

The Fortnightly Rant

The Longest Tuesday

"I want to thank the American people for their tremendous support," said a grim-faced President Donald J. Trump to a group of maskless sycophants packed into the East Room of the White House early on Wednesday morning for another in an extended series of illegal campaign events on government property.

"Millions and millions of people voted for us tonight..." Trump observed, conveniently ignoring the fact that several million more had voted against him.

"...and a very sad group of people," he went on, "is trying to disenfranchise that group of people and we won't stand for it." Here, yet again, in attempting to report what the reigning Mr. Nuclear Football has said, one must struggle to parse a wad of words that spit in the face of coherence.

Either due to ignorance, or to attain some political end through the feigning of ignorance, or, quite plausibly, both, Trump is characterizing a vote for his opponent as an illicit civil rights violation.

"We were getting ready for a big celebration. We were winning everything, and all of a sudden it was just called off," the big baby whined.

"The results tonight have been phenomenal, and we are getting ready—I mean, literally, we were just all set to get outside and just celebrate something that was so beautiful, so good, such a vote, such a success.... The citizens of this country have come out in record numbers, this is a record—there's never been anything like it—to support our incredible movement...." Here the Leader of the Free World (by default) briefly trailed off into a fugue state, irrelevantly citing large leads in vote counts in states which would have voted for anyone, breathing or not, who was willing to accept the label, "Republican."

"...and all of a sudden everything just stopped," Trump said, dragging himself back into the present. "This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country.

"We were getting ready to win this election," he said, his tone of voice quickly shifting from melancholic to choleric.

"Frankly we did win this election. So our goal now is to ensure the integrity...for the good of this nation...this is a very big moment." A big moment indeed. Even the pretence of coherence was briefly lost, as if the specter of an indictment from the Southern District of New York had suddenly appeared before him.

"This is a major fraud in our nation. We want the law to be used in a proper manner." Why not, one might ask. There's always a first time.

"So we'll be going to the U.S. Supreme Court," said the President. Lacking a lower court ruling

to appeal, though, his only standing there would be as just another spectator. Perhaps he was presuming that, since he was able to appoint one-third of its justices, thanks to an extraordinarily brazen act of non-feasance on the part of the Senate Majority Leader, he would get the benefit of special treatment.

"It's very sad," said the superannuated poor little rich kid, briefly losing the thread again. "It's a very sad moment to me. This is a very sad moment..." The former reality TV "talent" got his emotions under control, though, before he began blubbing at the podium.

Rallying all his faculties of delusion, Trump concluded his airing of grievances with a pledge to go Full Authoritarian: "we will win this and we as far as I'm concerned we already have [won]."

It was a victory speech unlike any other. Who would utter a rambling, disjointed, self-pitying victory speech—*while he is being defeated?* Yes, yes, we know—the question answers itself.

Though no official result has been announced, at the present time—late on Thursday night, if you must know—it seems virtually certain that, barring some *deus ex machina* (to which we shall return), our 45th President will only serve for one single, very sad term. [We use the term "serve" knowing full well that in this case it hardly applies. We can't be expected, though, to rebuild every component of the language while getting out a newspaper, too. —The Ed.]

His accomplishments during that time—which no one would call short—have been truly astonishing.

Respect for the nation abroad, to the extent that any remained after the George W.[MD] Bush administration, has largely been replaced by pity in civilized nations. In autocracies, of course, our stock has risen.

Recently, our economy was described as doing quite well when three-fifths of the country were dangling by a financial thread and robber barons were hiring consultants to invent new ways to set excess currency on fire. We now look back at those days with nostalgia; the robber barons and consultants are doing better than ever, but that financial thread is on fire.

What pushed the economy over into a tailspin was, of course, the pandemic. A tiny little virus was able to do this because, despite having inherited one Emergency Pandemic Plan from his predecessor, and having another one written by his own maladministration, when confronted with an actual pandemic, our soon-to-be-departing Chief Executive ignored them both. Instead he lied, dithered, and ignored it, when he wasn't actively exacerbating it. He even tried to profit from it. Someday, if there's ever a full accounting, it will doubtlessly be shown that he made



things worse in every conceivable way—and a few others, besides.

It takes a true visionary, for example, to visit multiple states where the rates of new infections are reaching new peaks, hold rallies at which thousands of unmasked people gather, then leave them stranded, without transportation, in the cold and dark. Or, in one case, perhaps for variety, do the same thing down south in the middle of the day, throwing a little heatstroke into the mix. Who else would even run for re-election, with a first-term death toll rapidly approaching a quarter million?

Members of the reality-based community could be forgiven for entertaining thoughts, on Monday, of a great Blue Wave washing clean Trump's Augean stable. Yet, somehow, at midnight on Thursday, the incumbent was trailing his challenger by only four million votes.

The great Isaac Newton modestly said, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." Trump would not hesitate to take credit for having debased our politics sufficiently to account for

this counter-intuitive result. In fact, though, he's crouching beneath the roving moral midget who declared, "We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality—judiciously, as you will—we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do."

In honor of...no, let's make that in recognition of, an occasion we would prefer to forget, one too schizophrenic to be summed up properly in a single image, we have prevailed upon Mike Dater, our Starving Artiste, to cover the best, and the worst, of this time. Surely we need not label which is which.

Harmeet Dhillon, a co-chair of Lawyers for Trump, did her part Thursday. Speaking with Fox News' Lou Dobbs, she said, "We're waiting for the United States Supreme Court—of which the President has nominated three justices—to step in and do something. And hope-

fully Amy Coney Barrett will come through."

Not to be outdone, Newt Gingrich, also on Fox News, said, "You have a group of corrupt people, who have absolute contempt for the American people, who believe that we're so spineless, so cowardly, so unwilling to stand up for ourselves, that they can steal the Presidency." In keeping with his sixty-year record of being always wrong but never in doubt, he was referring not to his own party, but to Democrats.

It has long been an American tradition: every Inauguration Day, broadcast journalists utter in their most pious tones a phrase from our secular catechism: "Blah blah blah...witnessing, once again, that most American of miracles, the peaceful transition of power." Someone get us re-write.

Here's a question for Poli Sci majors: Was there a rise in the use of the phrase "peaceful transition of power" after Newt Gingrich became Speaker of the House? We ask because it's the sort of thing one would be more likely to notice as the alternative became more likely.



The Alleged News®

And Now For Something Completely Different

[Muttering: Surely we can write about something that has nothing to do with the orange guy squatting behind the Resolute desk.... Aha! — The Ed.]

Let us now turn to something less distressing than Presidential electoral politics. Almost anything would fit that bill, right?

Michael Hiltzik, the Business Columnist for the *L.A. Times*, wrote a fascinating piece recently on efforts by Congress to fine-tune the IRS.

Improving an institution so universally loathed—how hard could that be? And therein lies the problem; improvement was not the aim.

Congress is, of course, Constitutionally responsible for the federal budget, which is to say, raising and spending money.

