

The Fortnightly Rant

Is It Safe To Come Out Now?

Well, that's over—at last. Yes, despite our rattled, snake-bit fears, the last day of December, in the Year of Our...

No, not gonna do it. We may stray towards blasphemous territory from time to time, but we're not about to risk laying responsibility for the past 366 days—because yes, of course it was a Leap Year; it had to be, to accommodate that much idiocy and malevolence—at the foot of the Christians' God, or any other diety.

Besides, it's pretty clear who really was responsible for making last year the deadliest year in U.S. history.

"America has been paralyzed by death and fear for nearly a year," lamented Dr. Scott Atlas in the *Wall Street Journal*, "and the politicization of the pandemic has made things worse by adding misinformation and vitriol to the mix. With vaccines finally being administered, we should be entering a joyous phase. Instead we endure still more inflammatory rhetoric and media distortion."

Published on December 21st, that diatribe sums up 2020 perfectly: an unqualified crackpot—Atlas is a radiologist who knows nothing about epidemiology—pouring lethal bullcrap into the ear of an ignoramus, who comes right out and says, "I don't take any responsibility at all."

Yes, we noticed that. If only we knew what spurred him to confess that truth—so out of character....

This question of responsibility came up again this morning, when NPR's Leila Fadel interviewed Dr. Paul Offit. An advisor to the FDA and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Offit is a noted expert on vaccines—and has therefore been the target of a long-running anti-vaccine hate campaign.

Fadel asked, "President Trump recently deflected blame, tweeting 'The Federal Government has dis-

tributed the vaccines to the states. Now it is up to the states to administer. Get moving!' How much responsibility for planning and logistics to do the states bear, and how much does the Federal government bear?"

Offit responded, "Well, they both bear responsibility.... These aren't Republican or Democratic issues and the finger pointing doesn't do any good. Let's figure out how to do this, and do it, and spend the resources we need to do it. It's just wearing, frankly, always trying to figure out who to blame."

Fadel, as an employee of NPR, has taken holy orders at the Mother Church of Objectivity, and was thus prohibited from interjecting, "What in hell are you saying?"

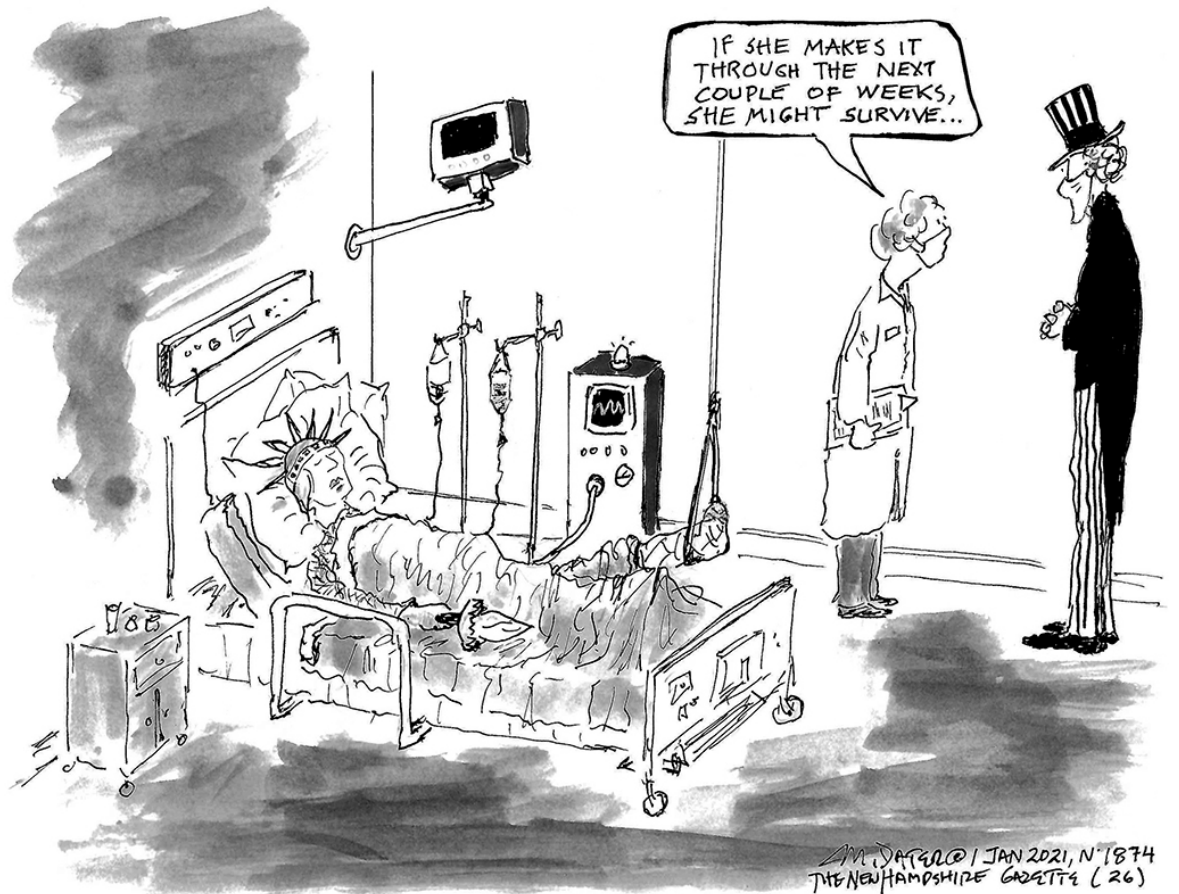
We are not about to argue with Dr. Offit about the merits of lipid nanoparticles. This question of determining responsibility, though, is another matter entirely. In fact, that's our job, so let's rip.

