leads to Tyranny

Jarrett Stepman, March 11, 2020

Continued from Page 19

smooth over inequality, will lift up the oppressed to put them on equal footing with the privileged.

To fulfill its promises, socialism must inherently be authoritarian. To get people to fork over their wealth, force citizens to make up for economic shortages detached from the variance of supply and demand, and ensure that nobody rises too much or falls too low, a powerful, compulsive, and ultimately unlimited government is necessary.

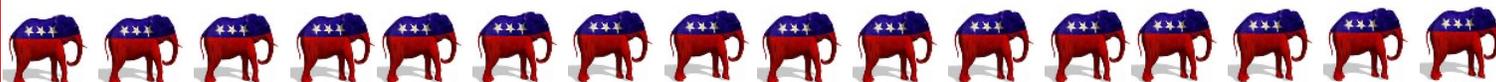
The problem is, unlimited power in the hands of a monarch, a mob, or a central committee always will be prone to rampant abuse and will sacrifice the God-given rights that are the very foundation of a just government.

Not only is freedom sacrificed but, perhaps ironically, so is community as society devolves to seeing the blunt instrument of the state rather than family and civil society as the basis of well-being.

So although socialists, or democratic socialists, or whatever they like to call themselves, continually dance around or dismiss the evidence that so many socialist countries have devolved into dictatorship, the reality is that authoritarianism is a bug in the system, not an outlier.

Your country may survive a mild case of socialism, but a disease is still a disease.

Jarrett Stepman is a contributor to *The Daily Signal* and co-host of *The Right Side of History* podcast. Send an email to Jarrett. He is also the author of the new book, *"The War on History: The Conspiracy to Rewrite America's Past."*



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Social Justice: Not What You Think It Is

By Michael Novak

Abstract: *For its proponents, “social justice” is usually undefined. Originally a Catholic term, first used about 1840 for a new kind of virtue (or habit) necessary for post- agrarian societies, the term has been bent by secular “pro- gressive” thinkers to mean uniform state distribution of society’s advantages and disadvantages. Social justice is really the capacity to organize with others to accomplish ends that benefit the whole community. If people are to live free of state control, they must possess this new virtue of cooperation and association. This is one of the great skills of Americans and, ultimately, the best defense against statism.*

Let us begin by asking what most people think social justice is. After that, let us review how the term arose. It is a Catholic concept, later taken over by secular progressives. What social justice actually is turns out to be very different from the way the term is now used popularly.

When the Academics Take Over: Five Common Usages of Social Justice

Distribution. Most people’s sense of social justice is generic, amounting to nothing more than what we find in the dictionary under “social justice”: “The distribution of advantages and disadvantages in society.” Now, notice that the dictionary definition introduces a new key term, “distribution.” Alas, the original notion of social justice had very little to do with distribution. Worse, this newly added term suggests that some extra-human force, “the visible hand,” does the distribution: that is, some very powerful human agency, usually the state.

Equality. Furthermore, the expression “advantages and disadvantages” supposes there is a norm of equality by which to measure disadvantages. Consider this professorial definition:

Although it is difficult to agree on the precise meaning of “social justice” I take that to most of us it implies, among other things, equality of the burdens, the advantages, and the opportunities of citizenship. Indeed, I take that social justice is intimately related to the concept of equality, and that the violation of it is intimately related to the concept of inequality.

This definition expresses a whole ideology: that equality is good and ought to be enforced. And note what has happened to the word “equality.” In English, equality usually suggests fairness, equity, or the equitable; but what is equitable is often *not* to give people the same portions, but rather to give what is *proportionate* to the efforts of each.

In European languages, most thinkers followed the model of the French term *égalité*. *Égalité* means the “equal sign,” *égal*. “This” on one side is *equal* to “that” on the other side. *Égalité* is a quite different notion from the English “equitable.” This French/ Continental usage is captured in the *American Socio- logical Review*:

As I see it, social justice requires resource equity, fairness, and respect for diversity, as well as the eradication of existing forms of social oppression. Social justice entails a “redistribution” of resources from those who have “unjustly” gained them to those who justly deserve them, and it also means creating and “ensuring” the processes of truly democratic participation in decision-making.... It seems clear that only a “decisive” redistribution of resources and decision making power can “ensure” social justice and authentic democracy.

In brief, shifting to the French *égalité* changes the entire meaning of equality from equity or fairness to arithmetical uniformity.

This is really a dreadful change, because where people take equality very seriously, they soon insist on uniformity. In the Inca society under Spanish rule, the first utopia was attempted. People were assigned by social class certain colors of robes to wear, and regimented hours were established for everything that was to be done throughout the day—even lovemaking hours, with great emphasis on bringing forth more children.³ If you are going to make everybody equal, you really have to make uniform crucial items of daily life.

Common Good. Social justice is typically associated with some notion of the common good. “Common good” is a wonderful term that goes back to Aristotle, but in practice, it often hinges on a key question: namely, *who decides* what is the common good? In ancient societies, often the wisest and strongest person was the ruler, and it was he who made the important decisions, such as where we will camp tonight or near which source of water we shall build our village. The person with the greatest strategic and tactical sense of what is safe and the greatest ecological sense of where there will be good community life would make these decisions.

Due to the length of this article to read it in its entirety please continue here:

<https://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/social-justice-not-what-you-think-it>

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JUDGE EMILY



RE-ELECT JUDGE EMILY MISKEL

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Officers and Birthdays

PRW OFFICERS for 2020

Jennifer Groysman, President

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Cleo Marchese, 1st. VP Programs

Lisa Babb, 2nd. VP Membership

RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Debby Arrant, 3rd VP Awards

Catherine Gibb, 4th VP Awards

Semida Voicu, Recording Secretary

Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary

Lynn McCoy, Treasurer

A friend passed this on to me today. I have never read a post, so worth the time. Please keep this moving.

I want you to stop for just a minute and look at this picture.

I do not know much about politics and I'm not even going to act like I do, and on top of that... this is NOT a political post. This is simply a post that I hope you can find in your heart to think about.

I was moved to tears today just thinking about the weight that he must be carrying. I have 2 girls and a husband and they are the only ones that truly depend on me day in and day out. Even with so few, my anxiety level at times is out the roof and I feel like the weight of the world is on me. I know when he signed up for this role, he was willing to take on whatever, but the magnitude of what we're experiencing has got to be paralyzing. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't but can you imagine? I sat and wondered how he must be dealing with it all. When it's quiet and his head finally hits a pillow after he's been on his feet all day, press conference after press conference...

Does he cry?

Is he even able to sleep?

Is he scared?

Can he shut his mind off?

When I look at our President, I want to see him the way God sees him and I want the Lord to use him for His glory!

Whether he's making you proud or not, I'm urging you to look at this photo and ask the Lord to soften your heart to him, lift him up in prayer. He needs them. He's carrying the weight of the world.



April Birthdays

PRW Members

June White 4/5

Penny Holt 4/234

Anne Logan 4/25

Associate Members & Sponsors

Emily Miskel 4/5

Don Williams 4/7

Brian Fletcher 4/14

Jodie Laubenberg 4/20

Phillip Huffines 4/26

Duncan Webb 4/27

Greg Willis /27





Plano Republican Women
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094



Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
(except June, July & December)

Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75074

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org