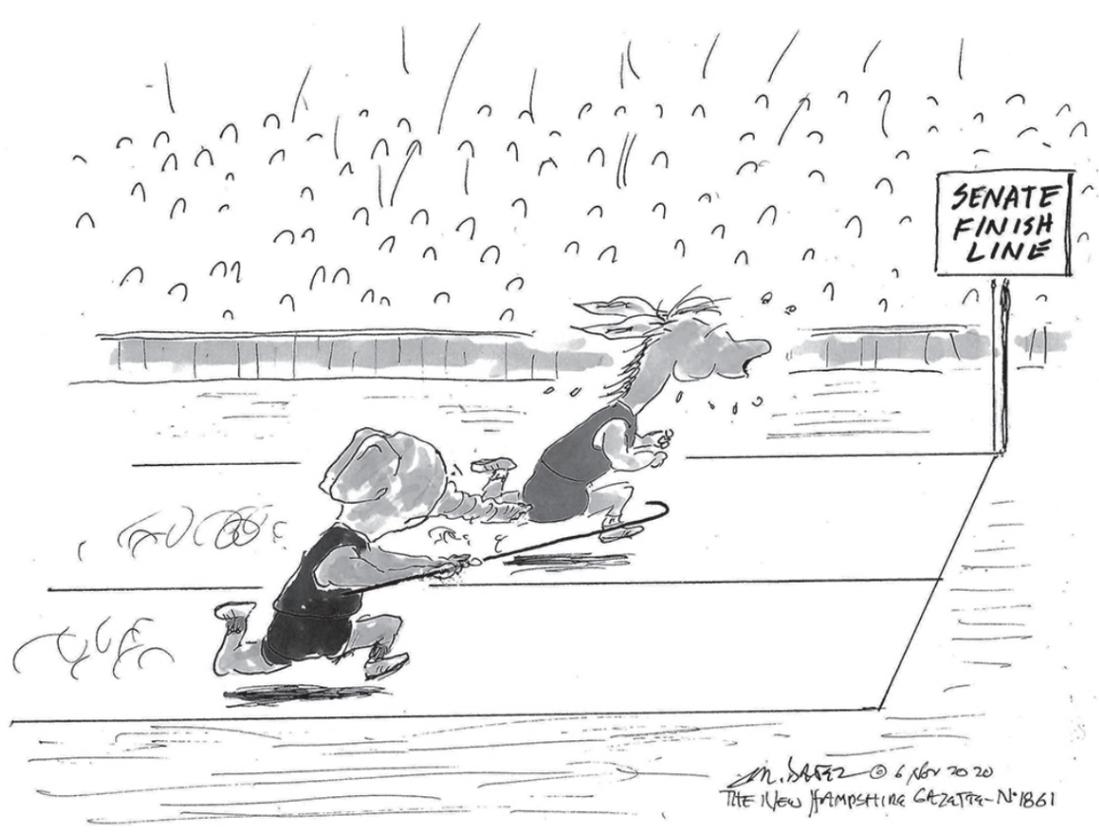
Individual members of Congress habitually bemoan deficit spending, and yet it continues—at least when it comes to the so-called defense budget, in which case the sky—wait, no: actually, now, outer space is the limit.

Domestic spending is another matter. Every other developed country on the planet sees to it that parents of young children are able

to plant their rugrats at a safe, clean, wholesome facility while they go off to work—at a job which provides them with a generous paid vacation. Americans have come to accept that such an arrangement would sap their precious bodily fluids or something. Speaking of which, the federal government gives not a whit if your precious bodily fluids are poisoned by whatever nasty chemicals our industries find to be most profitable to exude. If you can afford to find healthcare to repair the damage done, well, congratulations. The point is, the federal government cannot afford to do a damn thing that serves no purpose other than to make your life semi-livable. That's your department, Jack. But we digress.

One might think that Congress—with the nation teetering on the brink of widespread civil disorder—might at least try to prod the IRS to bring in as much tax revenue as the law allows, so that the nation could then afford to spend the paltry sums it would take to lower the heat under the pot that's threatening to boil over. But, of course, one would be wrong.

Willie Sutton had the wit to rob banks because that's where the money was. The IRS, when it's supposed-



ly looking for money, goes to where it isn't. And Congress makes sure of that.

Hiltzik writes that “23,456 U.S. households reported income of \$10 million or more last year (that is, for the 2018 tax year), averaging more than \$26 million each in taxable income. The IRS audited seven of them. That comes to less than three-hundredths of a percent. That's about the chance of being struck by lightning at some point in your lifetime. So it may not be surprising that wealthy taxpayers don't think they're living dangerously with the IRS.”

Meanwhile, households “with taxable income below \$25,000 were audited at nearly 10 times the rate of the richest households, even though their average taxable income came to about \$11,000 each.”

The result of this deferential attitude towards high income individuals is staggering. In each of three successive tax years, 2011 – 2013, the IRS left approximately \$441 billion uncollected. That amounts to more

than half the defense budget—or, in a saner nation, life-changing federal support for, you know, those poor bastards on whom the IRS generally focuses its auditing efforts.

We would be remiss if we failed to quote Hiltzik's kicker:

“Congress hasn't entirely impoverished the IRS. After passing a massive tax cut aimed chiefly at corporations and the rich in 2017, Republicans gifted the agency with \$320 million in new funding. But as a 2018 analysis by ProPublica noted, the money could be spent only on devising regulations to put the tax cut into action. Not a dime was to be spent on enforcement.”

Either Tax 'Em or Eat 'Em

Before we leave behind the topic of taxation, let's make a quick trip to sunny Arizona.

Not only did the Copper State vote to fire #45 [Biden is up by 1.4 percent with 93 percent of the votes counted], it also passed, with 52 percent of the vote, Proposition 208, “The Invest in Education Act.”

According to KOLD, “Prop. 208 will impose a 3.5 percent income tax surcharge on taxable annual income over \$250,000 for single persons or \$500,000 for married persons filing jointly.”

Whoever would have thought that such a thing was even remotely possible?

“People earning an annual amount less than these annual quantities will not pay any more in taxes than the norm (4.5 percent).”

“Once effective, excise tax surcharges will increase for individuals making an annual income above the mark; combined with the current tax rate, taxable income will increase to eight percent.”

“Money gathered from the new tax surcharge will allocate into a new fund used to hire and increase salaries for teachers and non-administrative support personnel, career training and higher education pathway programs for high school students and the Arizona Teacher's Academy.”

Is anyone in Concord listening?



With a population that is 91.5 percent white, and favored with a household income 25 percent higher than the national median, it comes as no surprise that Ward 2 voters are spared the inconvenience and indignity of waiting in long lines to exercise their right to vote.

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Sometimes Old is Good

 The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.


"Happy to Support Progressive Journalism and The New Hampshire Gazette"
 — Joe Keefe

Lewandowski Shows His True Colors
 Since Hancock's Dave Carney receded into the shrubbery following Rick Perry's meltdown, Corey Lewandowski has become New Hampshire's most infamous political operative.

Not infamous, you say? He will be if enough people get a load of this.



The image above is a screenshot from a video that was posted by Lewandowski, addressed to his Alpha Freedom Friends—whoever they are. In the video, Lewandowski says, "Freedom only for the members of the government, or only for the members of the Party, is no freedom at all. We need to end the China virus lockdown, and only *work sets you free*..."

Lewandowski may try to pass this off as a minor coincidence. If

he does, we're not buying it. In the clip, as he speaks those words—were once set in iron, in German, over the gates of Auschwitz—they appear in text, over his head, in the video.

Our thanks to @theserfstv, who identifies as "Two indentured plebs [who] give you their spin on the pale blue dot [at <https://www.youtube.com/theserfstv>]," for posting the clip.

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The Latest WTF?

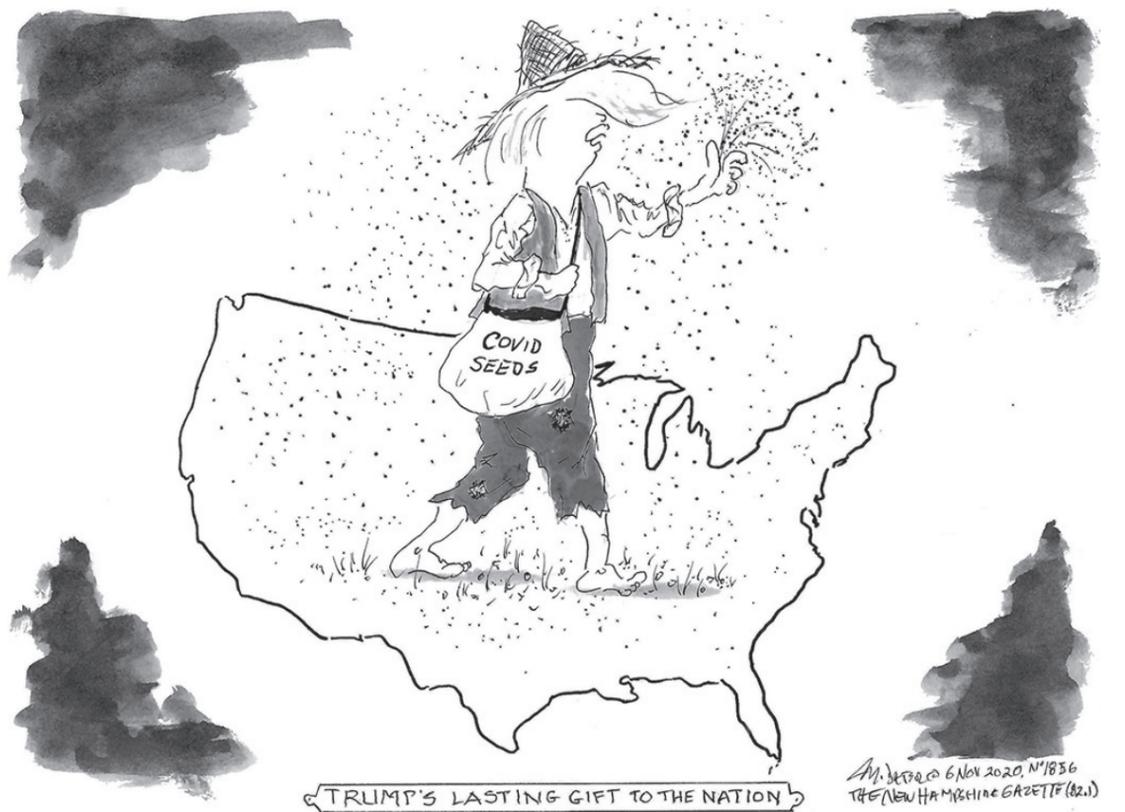
In our previous issue we published an enigmatic and strikingly weird telephone message, apparently from (530) 651-8580, whoever that is. At 12:36 a.m. on Tuesday, we received another:

Tributary terrorists identified on November 2nd, 2020, demand this intel be sent to various networks.