This allegedly exceptional nation of ours is locked into a two-party political system. You may have heard about it. It's the subject of a feature film in 1994, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels.*

One of those parties has the upper hand thanks to our malfunctioning Constitution, the transmission of which is permanently stuck in a gear known as "Stupid." It focuses relentlessly on its priorities, a task made easier by their simplicity: acquire more money and more power, by any means necessary.

The other party fetishizes fair play above all. Rather than thrashing its opponent without mercy, thus forc-

*The film, of course, is "Dumb and Dumber." See our reply to "No Labels, No Thanks," on page four, for a diatribe explaining why we suffer from this self-inflicted wound, and why we cannot seem to pull out the knife.



ing it to comply with the law, it prefers to meet the other party halfway and lose fair and square.

In lieu of policies actually put in place, to make ordinary lives halfway liveable for everyone, it offers guarantees that representatives from every conceivable category have an equal opportunity to compete for a job in a free market which is determined to consume them.

After calling the \$24 billion campaign to create the vaccine a great success, Offit said we needed a similarly-massive effort to mass produce it, and yet another to get it into people's arms.

We have no doubt that Offit is right about the need for mass production and distribution. Since the need is clear, Congress will no doubt act immediately.

Oh, wait....

We can't help but wonder: what might it take to force Mitch McCo-

nnell to say "Uncle! Whatever the people need, they may have it—the vaccine, a \$15 minimum wage, high marginal tax rates...."

Would rolling tumbrils do the job? This may be the year for them.

We have long believed—since being awakened by rocket fire on January 31st, 1968, to be exact—that the most foolish thing a person could ever say is that things couldn't get any worse. Today, however, we feel it is safe to say that there is actually a chance that things might get slightly better. You never know; it could happen.

Maybe we're just being temporarily bamboozled by this bright, sunny, windless winter morning, with hardly a cloud in sight. Or, maybe we're feeling what William Faulkner spoke of in his Nobel Prize address on December 10, 1950:

"...I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is im-

mortal simply because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will still be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking.

"I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. The poet's, the writer's, duty is to write about these things. It is his privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past. The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail."

The Alleged News®

End Corporate Rule. Legalize Democracy. Move to Amend.

Groups Call for More Democratic Constitution on Anniversary of Bill of Rights Ratification

On the anniversary of the 1791 ratification of the Bill of Rights, two pro-democracy human rights groups, Democracy Unlimited and Move to Amend, are calling for mass public participation to envision a more just and democratic U.S. Constitution. Toward a People's Constitution is a website (www.PeoplesConstitution.US) launched last week to provide an inclusive and participatory arena for a respectful, vigorous and strategic discussion to create an authentic people's constitution.

The effort is based on the growing realization that many of the current major crises our nation is facing—inadequacy of providing basic

human needs, the contested 2020 election, corporate rule, climate and ecological destruction, declining public trust in government, growing illegitimacy of the Supreme Court and lack of basic rights still for women, people of color, the LGT-BQ community and others—all are rooted in a flawed Constitution and multiple judicial decisions.

"It's time for people to engage with one another to envision a constitution that goes way beyond the original Bill of Rights, the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution affirming basic political and religious rights to individuals in the new United States of America, and beyond the other 17 Amendments added since," stated Jessica Munger, Program Director of Move to Amend. "A more just and democratic constitution must go even farther

than the call of President Roosevelt for a Second Bill of Rights at the end of WW II to provide the rights to housing, income, food, health care and other basic human needs to also include rights to authentic political, racial and gender equality and rights that protect our natural world from ecological collapse," said Munger.

Toward a People's Constitution seeks to dispel the dominant cultural mindset that the Constitution is comparable to a sacred text and considered, for the most part, indisputable and beyond the right of We the People to seriously examine.

The project will include ongoing speakers and panels, share information from past and present efforts in the U.S. and around the world on constitutional renewal, and invite and engage participants to share and discuss ideas and proposals for

ways to make the Constitution more relevant, to democratically, justly and sustainably address the systemic problems of our nation and world.

The project will also build upon the several People's Movement Assemblies organized by participants of both sponsoring groups over the years, including a recent People's Movement Assembly where more than 100 people collectively discussed and envisioned what a currently relevant constitution might contain.

This process is open to all individuals and organizational representatives who feel that self-governing people should take charge of their conditions. For more information and to join this process, go to www.PeoplesConstitution.US.

Greg Coleridge (he/him), Outreach Director, Move to Amend

Coalition, MoveToAmend.org, (216) 255-2184 (cell - in Ohio); (916) 318-8040 (office - in Sacramento, Calif.)

End Corporate Rule. Legalize Democracy. Move to Amend.

[Note: We would only add this—while this newspaper enjoys, and will never relinquish, its freedom to indulge in frivolity and foolishness, at heart we are deadly serious; never more so than on this topic. Careful readers may have noted recently a tendency of ours to explore a topic, excoriate its inherent idiocy, then conclude by noting that such a result is inevitable under the terms of our Constitution. It is heartening to see that someone is tackling this taboo topic head-on. —The Ed.]