The tributary terrorists offer their under 18 years of age sons, grandsons, nephews, and sons of their cousins, to gay male tributary terrorist chapters for body modifications and placement as underage male prostitutes.

The tributary terrorists claim they hate their male family members, and offering them for these extremes allows nationwide gay male tributary terrorist chapters to trust the tributary terrorists identified on November 2nd.

The tributary terrorists claim their



virgin male family members are offered as underage prostitutes to show loyalty to nationwide tributary terrorist chapters, and to delay war [garbled] California.

A search turned up an instance from 2018 in which a wellness clinic received long, rambling emails including the term "tributary terrorists." Other than that, we have nothing new to report on the WTF front.

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A Stress-Induced Flashback

We don't mean to complain, but we must confess that this fortnight was a little more challenging than usual. Our publishing schedule and the Presidential election were, from our point of view, out of phase. Rather than ten days post-election, we ended up with three, requiring us to proceed with a bit more alacrity than is our custom. Such are the trials of this life we have chosen; we would have no other.

Fortunately, the Art Department was willing and able to meet the challenge. The Editorial Department,

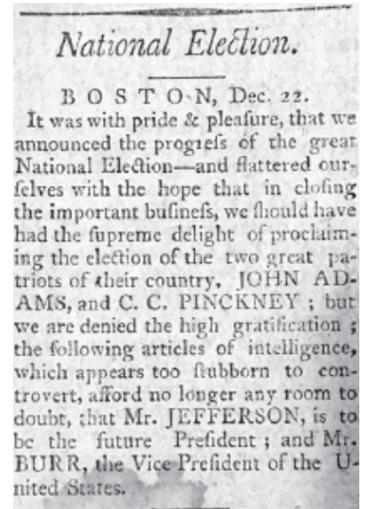
hobbled as always by the ill effects of nepotism, more or less muddled through. Proofreading, as expected, went like clockwork. We leave it to the reader to assess the overall result.

As we said, we are not complaining. This fortnight has certainly not lacked for entertainment, and much has been revealed. Presuming that the incumbent and his Attorney General stop short of declaring civil war, we expect that after the transition—however bumpy—operating this newspaper will be somewhat less taxing than of late.

Indeed, taking the long view—and considering that we are still pinning for newsprint—things are going reasonably well here at The Nation's Oldest Newspaper.™ John Melcher, our second editor, would probably be envious. The excerpt at right reveals the dismay he felt over the results of the election of 1800.

First an apprentice to Daniel Fowle, and later his partner, on Fowle's death in 1787 Melcher became, at last, his heir. Daniel and

Lydia (Hall) had two, or possibly three children, but none survived infancy. A Federalist in an era when a newspaper could be transparent about its politics without suffering a lot of raised eyebrows, Melcher found the election of Thomas Jefferson too much to bear. On February 9, 1802, he sold the paper to a pair of Jeffersonian republicans, Nathaniel S. and Washington Peirce.



Looking quite lively and alert, the cast-iron lions of the Rockingham are back at their posts. Judging from their glossy coats, we suspect that they have been off on an extended and very successful hunt. The plains of Brentwood are probably littered with the rusting ribs of their prey.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing."
 George Orwell (1903-1950), from 1984

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"White privilege is getting to go home after committing multiple violent crimes in public. It's keeping custody of your child when you are drunk and disorderly. It's being cheered for by capitalist marks on patio furniture. It's being able to ignore a monument to the murder, rape, and torture, physical and psychological, of citizens relegated to a shadow class on land their ancestors worshipped and cherished for thousands of years before your ancestors knew the Earth wasn't flat. And perhaps where it hurts the most for white people, it's being given just enough baseline freedom to feel like the sacrifice of your humanity along with the degradation of everyone else's is worth it, because when you keep your mouth shut and play along just a little tiny bit, you get elevated just enough to believe in the fiction that working 60 to 80 hours a week will net you something other than a missed out upon life on this amazing planet, in this sometimes beautiful country."
 john@wordpraxis.com —ghostofamerica.net

"Racism is something else man. These folks will happily crash a car that both of y'all in if they think your side doesn't have airbags."
 @ProfessaJay
 —Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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The Criminalization of Politics
by William Cooper

American politics have become criminalized. A steady drum beat of words and deeds—from “lock her up” chants, to prosecutions of President Trump’s associates, to Trump pushing for Joe Biden’s indictment—has eroded the bright line between politics and the criminal law.

This is deeply troubling for several reasons.

First, criminalizing politics conflicts with the bedrock principle that the rule of law applies equally to all people. Entangling the passions of politics with the criminal law leads to treating people differently based on their political affiliation—instead of on their guilt or innocence. This is antithetical to even-handed justice.

The examples of this criminalization are endless. Republicans want to lock up Hillary Clinton for her email practices and prosecute Obama administration officials for investigating the Trump campaign. Democrats, meanwhile, want Michael Flynn in prison and Trump indicted in New York the day he leaves office. And so on.

In American politics the messenger matters more than the message, the actor matters more than the act. This is diametrically opposed to the basic premise of the rule of law—that all people must be treated equally and their specific alleged misdeeds are what matter.

Second, criminalizing politics accelerates a disturbing trend towards ever more political polarization. It ramps up the stakes from treating opponents like political rivals to treating them like personal enemies.

True, fierce domestic politics is nothing new. It is woven into the fabric of our democratic system. But ultimately we are one nation in a dangerous world. Our political disputes should not consume a disproportionate amount of our national bandwidth. Nor should they undercut our ability to respond to the many foreign threats we face. If looked at from a global perspective, Americans’ interests overlap far more than they diverge.

Put simply, Americans should focus

our political energy on winning elections and setting policy, not sending officials we don’t like to jail.

Finally, criminalizing politics deters talented people from entering the political arena. The United States government already has a personnel problem. We shouldn’t further dissuade quality people from entering government because imperfections and ambiguities in their past might be shoehorned into politically motivated criminal accusations. The downside for winning office should be losing the next election, not getting indicted.

These concerns about the criminalization of politics must be looked at in context. It is of course true that entering the government should neither absolve someone from past crimes nor serve as a license to commit new ones. And one aspect of even-handed justice is to prosecute not just the weak and anonymous but also the powerful and well known.

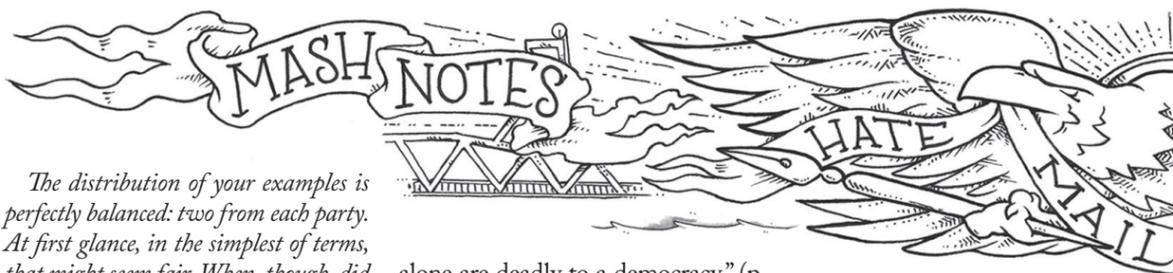
Striking the right balance is hard. But there should be a strong presumption in favor of leaving politics—and its inherent passions and prejudices—at the courthouse door. Criminalizing politics doesn’t just poison our government and undermine our justice system. It imperils our nation as a whole.

William Cooper is an attorney who has written for The Wall Street Journal, Baltimore Sun, New York Daily News and U.S.A. Today, among others.

William:

Thank you for offering your thoughts on this matter. Your textual generosity allows us to “get a purchase”—to borrow a term Uncle Fred often used when wrangling stubborn rocks out of a dirt road with a crowbar—on a similarly weighty, stubborn, and slippery political problem. Your brief bio suggests that you have had some success being published in newspapers a little more mainstream than ours. We think we can see why; out here at the raggedy edge of the public sphere we feel free to be a bit more obstreperous.

You state that examples of the criminalization of politics are endless, but offer only four examples. Given the volume of criminal behavior we’ve seen lately, that sample seems insufficient.



The distribution of your examples is perfectly balanced: two from each party. At first glance, in the simplest of terms, that might seem fair. When, though, did jaywalking become a felony, and whole-sale graft a mere violation?

In the aftermath of the most lawless four years in American history, you seem to be arguing for an immediate truce, followed by amnesty for all. Really?

While we’re up on our high horse here, we would refer you to the item “Rogue Editor Tells Truth,” on page six.

The Editor

Granny D: Still Relevant As Ever

Dear Editor:

Just had a journey down Memory Lane, reading a new book’s draft—Doris “Granny D” Haddock’s speeches, given as she walked 3,000+ miles from California to Washington, D.C., speaking for campaign finance reform when she was 89 and 90 (1999-2000). My draft is by way of group-sharing the editing task. I had assigned pages. I loved hearing Granny D again.

Sentences speak to me during our election-time now: “Fairness and leadership are everything to the life of democracy” (p. 46) “Where are our leaders and our representatives at this critical moment, when the shape of our economy and our jobs are in the balance, and when the health of our environment is in the balance, and when everything to do with fairness and equality that Dr. King and so many others lived and died for are in the balance? ...They are sold and gone, I fear. Sold and gone. The lobbyists in Washington spend millions per month for their attention, and you know where that leaves you and me, don’t you?” (p. 47) “The biggest problem with the current campaign finance system is that we can no longer trust our elected leaders. We don’t know if they are making decisions for the right reasons, or for corrupt reasons. We have our suspicions, and suspicions

alone are deadly to a democracy.” (p. 49)

From her speech collection’s last pages that I like: “We could, after all, stop illegal immigration by improving economic conditions in Latin America...” (p. 158) I lately read travel writer Paul Theroux’s *On the Plain of Snakes*, about his recent road-trip along both sides of our Mexican border. He clarifies that it was our NAFTA that changed so drastically the economies of Mexico and Central America, driving small farm families into poverty and changing everything. Forcing families to have to leave and head north, avoiding exploitation and money-incentivized gangs along the way. U.S.A. leadership, strong on foresight (and humanity) is what we really need.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

From a Doctor, No Less

To the Editor:

Joe Biden has been running political ads featuring anonymous “doctors” claiming “Joe Biden has a plan” to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. Really? I have yet to hear any details of this wonderful “plan” that will rid our country of this contagious virus.

I have seen Joe Biden holding up a common blue surgical mask stating “wear the mask.” Sorry Joe, but the generic blue paper mask is well documented to be unprotective against viruses.

A recent study even showed a group of patients with Covid-19 had overwhelmingly been wearing masks. Only the N-95 mask protects against viruses and it is not being worn by the general public.

According to the CDC, 60 million people were infected, 74,300 were hospitalized and 12,400 died from the H1N1 (Swine Flu) epidemic during

the Obama/Biden administration. The administration struggled to contain the virus and to get a vaccine made. Ron Klain, Biden’s Chief of Staff at the time, said it was “luck” the H1N1 outbreak did not become “one of the great mass casualty events in American history.”

President Trump has taken many strong actions to combat Covid-19 and a vaccine is expected to be available within months.

Where is Joe Biden’s great “plan” to combat Covid-19?

Dr. John Meinhold
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

What?

Seriously—what?

Between the two, Trump and Biden, you’d take Trump? Because of Covid-19?

OK, duly noted.

The Editor

Who Are We?

Dear Editor,

Joe Biden says this election expresses who we are.

Are we a nation that believes life is a jungle, a zero-sum game in which you eat or get eaten, dominate or be dominated, take what you can and try to prevent it from being taken? Do we believe that “America First” is the way to live in our community of nations and “me first” in our community of neighbors?

Or...are we a nation that believes in cooperation, that helping each other helps us as well, that our collective well-being gives each of us a better, safer, more prosperous life?

This election will express who we are and determine who we become.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

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White House Gangster Wants to Avoid Nuclear-Armed Stigma

by John LaForge

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is about to win its 50th state ratification, the golden number needed for the treaty to enter into force. The list of 47 current signatories can be seen at ICANNw.org, website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning coalition that helped navigate the treaty.

Formal ratification of the new law—TPNW for short—is a nation's binding promise “never under any circumstances...develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.” The United Nations opened the TPNW for consideration by a vote of 122 to 2 in July 2017.

A mere 90 days after the 50th nation state ratification, the TPNW will enter into force as international law, binding on countries that have seen it ratified.

Now, in a fashion reminiscent of lawless dictatorships the world over, the Trump White House has written to countries that have adopted the treaty urging them to withdraw their ratifications.

According to the Associated Press, which obtained the U.S. letter, the Trump Administration claims that the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France and all 30 NATO allies “stand unified in our opposition to the potential repercussions” of the treaty.

The AP reported that Beatrice Fihn, executive director of ICAN, said several diplomatic sources had confirmed to her that they and other states that ratified the TPNW had been sent letters by the U.S. requesting their with-

drawal.

Fihn told the AP that the “increasing nervousness, and maybe straightforward panic, with some of the nuclear-armed states and particularly the Trump administration,” shows that they “really seem to understand that this is a reality: Nuclear weapons are going to be banned under international law soon.”

So, while the U.S. and the other nuclear-armed countries have opposed the ban treaty, they do recognize the stigma of violating a civilized prohibition that is coming into force. Like a drug cartel with the terroristic muscle and political connections to operate outside the law, the White House wants to pressure its lesser associates.

The absurdity of the White House letter is flabbergasting. It's like imagining that President Lincoln had urged countries to reinstate slavery.

Ray Acheson, director of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom disarmament program, said in a tweet: “It's incredible that a nuclear-armed state is demanding other countries withdraw from a treaty banning nuclear weapons.”

Back on March 27, 2017 when negotiations for the treaty ban began, Governor Nikki Haley, then U.S. Ambassador to the UN, led a 40-state boycott of the proceedings. Speaking at the UN, Haley made two verbal slips that spoke the truth.

Haley said, “We would love to have a ban on nuclear treat...” She caught herself and said “weapons” instead of “treaties.”

Later, Haley flubbed her claim that: “...one day we will hope that we are standing here saying, ‘We no longer need nuclear weapons.’”

Evidently, the Trump administration doesn't hope for a ban on nuclear weapons but instead would love to

have that ban on nuclear treaties.

John LaForge, syndicated by Peace-Voice, is Co-director of Nukewatch, a peace and environmental justice group in Wisconsin, and is co-editor with Arianne Peterson of Nuclear Heartland, Revised: A Guide to the 450 Land-Based Missiles of the United States.

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Preparing for a Contested Election

by Andrew Moss

Though former Vice-President Joe Biden maintains a relatively stable polling lead over President Donald Trump, there's still good reason to prepare for a contested election. For months, President Trump has generated a steady stream of disinformation about mail-in voting, falsely associating it with high levels of voter fraud, and there's no reason to think that the disinformation campaign will end when election results start coming in on November 3rd.

Fourteen states, including the battleground states of Michigan and Pennsylvania, won't begin to authenticate, much less count, mail-in ballots until that day, and definitive election results may not be available for some time. Even if preliminary returns point to a Biden electoral victory, Trump has already refused to commit to a peaceful transition of power.

As President, Trump has immense powers to sow confusion and chaos as the nation enters a period of deepening uncertainty. He can call for investigations into voting and tabulating processes and encourage state legislatures to submit alternative slates of electors.