**Gov. Sununu, Sec. of State Gardner
Are Both Summarily Fired
Sununu the Lesser Hoist on Own Petard**

“Last night @WVMUR9 teased a segment about rescuing loons,” tweeted Jim Byrd [@jimbyrdpmm] on December 29th. “I thought it was about @NHGOP.”

Byrd’s confusion was understandable. It was sparked by a piece Nancy West wrote for *InDepthNH*, headlined, “Legislators, Citizens Against COVID-19 Emergency Actions Sign Declaration.”

Byrd’s problem, we’d venture to say, did not stem from West’s work. She is a diligent reporter and a lucid writer, if perhaps a bit circumspect. There’s only so much one can do, though, when trying to unscramble an egg. Here’s how she approached the topic:

“CONCORD—A half dozen elected state Representatives and about 80 citizens gathered Dec. 21 on the State House steps to support a Declaration of Independence for New Hampshire calling for the ‘Termination of office and Termination of the ‘state.’

“Most were not wearing masks and many oppose masks and the

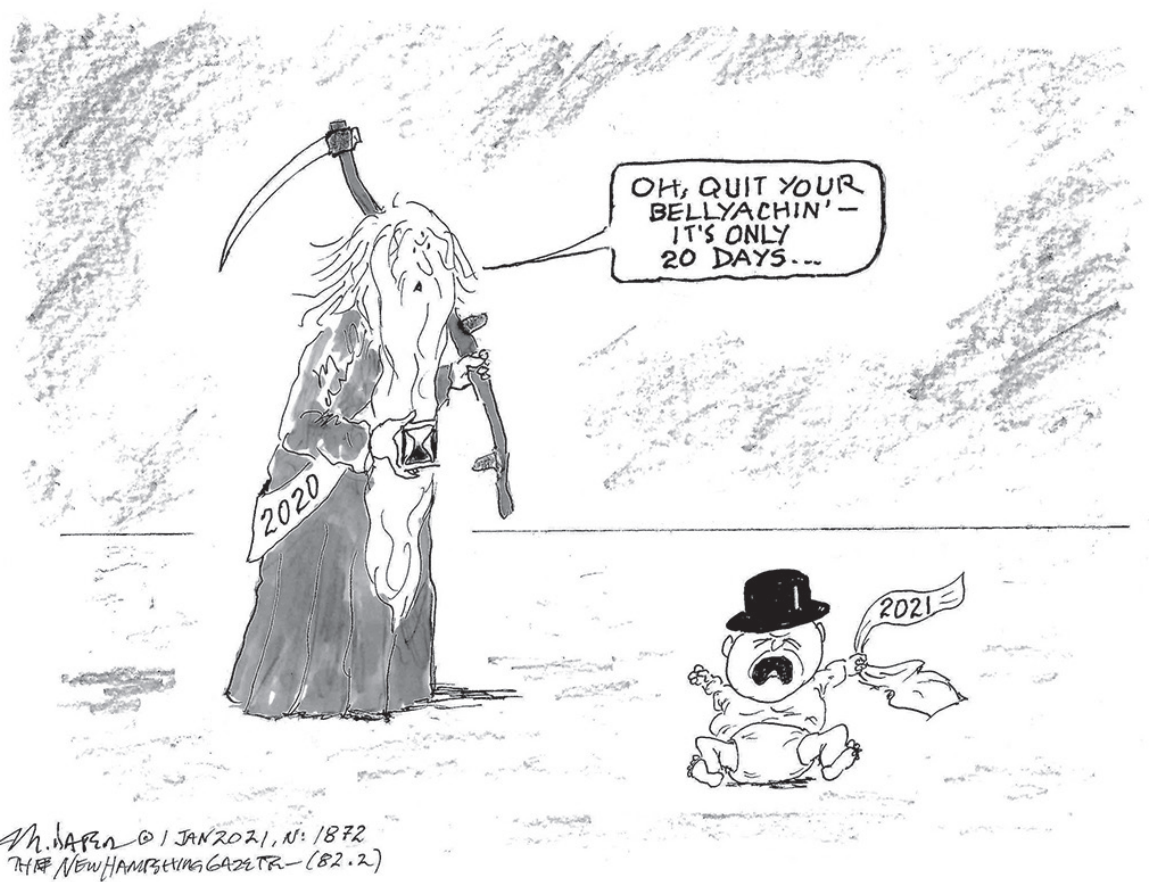
government shutdown, are disturbed by absentee voter expansion and Gov. Chris Sununu’s emergency power declarations, according to Daniel Richard of Auburn.

“Richard has organized the N.H. Committee of Safety but said those signing the Declaration included an ad hoc group of individuals not affiliated with any one organization.

“The November elections are ‘void for fraud’ as are Sununu’s expanded emergency powers due to COVID-19 because both violate the Constitution, Richard said.”

A video of the event was posted online by *FreeKeene*, which is, or was, a part of the Free State Project. It can be difficult to pin down facts about this would-be libertarian utopia. Having subjected ourselves to more of the video than is probably healthy, we offer the following transcription of Daniel Richard’s introductory remarks:

“We are going to declare our Right of Revolution under Article Ten of the State Constitution. It’s never been done. The founding fathers were geniuses; they left us a road map and an exit plan. The exit plan was, if we ever got to a point where our government no longer



On Monday, December 21st, surrounded by supporters on the steps of the State Capitol in Concord, Dan Richards fired Governor Sununu and Secretary of State Gardner and dissolved the Government of the State of New Hampshire. Or, about a hundred people assembled and acted out a shared delusion; to the best of our knowledge, both officials are still on the job. Note the absence of masks—that appears to be the point.

lived by our social compact called our state constitution, that we the people—not an individual, we the people—can fire them. We can reform our old form of government, or create a new form of government. And so that’s exactly what the founding fathers did when they wrote and declared their independence on July the Fourth of 1776.”

Richard, whose demeanor suggested great comfort in his self-assigned role, then read his entire eight-page “Declaration of Independence, Public Notice, Termination of office and Termination of the ‘state’”. Not having access to the Capitol’s second-floor balcony, he had to do so from the building’s front steps.

Beginning with the obligatory, “When, in the course of human events...,” the document goes on, and on, cribbing extensively from Thomas Jefferson. Where appropriate—if that’s the right word here—it slips in a few references to New Hampshire. It also substitutes, in

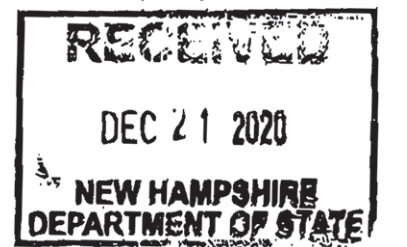
place of King George III, the Governor—“whose character is thus marked by every act which may define him a tyrant [making him] unfit to be the executive of a free people.”

The audience listened docilely throughout the 20 minute performance. It ended with the obligatory pledge of “Lives...Fortunes...and Sacred Honor,” which prompted cheers and cries of “Yeah, baby,” “You’re Fired,” and “Bring Back Mel Thomson.”

Richard and his merry band of insurrectionists then trooped off, around the corner, to the Department of Justice.

The receptionist there responded with remarkable equanimity to the following statement from Richard: “We’re here to let the Attorney General know that we the people just fired him. We’ve declared our independence we’re exercising our right under Article Ten, Right of Revolution. We have a social compact called the state constitution and he apparently he has never read the

document...” Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald was not available to meet with the people who had just fired him. They did get a consolation prize, though: their Declaration now bears an official stamp from the government they had just abolished:



We haven’t heard how Governor Sununu is holding up. No one wants to lose his job in this economy, but he’ll probably be OK. Lucky him: not everyone has a father who’s part owner of a gold mine.

Not to be a scold, but he brought this on himself. He stoked the flames on October 31, 2016, when he complained on Howie Carr’s radio show that Democrats were bringing in voters by the busload.

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— Joe Keefe

Is Sununu Pulling a Trump 2020?

Apparently Chris Sununu didn't get the memo explaining that he's been fired. What's more, he plans to be inaugurated again—and the public is not invited.

Purporting to still be Governor, Sununu issued a statement Wednesday saying, "For weeks, armed protesters have increasingly become more aggressive, targeting my family, protesting outside my private residence, and trespassing on my property. An outdoor public ceremony simply brings too much risk. We do not make this decision lightly but it is the right thing to do."

An outdoor, public ceremony had been planned for January 7th, to take place on the State House grounds in Concord. The would-be Governor's reference to "trespassing on my property" suggests that he might try to seize the Capitol by eminent domain. Such a scenario is, of course, pretty far-fetched—or would have been if the town in which Sununu lives had not just trimmed the First Amendment on his behalf.

On December 22nd, the Newfields Board of Selectmen passed an ordinance prohibiting "Residential

Picketing." The motion was seconded by Chris Sununu's brother Michael C. Sununu. *NHJournal* interviewed a lawyer specializing in civil liberties about that ordinance, for an article posted December 29th.

"The ordinance is clearly unconstitutional under the First Amendment," says Harvey Silverglate, who served on the board of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and is the co-founder of the free speech organization Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

"The ordinance unconstitutionally—clearly unconstitutionally—seeks to suppress precisely the kind of rally and protest that is core protected speech. This is not speech on the fringe, or on the borderline. It's core protected speech," Silverglate told *NHJournal*."

Sununu has been a supporter of President Donald Trump since the failed casino owner flim-flammed his way into the Republican nomination. To the best of our knowledge, Sununu has yet to repudiate Trump's laughable claim that he won the November 4th election.

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A Gem From Our Spam Folder...
 "MAGA Deals. Hats 60% Off. Today Only. To celebrate President Trump's declared victory. The most popular hat, the hat that started it all. This is sure to be the most important victory EVER!"

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Big Fun Coming January 6th
 Presuming that Senate Majority Leader and uncrowned Constitution-Override-in-Chief Mitch McConnell has no last-minute objections, Congress will meet in joint session on January 6th to count the votes of the Electoral College. This time-honored ritual has been the centerpiece of the nation's Peaceful Transition of Power™ since the Federalists lost their mojo, early in the 18th century.

Usually the very definition of pro forma, the ritual this year is expected to get real messy, real quick. Senator Josh Hawley [R-Mo.], and a hatful of Republicans in the House, are threatening to...do some damn thing or other. We're not entirely

sure, and we're not convinced that they know, either.

We can report that recently-pardoned Roger Stone is Zooming in for interviews on MAGA-happy websites touting his "Stop the Steal" scam. While this appears to be a reaction to Trump's 2020 defeat, CNN reported in November that "Stone's political action committee launched a 'Stop the Steal' website in 2016 to fundraise ahead of that election, asking for \$10,000 donations by saying, 'If this election is close, THEY WILL STEAL IT.'"

"Stop the Steal" has been latched onto by so many obvious grifters, we're beginning to think of it as open source; like certain software, the basics are just up for grabs. Anyone who can make a buck with it sets up shop, and nobody seems to mind.