Though he may lag in the polls, Trump continues to garner strategic support from such key players as state officials, judicial appointees, and right-wing TV and radio hosts. Witness Texas Governor Greg Abbott's use of the “ballot security” canard to limit the number of ballot drop-off sites to one per county (e.g. only one site for Hous-

ton's Harris County, with 2.3 million voters). Vote suppression, unable to hide the raw usurpation of power beneath a flimsy veil of legality, is closely intertwined with the disinformation and disruption that have characterized the Trump campaign from the outset.

What, then, does it mean to prepare for a contested election? In part it means getting to know work that's been already completed or that is underway: work that anticipates and seeks to forestall efforts that could undermine the electoral process. This past summer, for example, Georgetown University law professor Rosa Brooks and Berggruen Institute Vice-President of Programs Nils Gilman convened a bipartisan group of approximately 100 policy experts and former and current government officials to run exercises simulating various scenarios involving the upcoming presidential election. Called the Transition Integrity Project (TIP), this effort was “launched out of concern that the Trump Administration may seek to manipulate, ignore, undermine or disrupt the 2020 Presidential election and transition process.”

The TIP exercises led participants to conclude that the outcome of a contested election will entail much more of a political struggle than a legal one, and that a major factor in this struggle will involve the kind of narrative, or narratives, that prevail. If there are efforts to stop the counting of ballots, much may rest on the extent to which citizens mobilize in massive street protests. By the same token, such protests may lead Trump to encourage violent responses from some right-wing groups, and in such chaos he may seek to position himself as the only figure able to restore law and order.

Other groups and individuals involved in preparation and trainings for a chaotic post-election period have stressed the importance of nonviolence and the adherence to democratic norms and values. Choose Democracy, a source of such trainings, offers participants a pledge that asks them, among other things, to “refuse to accept election results until all the votes are counted,” and “to nonviolently take

to the streets if a coup is attempted.” Yet another group has put together a manual, “Hold the Line: A Guide to Defending Democracy,” that lays out timelines for preparation, including specific suggestions on how groups can be organized and take active roles in their own communities.

One message from all of this planning is clear: if the election is contested, it won't be sufficient for people to be passive spectators as a struggle is played out by others. Citizens must play decisive roles in their own communities, and to the extent that individuals carry special responsibilities in fields such as the media, government, civil service, and law enforcement, they must be encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities in ways that protect democratic institutions and the orderly transition of power.

Some argue that the prediction of a chaotic post-election scenario is far-fetched. *New York Times* op-ed writer Ross Douthat, for example, sees Donald Trump more as a “corrupt incompetent who postures as a strongman on Twitter” than as “a threat to the Republic to whom words like ‘authoritarian’ and even ‘autocrat’ can be reasonably applied.” Others feel that the polling numbers point to such a resounding Trump defeat that contestation is highly unlikely. But as a summary of the Transition Integrity Project reminds us, “President Trump is not running a normal re-election campaign...[his] actions and statements over the course of his presidency raise serious concerns about whether he will observe the norms of our electoral system.”

In view of those concerns, and the evidence underlying them, it makes sense to be prepared: to stay informed, to be aware, and to make choices grounded in one's best sense of what it means to live in, and sustain, a democratic society.

Andrew Moss, syndicated by Peace-Voice, is an emeritus professor (English, Nonviolence Studies) at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
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The Fed Appears to Have Put Its Finger on the Scale for Donald Trump on Friday

By Pam Martens and Russ Martens

November 2, 2020—The U.S. stock market, as measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, lost 1,833.97 points last week. The Dow was down every day except Thursday, when it eked out a gain of 139.16. The market was reacting to the following bad news: soaring cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.; a reemergence of the virus in Europe causing business shutdowns there; the failure of the U.S. Congress to pass a new stimulus bill; and a sharply lower price for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), domestic crude oil—which signals a further slowdown in economic activity. (At 7 a.m. this morning, WTI was down further, with a \$34 handle.)

The stock market's losses would have likely been greater last week were it not for an intervention staged by the Federal Reserve at 11:00 a.m. on Friday. Here's what happened and why Americans should be deeply concerned.

The 200-day moving average on the Dow is watched by market technicians as an indicator of where the

Dow is heading going forward. By 10:58 a.m. on Friday, the Dow had lost 502 points on the day and was trading at 26,156.45, below its 200-day moving average of 26,200.50.

A break like that would typically escalate selling in the Dow as computer algorithms detect the break in the moving average and trigger sell orders.

But at 11:00 a.m., the Federal Reserve stepped into the action by issuing a press release that gave an upbeat signal to the market. Since all of the Fed's jawboning on the need for a new stimulus plan from Congress had failed to get legislation passed, the Fed's press release indicated it was issuing its own version of a stimulus boost for small business. The Fed announced that its Main Street lending programs would be lowered from the current \$250,000 minimum loan size to \$100,000—thus making many more small businesses eligible. The Fed's news printed at the Reuters wire service at 11:07 a.m. and the market turned up. By the close of trading on Friday, the Dow had erased most of its earlier losses, closing down just

-157.51.

In addition to the fact that the Fed's announcement came within minutes of the Dow dropping below its 200-day moving average, there are other noteworthy aspects to the Fed's action.

First, it has been the longstanding policy of the Fed to announce market-moving information before the market opens or after it closes. The major exception is the longstanding policy of the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) of the Fed to issue its statement at 2:00 p.m. on the second day of FOMC meetings, which occur every six weeks. The Fed's intervention on Friday with an unanticipated policy change just as the market broke through a key technical indicator, and just three business days before a hotly-contested presidential election, sends the troubling signal that the Fed is putting its finger on the scale for the incumbent president, Donald Trump.

Trump has linked himself to a rising stock market like no other president in history. He tweets about it and he campaigns about it. Even

when Trump was in the hospital in early October with COVID-19, he sent out a Tweet stating: "...remember that the Stock Market is getting ready to break its all time high." It wouldn't make the current president look too good if the market crashed while he's still in control of the U.S. economy.

But it's not the job of the Fed to make Trump's market prognostications a reality. The Fed is supposed to remain fiercely independent from politics and politicians so that Americans can trust that it is setting monetary policy on behalf of the American people. Jerome Powell, the current Fed Chairman, has failed miserably in that regard.

In 2019, Powell dined with Trump on the occasion of Powell's 66th birthday. Congresswoman Katie Porter chastised Powell at a hearing for attending a lavish party at the mansion of billionaire Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. The party was also attended by Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and her husband, Jared Kushner, as well as by Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, a serial felon bank supervised

by the Fed.

Powell has also retained \$25 million in personal assets that are under the investment management of BlackRock at the same time that the Fed handed BlackRock three highly lucrative no-bid contracts—which include the Fed giving the company money to buy up its own Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). (See Fed Chair Powell Had 4 Private Phone Calls with BlackRock's CEO Since March as BlackRock Manages Upwards of \$25 Million of Powell's Personal Money and Lands 3 No-Bid Deals with the Fed.)*

The critical problem for the U.S. is that the country is simultaneously facing two separate pandemics: the threat to our health from the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat to our democracy from the pandemic of crony capitalism.

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* <https://wallstreetonparade.com/2020/08/fed-chair-powell-had-4-private-phone-calls-with-blackrocks-ceo-since-march-as-black-rock-manages-upwards-of-25-million-of-powells-personal-money-and-lands-3-no-bid-deals-with-the-fed/>

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Rogue Editor Tells Truth!

To the extent the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* is remembered today, it is largely because of Walt Whitman. The poet edited the *Eagle* from 1846 to 1848, and returned for a second stint about a decade later.

We recently stumbled upon another modest reason for remembering the *Eagle*: it published, on Sunday, August 5, 1883—as the ailing Whitman, 64, languished 100 miles away in Camden, New Jersey—an 1,800 word item on "The Origin and Growth" of The Twilight Club, "A Successful Club Which Has Neither Club House Nor Caterer."

Now, the Twilight Club itself could probably be safely forgotten, had it not provided a platform for John Swinton's most famous speech.



Rest assured, dear reader, this shaggy dog we're following is leading us to a savory bone.

John Swinton (1829 – 1901), was a Scottish-American printer, newspaper editor and publisher. While working as a compositor for South Carolina's state printer Swinton, bold and progressive, and prone to direct action, illegally taught Black people how to read and write. He is best remembered for an incendiary speech he gave to his fellow newspapermen as he left his position as editorial writer for the New York *Daily Sun*, to found an independent paper of his own.