Of course, there's no one like the man himself—today's answer to Harry Gondorff—the former proprietor of Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino, Donald J. Trump. To fleece

the rubes showing up on the 6th, his Trump International on Pennsylvania Avenue has jacked up the rates for a single room from \$476 to \$3,605.

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\$476	\$476	\$476	\$476	\$476	\$776	\$2,000
\$886	\$1,331	\$2,225	\$2,225	\$1,153	\$556	\$476



Our Socially-Distancing Photographer briefly emerged on Monday to assess the general situation. In keeping with rituals which no doubt predate written language, a large conifer has been severed from its roots and placed on view—a Druidic sacrifice if ever we've seen one. Though only five of them appear in this image, our semi-intrepid explorer concluded that there were far more featherless bipeds out and about than could be justified by any definition of necessity.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."
 — Benjamin Franklin

"The woman who is known only through a man is known wrong."
 Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*
 john@wordpraxis.com

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"
 — Isaac Asimov
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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 Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:
 Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

No Labels? No Thanks!

To the Editor:

I may feel better about our Nation than you do and it has nothing to do with Biden or Trump. On Tuesday evening we heard from Republican and Democratic U.S. House members about how they have been working together as No Labels Problem Solvers. We heard stories of Republican and Democratic friendships, helping colleagues from the other party and losing committee positions for siding with principle over party. The House members were joined by Republican and Democratic U.S. Senate allies and other prominent bi-partisan leaders.

In these divided times, one would think knowing that Democrats and Republicans are traveling through the center to do what our country needs over what their political party wants would be leading news. Unfortunately, this does not capture advertising eyeballs like partisan tension and conflict do. Over the past decade, No Labels has now been working to get our U.S. Congress to function for the entire nation and the work they were elected to do and they would prefer doing.

If you want a better functioning democracy, you need to do more than vote. Go to nolabels.org to learn more. Also read up on N.H. non-partisan groups and activities under the CD Newsletter tab at consumegov.com.

Steven Borne

Rye, N.H.

Steven,

While we admire your obvious commitment to a government that better serves the people, we have no faith in the mechanism you promote here. We feel it is doomed to failure, thanks to the ratchet effect. Bear with us a moment, please, because before we get into the ratchet effect, we must grapple with our lamentable two-party political system.

Our much-touted "one person, one vote" principle sounds perfectly reasonable—if you don't give it too much thought. You can have any number of candidates for any given office, but each voter only gets to cast one vote; whichever candidate gets the most votes wins. It's called "plurality" voting.

Lots of people talk about American ex-

ceptionalism. Except in the ironic sense, that talk is mostly hogwash. One thing that does makes us exceptional is our reliance on plurality voting. Virtually no other country relies on it the way that we do. The evidence suggests that it's finally caught up with us.

When one party in a two-party system has become both insane and corrupt—sorry, but we just can't work up the duplicity required to euphemize this situation—compromise, shall we say, begins to lose its luster.

It's not just Trump. Democrats have been trying to compromise with Republicans since Newt Gingrich was Speaker of the House. He threw out the pretense of rationality, and threatened to primary members of his own party who would not go along with his bonkers agenda.

Democrats moved to the right in a futile attempt to compromise, but to no avail. Mitch McConnell finally just threw out the rule book during the Obama administration. He's backed up by the likes of Louis Gohmert.

We're on our way to losing half a million American lives already—how much more insane corruption can we afford to accept?

Now, as to No Labels, we understand it just made Larry Hogan its new co-chair. He was the topic of a piece by Pete Tucker, headlined "Meet Larry Hogan, Maryland's Trump," which was posted at Counterpunch on October 30, 2018.

Two years before Donald Trump rode the Tea Party wave into the White House, Larry Hogan captured the Maryland governor's mansion with the help of this same energy.

As the Tea Party was gaining strength—born of a distrust of government and media, and white backlash against the first black president—so was Change Maryland, the group Hogan created three years before his improbable 2014 run for governor. Change Maryland is 'almost a Tea Party movement in [a] state that really doesn't seem to be Tea Party friendly,' political scientist Todd Eberly said in 2011. They're tapping into the same force.

Both the Tea Party and Hogan's Change Maryland mastered the art of using anger to draw attention on social media—particularly on Facebook, which



Hogan deftly used to raise his profile, and where angry voices are algorithmically favored. It's like Trump with the Twitter,' Hogan said of his own Facebook use."

Hogan is said to have a net worth of about \$180 million, by the way. One wonders just how well he might understand the needs of a person working the checkout counter at the Pic 'n' Pay.

None of this is exactly new, of course; and the vitriol isn't so much the problem as the policies it serves. The elections of 1796 and 1800 were, shall we say, robust examples of calumny, slander, and a cavalier attitude towards the truth. Newspapers were, of course, the weapons of choice.

This paper tended towards the staid, Federalist side of the fray. In a piece headlined, "The Poison Pen Duels of William Duane and Peter Porcupine," posted October 16, 2014 at historiaobscura.com by Pam Keyes, provides a vivid picture of the more, shall we say, energetic end of the spectrum.

Some eight thousand times a day, six days a week, pressmen cranked the heavy wooden press of the Weekly Aurora newspaper of Philadelphia. They were printing platens of tiny type on the Aurora's eight linen paper pages, much of it poison pen invective written by pro-Jeffersonian editor William Duane against mortal enemy Peter Porcupine (William Cobbett), the editor of the pro-Federalist paper The Porcupine's Gazette, just a few blocks away. . . .

The editors' political battles began with the swearing in of President John Adams, whose Executive Mansion residence was just down the block from the Aurora's press. Both Duane and his publisher, Benjamin Franklin Bache, despised Adams as a Federalist with British monarchist sympathies. The Aurora was a Jeffersonian Democrat political publication friendly toward the French, even during the U.S. Quasi-War with France. . . . Cobbett took up the prickly "nom de guerre" Peter Porcupine for his essays, and chiefly delighted in shredding the Aurora

opinions with biting vitriol. . . .

Like boxers in a ring, both editors were well-matched: Duane and Cobbett were equally gifted writers, both thrived on provoking controversy, and both likewise found themselves the targets of such unfriendly responses as broken office windows and libel suits from readers who didn't appreciate being victimized in the press. Both also served stints in jails and prisons for their published opinions. Both were called 'crazy.' They thrived in testing the boundaries of a 'free' press."

The Editor

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Trashing the Joint on the Way Out The Door

To the Editor:

Millions of Americans had their unemployment checks cut off because President Trump left town without signing or even vetoing Congress's bill to fund the government and provide pandemic relief funds. He paid no interest in the bill the whole time Congress was haggling over its contents. He left it to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to represent the White House. Suddenly, after most of Congress left town for Christmas, he released a four-minute video saying he does not like what Congress passed. He says he is against spending programs he asked them to include. Worst of all, he flew off to Mar-a-Lago without signing or vetoing the bill.

If he had vetoed the bill Congress could come back and either override the veto or try to pass a bill he would sign, but they would need to do one or the other before January 2nd or start again under the newly elected Congress. Meanwhile, the government is not being funded, tens of thousands face eviction on January 1st, plus losing their unemployment checks, plus food banks losing government assistance.

Since the election Trump has been

fussing and fuming and trying any way possible to bully those in his party to trash the Constitution and override the will of the voters. Now that he realizes that will not happen, he is giving the country and his party the finger on his way out the door. January 20, 2021 cannot come soon enough.

Walter Hamilton

Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

The oaf in the Oval Office is certainly causing plenty of damage. Let's not let his enablers in the GOP off the hook, though. He'll be gone, and most of them will remain—unpunished by those will have suffered the most.

The Editor

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Midnight Sky Spoiler Alert!

Dear Editor:

Film star George Clooney acts in and directed a made-for-Netflix movie not to miss. *The Midnight Sky* proceeds with a good cast of characters, and two settings: Antarctica and space. At the end the space sojourners, planning for return to Earth, must cancel. The view from their ship is not of a pretty blue and white orb. The view is orange and gray conflagration. Our lovely planet is in flames.

Nuclear arsenals are a big mistake. We think pandemic is horrific—but our nuclear arsenals can deliver Armageddon on purpose or by accident any time. Fools we are, to let that continue. Grandmother here—I want better! Smarter!

Lynn Rudmin Chong

Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

You're right, of course. Talk about "now more than ever," the last thing this world needs during the next three weeks is a couple of doomsday devices, ours and the Russkies, left over from the Cold War.

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non-fiction renders us unable to be any more reassuring than that.
The Editor

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**Excerpt from the Congressional Record
January 9, 2018**

[Note: A reader suggested that we reprint a column written by Art Buchwald circa October, 1972. The gist of it was that President Nixon had uncovered a massive plot to steal his Presidency; millions of people were expected to rise up against him on November 4th.... We were unable to locate that treasure, but found the following one in the Congressional Record. It seems equally relevant. — The Ed.]

Mr. Blumenthal: Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that [this] column be printed in the *Record*. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

“Here Are Handy Excuses For Nixon Backers,” By Art Buchwald

Washington.—These are difficult times for people who are defending the Nixon administration. No matter where they go they are attacked by pseudo-liberals, McGovern lovers, heterosexual constitutionalists and paranoid John Dean believers. As a public service, I am printing instant responses for loyal Nixonites when they are attacked at a party. Please cut it out and carry it in your pocket.

- 1—Everyone does it.
- 2—What about Chappaquiddick?
- 3—A President can't keep track of everything his staff does.
- 4—The press is blowing the whole thing up.
- 5—Whatever Nixon did was for national security.
- 6—The Democrats are sore because they lost the election.
- 7—Are you going to believe a rat like John Dean or the President of the United States?
- 8—Wait till all the facts come out.
- 9—What about Chappaquiddick?

Zeynep Tufekci stated recently at *TheAtlantic.com*, Trump's attempted coup may have seemed “buffoonish” but he's “writing the playbook for stealing elections.” It seems to me we cannot just simply dismiss, as if it were an aberration, the reality that Trump has wide support in a political party desperately obsessed with retaining power no matter the cost, however grave the loss, even if that sacrifice is democracy itself.

Trump's Presidency has revealed chinks in the armor of our Constitution, severe vulnerabilities in our system of checks and balances and critical, deep-rooted flaws in our approach to law and order. Most importantly, this President has inadvertently (and most certainly unwittingly) uncovered a harsh truth about the United States of America. Our institutions (at least in their present form) cannot stand up to such an onslaught that unprincipled and disreputable men like Trump can create.