At the Twilight Club, on April

12, 1883, Swinton said: "There is no such a thing in America as an independent press, unless it is out in country towns. You are all slaves. You know it, and I know it. There is not one of you who dares to express an honest opinion. If you expressed it, you would know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid \$150 for keeping honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. Others of you are paid similar salaries for doing similar things. If I should allow honest opinions to be printed in one issue of my paper, I would be like Othello before twenty-four hours: my occupation would

be gone. The man who would be so foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the street hunting for another job. The business of a New York journalist is to distort the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to villify, to fawn at the feet of Mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread, or for what is about the same—his salary. You know this, and I know it; and what foolery to be toasting an 'Independent Press'! We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are jumping-jacks. They pull the string and we dance. Our time, our talents, our lives, our possibilities, are all the property of other

men. We are intellectual prostitutes."

Four months later, in its windy piece on the Twilight Club, the *Eagle* gives us a glimpse of how Swinton's speech was received at the time:

"The public has been interested in the Twilight Club through reports of its pleasant reunions from time to time....Even with a small attendance the interest has been kept up and it is noteworthy how confidential and frank many of the speakers become and how many candid utterances are made. A five minutes' speech by John Swinton, of the *Sun*, on some of the things newspapermen dare not write about, will be recalled by all who heard it as a most eloquent and refreshing specimen of [Anglo-]Saxon."

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The Anti-Racist Revolution

by Robert C. Koehler

The nation has less than two weeks left to live in its comfort zone of platitudes. This is by far the most ominous election buildup of my (fairly lengthy at this point) lifetime. What will happen on Nov. 3 and thereafter? Will all the votes be counted? Presuming Trump loses, will he leave office?

Are we approaching the end of our...uh, democracy?

A real democracy, of course, has always been a terrible inconvenience to those in power, which is why, in the nearly two hundred and fifty years of the nation's existence, voting—as well as acknowledgment of certain people's humanity—has been endlessly gamed, suppressed and denied; and a fragile, racist status quo has managed to maintain itself, wrapped in the lie of "liberty and justice for all." Perhaps it's this status quo that's really up for grabs.

Ibram Kendi, writing for *The Atlantic*, puts it this way: "We are living in the midst of an anti-racist revolution."

And perhaps the person most responsible for this is Donald Trump, the racist-in-chief, whose blatant ties to white supremacy and defense of police brutality—along with his obsession with a Mexican border wall, his caging of immigrant children, his dismissal of the Third World as

"shithole countries," his ironic paper towel toss to Puerto Ricans in the wake of Hurricane Maria, his plans to ban Muslims from entering the country, his tweet to four (American) congresswomen of color to go back to "the crime-infested places from which they came," and so much more—have shattered the platitude of our goodness.

"He has held up a mirror to American society," Kendi writes: "and it has reflected back a grotesque image that many people had until now refused to see: an image not just of the racism still coursing through the country, but also of the reflex to deny that reality. Though it was hardly his intention, no president has caused more Americans to stop denying the existence of racism than Donald Trump."

It's not like the racism hasn't been there all along; it's just, suddenly, visible. And with Trump giving so much of it his official blessing, something else is also coming into focus: American racism isn't simply the result of bad people doing bad things. It's structural. This is the world we've created. We stole the country from Native Americans. We built an economy around, good Lord, slavery. These actions were possible because we—white Europeans—allowed ourselves to officially dehumanize much of the rest of the human race.

We're still allowing, indeed, encouraging this. It's called police brutality. It's also called war. And as the military budget continues to expand—this includes the ongoing militarization of the police, whose presence in most American communities of color is that of an occupying army—most politicians have less and less to say about it.

But "most politicians" are simply another aspect of the status quo, which won't just go away when and if Trump is defeated. His defeat may be crucial, but it's also merely the beginning of the anti-racist revolution—which is a continuation of the civil rights movement, the women's suffrage movement, the abolitionist movement: the ongoing emergence of real democracy and power to the people.

So what changes are we talking about? The Network of Spiritual Progressives lists a number of steps that "a loving and caring society" needs to take in order to end racism, which are worth serious reflection. They include:

1. The creation of a truth and reconciliation commission, *i.e.*, a highly visible public tribunal "to put our country on a path toward truly facing and healing the legacy of slavery and the treatment and slaughter of Native Americans." Related to this would be required teaching in our schools of the country's shadow

history, including slavery and indigenous genocide. I would add that such required history would also include the ongoing history of our national becoming: the rights movements that empowered millions of people.

2. Reparations for slavery and for the destruction of native cultures.

3. A path to citizenship for all undocumented people. The value I see in this idea, beyond the aid and compassion it extends to the undocumented, is that it acknowledges something absolutely crucial, which proponents of the national status quo often seem to find offensive: We're part of a whole planet! There is life beyond our borders and we have responsibility beyond our borders. There is no "U.S.A.!" separate from Planet Earth.

4. True community policing. No more armies of occupation. This would include the establishment of community-based, independent citizen oversight boards, to which the police are accountable. It would also include anti-racist training as well as "mandatory training in de-escalation and nonviolent responses when conducting stops and arrests." This, I would add, is a step toward creating a new understanding of social order and, indeed, empowerment. The armed maintenance of social order is the unending possibility of disaster. And it doesn't work. A truly fair and

free society is what works.

5. Dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, ensuring that "schools become learning environments for all children." To this end, they recommend "the adoption of restorative justice as a primary form of response to wrongdoing in schools and in the criminal justice system as a whole." Amen to that! A sane, functioning society understands that healing—transcending hatred and violence—works. A system of punishment guarantees ongoing disorder.

6. Fully-funded transitional programs for those released from prison, allowing them to find jobs and housing, as well as education, when they re-enter society.

7. The right to vote for all citizens "through universal voting registration...voting day holidays, enfranchisement of formerly and currently incarcerated people, and a ban on any disenfranchisement laws."

There's a lot more on their list, but the above items are a powerful start—the start that awaits us after November 3rd.

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 Robert Koehler (koehlercw@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of *Courage Grows Strong at the Wound*.
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A wealth of riches, a poverty of morals

by Jim Hightower

Let's say you're a millionaire. That's a lot of money, right? Now let's say you're a billionaire. That's a lot more money! But how much more?

Think of all those dollars as seconds on a clock. A million seconds would total 11 days—but a billion seconds equals nearly 32 years! Rich is nice, but billionaire-rich is over the moon—and the wealth of billionaires is now zooming out of this world. There are only 2,200 of these über-rich dudes in the world, but the wealth stashed away by these elites

hit a new record this summer, averaging more than \$4 billion each. They've even pocketed an extra half-billion bucks on average in the midst of the Covid-19 economic crash.

Bear in mind that these fortunate few did nothing to earn this haul. They didn't work harder, didn't get one-digit smarter, didn't create some new breakthrough product to benefit humankind—they could just crank back in their gold-plated La-Z-Boys and let their money make money for them.

Then there are multimillionaire corporate chieftains who are cash-

ing in on their own failure. Having closed stores throughout America, fired thousands of workers, stiffed suppliers and creditors, taken bailout money from taxpayers, and even led their corporations into bankruptcy, the CEOs of such collapsing giants as Hertz, J.C. Penney, and Toys "R" Us have grabbed millions of dollars in—believe it or not—bonus payments! The typical employee at J.C. Penney for example, is held to part-time work, making under \$12,000 a year. Thousands of them are now losing even that miserly income as the once-mighty retailer is shutting 154 stores. Yet, the CEO was paid a

\$4.5 million cash bonus before the company filed for bankruptcy this year.

And still, the corporate establishment wonders why the people consider it a club of heartless, greedy bastards.