We may have escaped a disaster—this time. This time we elected a totally incompetent, mentally unstable conman, unencumbered by rational sensibilities. However, a smarter, more capable authoritarian of sound mind (one less unhinged) and supported by a more dedicated and determined political party hell-bent on destroying democracy—a closer election coupled with the same apathetic and divided electorate—and we'll have the elements comprising the perfect storm forming a fully realized dictatorship. Next time we will not be so lucky.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

The most optimistic thing we can say about your assessment is that it seems quite accurate. We regret that our long-standing commitment to publishing only

We expect to be somewhat less concerned starting about, say, January 21st. If we do safely make it to that day, the world will have an opportunity to rethink its casually-suicidal policies.

Our bet, though, is that our feckless leaders will leave it all in place.

The Editor

====

We May Survive Inept Sedition, But...

Dear Editor:

“Incitement of discontent or rebellion against a government, or any action (especially in speech or writing) promoting such discontent or rebellion.” That is *Webster's* least complicated definition of sedition and what, in my modest opinion, the President of the United States, 18 states attorney generals, at least 126 Congressmen and women, and a multitude of enablers who eagerly signed on to Trump's ill-advised, short-sighted, half-baked and very, very dangerous endeavor to overturn a free and fair election, are guilty of.

Armed only with consistently debunked conspiracy theories, unsubstantiated and frivolous allegations of wide-spread voter fraud and the shock of having to accept the short end of the voters' choice, these men and women enthusiastically sold out their country and intentionally violated their oaths of office in exchange for power and personal gain.

This cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged. These men and women must be charged and held accountable for their misguided adventures that have damaged our country immeasurably and left many Americans permanently distrustful of the essential institutions that have held our nation together and reinforced our democratic form of government for over 200 years.

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10—If you impeach Nixon, you get Agnew.

11—The only thing wrong with Watergate is they got caught.

12—What about Daniel Ellsberg stealing *The Pentagon Papers*?

13—It happens in Europe all the time.

14—People would be against Nixon no matter what he did.

15—I'd rather have a crook in the White House than a fool.

16—L.B.J. used to read FBI reports every night.

17—What's the big deal about finding out what your opposition is up to?

18—The President was too busy running the country to know what was going on.

19—What about Chappaquiddick?

20—People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

21—McGovern would have lost anyway.

22—Maybe the Committee for the Re-Election of the President went a little too far, but they were just a bunch of eager kids.

23—I'm not for breaking the law, but sometimes you have to do it to save the country.

24—Nixon made a mistake. He's only human.

25—Do you realize what Watergate is doing to the dollar abroad?

26—What about Harry Truman and the deep freeze scandal?

27—Franklin D. Roosevelt did a lot worse things.

28—I'm sick and tired of hearing about Watergate and so is everybody else.

29—This thing should be tried in the courts and not on television.

30—When Nixon gives his explanation of what happened there are going to be a lot of people in this country with egg on their faces.

31—My country right or wrong.

32—What about Chappaquiddick?

33—I think the people who make all this fuss about Watergate should be shot.

34—If the Democrats had the money they would have done the same thing.

35—I never trusted Haldeman and

Ehrlichman to start with.

36—If you say one more word about Watergate I'll punch you in the nose.

A—If the person is bigger than you: “If you say one more word about Watergate I'm leaving this house.”

B—If it's your own house and the person is bigger than you: “What about Chappaquiddick?”

Mr. Blumenthal: Mr. Buchwald wrote a satirical list of tactics Republicans were using to keep Americans from focusing on the Watergate scandal. The list is eerily familiar.

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Dear Mr. President...

[The following is an open letter, pruned somewhat by the alleged editor. In order to better preserve the author's voice, and to forestall a likely rebellion from the 100 Proof Department, it has not been proof-read. — The Ed.]

Mr. President:

...I Sir am but “A Poor Dumb Yankee Fool,” who is married to “A Vivacious Southern Belle!” I am also a man who trusts in the integrity of the human soul and “Our American Ideology!” So if that makes me bad, then so be it, as I will just have live with that! When however, small elements of my own government let their own avarice (and/or greed), overpower the tenets that made us great to begin with, then who does a common man (such as I) have to turn to?

...[S]uch was the case with my idea for the placement of “The Battleship—U.S.S. *Missouri*” out at Pearl Harbor, that I made December 4, 1990, with a response back from “The White House,” telling me why this could not (and would not) be done!

[M]any years later a friend sent me a post card from Pearl showing “The Missouri” riding high and proudly out at Pearl Harbor. “MY IDEA” had been stolen and this with no acknowledgement or even credit to me—a fact that has been called to the attention of “The White House” many times!!

H. Rick Tavares
Campo, California

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Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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Is more technology the answer to too much technology?

by Jim Hightower

We humans have got to get a whole lot smarter, says Elon Musk, the billionaire founder of Tesla automobiles and CEO of SpaceX rockets.

Musk is not merely reacting to humanity's recent tendency to elect lunatics to lead our countries. Rather, he's trying to warn us about the rapid rise of a radical new technology: Artificial intelligence. In common

parlance, he's referring to robots, but these are not the clunky, somewhat cute machines performing rote tasks. AI essentially has evolved to become an electronic brain—a web of evermore-complex super-computers interacting as one cognitive unit that can program itself, make decisions, and act independently of the humans who're creating them. These thinking machines are rapidly increasing in number and geometrically advancing their IQ, prompting

Musk and others to view AI technologies in apocalyptic terms. As algorithms and systems inevitably grow more sophisticated, he says, "digital intelligence will exceed biological intelligence by a substantial margin."