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 Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes *The Hightower Lowdown*, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.
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The Devil's Dictionary by Ambrose Bierce

Labor, n. One of the processes by which A acquires property for B.
Lawful, adj. Compatible with the will of a judge having jurisdiction.
Lawyer, n. One skilled in circumvention of the law.
Liar, n. A lawyer with a roving commission.
Liberty, n. One of Imagination's most precious possessions.
Litigant, n. A person about to give up his skin for the hope of retaining his bones.
Loquacity, n. A disorder which renders the sufferer unable to curb his tongue when you wish to talk.
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ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
<p>2016—Donald J. Trump wins the Presidency. Everybody else is a loser.</p> <p>2013—The Navy suspends the security clearance of Vice Admiral Ted "Twig" Branch, Director of Naval Intelligence. Though he's now unable to do the job, the Navy leaves him in it.</p> <p>2010—George W.[MD] Bush reveals on TV that his mother once showed him a jar containing the fetus of a miscarried sibling and asked him to drive her to the hospital.</p> <p>2000—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News "reporter" John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1994—The GOP, led by serial philanthropist Newt Gingrich, take Congress.</p> <p>1983—Moscow puts its nukes on high alert and flash-telegrams its embassies that a nuclear strike on the USSR may come at any time.</p> <p>1965—Dorothy Kilgallen's investigation into JFK's assassination ends due to an allegedly accidental overdose.</p> <p>1932—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.</p> <p>1923—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich.</p> <p>1897—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of <i>Catholic Worker</i>.</p> <p>1876—The editor of <i>The New York Times</i> and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to "elect" "Rutherford" B. Hayes.</p>	<p>1998—Brokers who rigged the game at NASDAQ are compelled to pay their bilked customers \$1 billion.</p> <p>1989—The Berlin Wall suddenly becomes unexpectedly porous.</p> <p>1979—A computer error leads the U.S. Air Defense Command to believe for six minutes that the USSR is attacking the U.S.</p> <p>1969—Two small groups of Indians make successive landings on Alcatraz Island. The first is removed by the Coast Guard, the second manages to stay overnight.</p> <p>1965—A failed power plant in Ontario puts the Northeast in the dark.</p> <p>1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39, mostly from bad doctored.</p> <p>1938—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p>1932—To restore order, the Swiss Army fires on a crowd of protestors in Geneva, killing 13 anti-fascists.</p> <p>1919—Columbia University President Nicholas M. Butler exhorts veterans to "put forth every energy" to "crush these enemies of our nation," meaning radical leftists.</p> <p>1872—In Boston, 600 buildings burned. The Fire Department is hampered by a lack of horsepower due to an equine virus, aka "the Great Epizootic," and by looters. Portsmouth sends a steamer and 34 men to assist.</p> <p>1863—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby's "The Marble Heart" at Ford's Theatre.</p>	<p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates a new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales—who goes on to make his predecessor John Ashcroft look slightly less terrible by comparison.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1975—The ore carrier <i>Edmund Fitzgerald</i> sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.</p> <p>1973—In Drake, N.D. the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, <i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>.</p> <p>1972—Anti-police brutality activist Louis Moore, threatened with bogus charges by Detroit police, tries a radical remedy: skyjacking a DC-9 out of Birmingham, Ala. A two-day, nine-stop odyssey ends in a Cuban prison and leads to airport searches.</p> <p>1964—Australia re-introduces the draft to protect the Empire from Ho.</p> <p>1961—Estelle Griswold is busted for selling contraceptives to married couples. Her winning appeal established a right to privacy—enjoy it while it lasts.</p> <p>1950—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.</p> <p>1898—In Wilmington, N.C., 400 Democrats murder hundreds of Blacks and overthrow the city government by force. Newspaperman, future Sec. of the Navy and Amb. to Mexico Josephus Daniels is a ringleader.</p>	<p>2000—Republicans go to court to stop manual recounts in Florida.</p> <p>1956—The last pockets of resistance are suppressed in Hungary.</p> <p>1940—The Royal Navy destroys half the Italian Navy, at anchor in Taranto, with Fairey Swordfish biplanes.</p> <p>1933—"The Great Black Blizzard," the first of the great dust storms, hits the Great Plains.</p> <p>1919—In Centralia, Wash., a mob of American Legionnaires attacking an I.W.W. union hall discover the Wobblies are armed. After four Legionnaires die, the survivors kidnap, torture, and kill Wobbler and fellow WWI vet Wesley Everest.</p> <p>1918—The War to End Wars ends, too late for 2,738 who die this day.</p> <p>1887—Albert Parsons, George Engel, Adolph Fischer, and August Spies, none of them accused of the act itself, are hanged in Chicago for the Haymarket bombing.</p> <p>1861—Confederate Gen. & ex-Bishop Leonidas Polk is wounded and denuded when "Lady Polk," a cannon named after his wife, explodes.</p> <p>1778—Brits and Iroquois massacre dozens of American settlers and soldiers at Cherry Valley, N.Y.</p> <p>1769—Thirteen days after the death of her first husband, Frances Atkinson marries her first cousin John Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire.</p> <p>1620—Influential Pilgrims draft the Mayflower Compact to assure adequate control over unruly colonists.</p>	<p>2001—Flight 587 falls apart and crashes off Queens, N.Y., killing 261.</p> <p>1970—A half ton of dynamite set off by Oregon highway workers sends parts of an eight-ton sperm whale 100 feet in the air. The tail crushes Walter Umanhofer's new Olds, bought from a lot advertising "a whale of a deal."</p> <p>1941—Abe "Kid Twist" Reles earns the posthumous sobriquet "the canary who sang but couldn't fly" when he autodenestrates (or is defenestrated) from the sixth floor of a Coney Island hotel while under the protection of six New York City cops.</p> <p>1926—The first documented aerial bombing conducted in the U.S. leaves Shady Rest, bootlegger Charlie Birger's Benton, Ill. roadhouse, undamaged. The dynamite the Shelton Gang drops from a Curtis "Jenny" kills only Birger's bulldog and pet bird.</p> <p>1914—At a White House meeting, Monroe Trotter, a Black newspaper publisher, criticizes President Wilson's policy of segregating federal employees. Wilson tells him to leave.</p> <p>1816—T. Jefferson writes, "I hope we shall...crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and to bid defiance to the laws of their country."</p> <p>1779—Twenty enslaved New Hampshire men are petitioned for their freedom by Daniel Fowle's enslaved pressman Primus X being notably absent—petition the legislature for the abolition of slavery. They are ignored.</p>	<p>2003—Because he would not remove his Ten Commandments monument from the courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.</p> <p>1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.</p> <p>1974—Karen Silkwood, a disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker, conveniently turns up dead.</p> <p>1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.</p> <p>1965—The dysfunctional tinderbox <i>Yarmouth Castle</i> burns en route to Nassau; 90 passengers burn or drown, deserted by captain and crew.</p> <p>1942—The torpedoed cruiser <i>U.S.S. Juneau</i> sinks in 20 minutes, 100 of 673 surviving the explosion. Two other cruisers depart, assuming no survivors. Eight days later, ten are rescued. Among the dead are the five Sullivan brothers, of Waterloo, Iowa.</p> <p>1933—Hormel workers in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.</p> <p>1909—In a Cherry, Ill. coal mine, lit by torch due to an electrical outage, a cartload of hay for mules catches fire. The resultant inferno kills 259 miners.</p> <p>1887—On the original Bloody Sunday, British cops, soldiers, and cavalry charge the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.</p> <p>1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; there are no injuries.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last "five days or five weeks or five months...[no] longer..."</p> <p>1968—In Quang Tri, Marine PFC Frank Baldino, 19, is killed by a tiger.</p> <p>1965—The First Cav, choppers into the Ia Drang Valley, is surprised to discover six battalions of NVA.</p> <p>1942—Seaman Calvin L. Graham is wounded at Guadalcanal. He's 12.</p> <p>1932—Nison Miller's petition for U.S. citizenship is denied on grounds of "ignorance." Donald Trump puts his grandson Stephen in charge of immigration policy 84 years later.</p> <p>1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world's largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, clearing one square mile and killing 28.</p> <p>1925—D.C. Stephenson, ex-Grand Dragon of the Indiana KKK, is convicted of rape, torture, and murder.</p> <p>1919—Gov. S. McKelvie orders all IWW members in Nebraska arrested.</p> <p>1917—Before locking up 33 women for protesting in front of the White House, guards beat them with clubs.</p> <p>1909—Birth of Joseph R. McCarthy, "a great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time," according to a memorial tribute from N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges.</p> <p>1908—A heart attack fells the Chief of the Imperial Military Cabinet, Dietrich Graf von Hülsen-Haeseler, at 56 while he dances before Kaiser Wilhelm II in a ballerina's tutu.</p>
<p>4:16 4:27</p> <p>10:12 10:55</p>	<p>5:17 5:31</p> <p>11:15 11:54</p>	<p>6:17 6:35</p> <p>12:19</p>	<p>7:14 7:37</p> <p>12:52 1:21</p>	<p>8:59 9:29</p> <p>1:47 3:14</p>	<p>8:59 9:29</p> <p>2:40 3:14</p>	<p>9:49 10:22</p> <p>3:30 4:06</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
<p>2010—Ex-cop James B. Fowler pleads guilty to the 1965 murder of civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson in Ala. He gets six months.</p> <p>1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.</p> <p>1995—Pres. William J. Clinton begins behaving improperly with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.</p> <p>1969—Two million in the U.S. protest the war, 250,000 in Washington, D.C. Nixon vows to ignore them all.</p> <p>1967—An NVA mortar round detonates 1,100 tons of ordinance at the Dak To ammo dump—the largest explosion of the war. "I have never been more encouraged," says General Westmoreland, 77 days before Tet.</p> <p>1967—The CIA hands LBJ the first of four reports on its illegal surveillance of anti-war activists. Because it refutes his belief in foreign influence, he rejects it and demands another.</p> <p>1904—Al Swearingen, ex-Deadwood, S.D. whoremaster, is found on a Denver street with his head bashed in.</p> <p>1887—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, namesake of N.H.'s only president (so far) and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.</p> <p>1864—General William Tecumseh Sherman burns Atlanta, Georgia, thereby inspiring a popular movie.</p> <p>1558—In celebration of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, a wickerwork effigy of the Pope is burned, with live cats inside to simulate shrieking devils.</p>	<p>2000—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally, when it's safe, as President.</p> <p>1989—U.S.-backed pro-government "freedom fighters" in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.</p> <p>1969—President Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news but the networks are asking for it if they don't regulate themselves.</p> <p>1966—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget to publish a pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life." Hilarity ensues, including the Situationist Movement.</p> <p>1965—Mission accomplished with 79 KIA & 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang propose withdrawal. Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says "stay."</p> <p>1890—George Seldes is born. At 19 he'll start an 85-year career as a journalist, media critic, and author.</p> <p>1856—Siding with Britain and its opium smugglers, the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> bombards a Chinese fort on the Pearl River in Canton, China.</p> <p>1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky, 28, is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."</p> <p>1776—The American brig-of-war <i>Andrew Doria</i> receives the nation's first salute from a foreign power at Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius.</p> <p>1688—Boston hangs Ann Glover—old, Irish, and Catholic—as a witch.</p> <p>1384—Jadwiga, a ten-year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.</p>	<p>2008—Citigroup announces it will sack 52,000 workers.</p> <p>2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2003—An Austrian musclem becomes Governor of California.</p> <p>1995—Multitasking President Clinton speaks on the phone with a congressman while violating his marriage vows with an intern.</p> <p>1995—The Commander of the Pacific Fleet calls the rape of an Okinawan girl "stupid." The culprit should have hired a prostitute instead, he says.</p> <p>1992—<i>Dateline</i> broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.</p> <p>1973—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disney World, Richard M. Nixon says, "I am not a crook."</p> <p>1965—First Cav survivors of the Ia Drang are marched into an ambush; 155 are KIA, and 126 WIA. It's the deadliest day of the war for the U.S.</p> <p>1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills nine Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; six more die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.</p> <p>1943—Soviet tank driver/mechanic Mariya Vasilyevna Oktyabrskaya is promoted to Sergeant for performing repairs under withering Nazi fire.</p> <p>1917—The destroyers <i>Fanning</i> and <i>Nicholson</i> sink the <i>U-58</i> off Ireland, the first sub sunk by the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>1747—Rioting sailors, laborers, and free blacks fed up with naval press gangs take British officers hostage and shut down the city of Boston.</p>	<p>2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes to 'Nam combat vet Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) on the House floor for implying he's a coward.</p> <p>1999—Texas A&M's student-built Bonfire—a 59-foot stack of vertical logs—somehow collapses; 12 die.</p> <p>1997—Operation Northwoods is exposed: the 1962 plan would have murdered U.S. citizens on the street to build support for an invasion of Cuba.</p> <p>1988—Congress jacks up penalties for smoking crack. Lighter penalties for powder cocaine are unchanged.</p> <p>1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.</p> <p>1977—"Dynamite Bob" Chambliss gets life for his 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Church.</p> <p>1964—Disgracing Richard Nixon, J. Edgar Hoover calls Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."</p> <p>1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair for robbing a bank in a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.</p> <p>1916—The Battle of the Somme peters out. The Allies have gained 2.5 square yards each for 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties. Germans later re-take most of it.</p> <p>1883—U.S. railroad corporations acquire the power to dictate the time.</p> <p>1755—The strongest earthquake in New England history [Richter 6.2] occurs off Cape Ann, Mass.</p>	<p>2005—Marines in Haditha murder 24 unarmed Iraqi men, women, and children. One man is tried and convicted of dereliction of duty.</p> <p>1969—Congress cleverly undermines the opposition to the Vietnam War by introducing a draft lottery.</p> <p>1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a U.S.M.C. F4 Phantom kills 45 paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade and wounds 45 more during the Battle of Dak To.</p> <p>1962—Dick "Dick" Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction in Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>1960—At a party in New York, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife.</p> <p>1932—A petition is signed by 19 of Germany's top industrialists asking President Hindenburg to appoint a new Chancellor: Adolf Hitler.</p> <p>1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play "The Noose" is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.</p> <p>1924—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack, but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.</p> <p>1915—A firing squad executes framed IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."</p> <p>1874—Tammany Hall's "Boss" Tweed is convicted on 204 counts of fraud.</p> <p>1863—President Abraham Lincoln dedicates the cemetery at Gettysburg.</p>	<p>2008—Sarah Palin is interviewed on live TV while, in the background, turkeys are being slaughtered.</p> <p>1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.</p> <p>1979—Fundamentalists seize Mecca's Grand Mosque, full of hostages. The CIA blames guiltless Iran.</p> <p>1975—Spanish dictator Francisco Franco dies. Reportedly he's still dead.</p> <p>1969—News reports say American GIs massacred hundreds of civilians at "Pinkville" on March 16, 1968.</p> <p>1969—Eighty-nine American Indians again attempt to occupy Alcatraz; 14 evade a Coast Guard blockade and achieve their objective.</p> <p>1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up. With Armageddon postponed, President Kennedy orders an end to discrimination in federally-funded housing.</p> <p>1945—The Nuremberg trials begin.</p> <p>1943—Marines land at Tarawa; the death toll is higher by hundreds because planners miscalculated the tides.</p> <p>1903—Tom Horn, hired killer, is hanged for a murder he probably didn't commit. The water-powered, automatic, victim-actuated gallows takes 17 minutes to strangle him.</p> <p>1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship <i>Essex</i>, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.</p> <p>1816—Albany Typographical Union strikers first denounce "scabs."</p>	<p>2016—The <i>Guardian</i> reports that D. Trump's grandfather was refused re-entry to Germany in 1905 because he had dodged military service.</p> <p>2004—Donald Trump's casinos in Atlantic City file for bankruptcy.</p> <p>1986—Ollie North and Fawn Hall start shredding evidence of criminal arms-for-hostages deals.</p> <p>1974—Somehow, George W.[MD] Bush is honorably discharged, instead of court-martialed for being AWOL.</p> <p>1974—The Freedom of Information Act passes over Gerry Ford's veto.</p> <p>1973—Chief of Staff Al Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."</p> <p>1970—Fifty-six Green Berets raid the Son Tay POW camp 23 miles west of Hanoi, which had been evacuated three weeks earlier.</p> <p>1967—Commies in the 'Nam are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Westy, 71 days before Tet. "The end begins to come into view."</p> <p>1964—The FBI sends a blackmail letter to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., urging him to commit suicide.</p> <p>1927—The first Columbine Massacre: state cops in civvies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.</p> <p>1817—The U.S. Army begins thirty years of war by attacking Seminoles in Georgia at Fowltown.</p> <p>1801—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after a Republican demand of proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.</p>
<p>10:38 11:14</p> <p>4:20 4:58</p>	<p>11:27 11:48</p> <p>5:09 5:48</p>	<p>12:05 12:16</p> <p>5:59 6:40</p>	<p>12:57 1:07</p> <p>6:49 7:32</p>	<p>1:52 2:01</p> <p>7:42 8:27</p>	<p>2:48 2:58</p> <p>8:39 9:24</p>	<p>3:49 4:00</p> <p>9:40 10:25</p>

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