In graphic terms, Musk warns that profiteering humans are "summoning the devil" by creating a new superior species of beings that will end up dominating humanity, becoming "an immortal dictator from

which we would never escape." What's weird is not his dystopian prognosis (other experts confirm that runaway bot intelligence is a real threat), but his solution. The way for us human beings to compete with AI says Musk, is to merge with it—not a corporate transaction, but a literal merger: Surgically implant AI devices in human brains with "a bunch of tiny wires" that would fuse people with super intelligence.

Uh-huh...and what could go

wrong with that? It's good to have technological geniuses alert us to looming dangers, but maybe the larger community of humanists ought to lead the search for answers.

—==—

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.

from page five

Embracing Ecological Realism

by Robert C. Koehler

Our post-election hope couldn't be more fragile.

Does Joe Biden see his mission as merely reclaiming situation normal from Donald Trump? How aware is he of the big, beyond-our-lifetimes future and the crucial need to address climate change? Is he able to acknowledge that human "interests" go well beyond national borders? And if so, how much political traction would he have to have before he could begin turning vision into policy?

A recent bit of news: The House just voted overwhelmingly in favor of the 2021 Pentagon budget: \$740.5 billion. The vote was 335-78. More Democrats than Republicans gave it their blessing—in utter defiance of any sane recognition of true security, national or otherwise. This is situation normal in action, requiring nothing from a politician except limited thinking.

Waging war, preparing for war, worshipping at the altar of military-industrialism are precisely the opposite of what we must be doing. This is running away from—and intensifying—the real threat we face. Yet our political leaders do so with a shrug, and the corporate media follows suit with a shrug of its own.

The takeaway here is that the real election isn't over. As Margaret Klein Salamon, cofounder of The

Climate Mobilization, put it in an interview with *Truthout*: "We need the most powerful social movement in history to put unbearable pressure on Biden and Congress to launch a full-scale climate mobilization."

"We need..."

That alone won't make it happen. What we also need is a shift in consciousness: socially, culturally, and politically. It's not as if we need to move our attention—and our spending—from one war to another: from fighting terrorism and "evil" to fighting climate change. The one thing we do not need is another war, certainly not against Planet Earth.

The first priority of the movement is a profound expansion of political thinking: beyond the clichés of war and security. Stewart M. Patrick, writing at *World Politics Review*, puts it with stunning clarity:

"The global environmental crisis, encompassing runaway climate change, collapsing biodiversity and the slow death of the world's oceans, has exposed the limitations of traditional political realism as a guide to statecraft in the 21st century. The time has come for the nations of the world to embrace a new approach to world politics that treats the preservation of the biosphere as a core national interest and a central objective of national security policy. Call this new mindset ecological realism."



The thinking that ecological realism must replace is something Patrick generously refers to as "political realism," which "depicts the international system as an inherently anarchic realm populated by independent states recognizing no superior authority."

This is worth a moment of reflection: the grotesque "realism" of the last 500 years or so of human history, or perhaps much further back than that, is that the planet is, in essence, an elementary school playground: an "anarchic realm" full of other kids, none of whom you can really trust, some of whom are out to get you. I'd say we've reached a point that you could call grow up or blow up.

The overarching truth, demanding an upward shift in awareness—including the awareness of President Joe Biden—is that the human race has entered what scientists are calling the Anthropocene: the intertwining of human and natural forces. Human exploitation of Planet Earth has reached a point where what we do and how we live reverberates across the circle of life—and could destroy it, for every species, for all life.

Doesn't this seem like something the governments of the world should take seriously? How, oh how, do we move beyond the dead end of

political realism?

This sort of thinking loses its way, Patrick writes, when it faces "threats without a threatener," that is, "dangers arising not from geopolitical rivalry or malicious intent, but from human interactions with the environment, as with climate change or pandemic disease."

We must push our politics beyond the cul-de-sac of so-called political realism. We must have a President who can see beyond, and understands that our interests do not stop at the national border. We must have a President who can see: "the yawning chasm between our fragmented international system, composed of nearly 200 sovereign entities, and the integrated Earth system, a bio-geophysical unity that obeys no national boundaries."

I believe that Biden is capable of seeing this, but may well require the pressure of an unrelenting climate-and-sanity movement, linked to a racial-justice-and-sanity movement, before he is willing, before he is able, to acknowledge that he sees this—and begin pragmatically embracing ecological realism.

No more clichés about war, OK, Mr. President? The effects of war and the Industrial Revolution are what have brought us to where we are now: the Anthropocene. All it's taken is 75 years of nuclear testing,

in conjunction with industrial pollution, agribusiness, the production of non-biodegradable plastic and more, and here we are, on the brink of unsustainability.

Politically, the problem is that leaders find it so much easier to get people to coalesce around belief in a common enemy. I'm sure the temptation for the President to do this is nearly irresistible. The movement that pushes national and global politics beyond this must be a movement declaring that the human race has grown up. Now it's time for the political system to do so.

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*.

—==—

Year's Most Miserable Day Allegedly Coming Soon

[Note: As readers may well imagine, we are bombarded daily with all sorts of pitches from myriad PR outfits trying to somehow make a buck out of this dog-eat-dog economy. In most cases these pitches are dismissed before we finish reading the subject line. "Such-and-Such Computing Inc. Submits Application for Nasdaq Uplisting." Yes, we'll get right on that. Today, though, we got one that spoke our language: "New Hampshire's Most Miserable Day of the Year Forecast for January 8th 2021." Naturally, this being the good old U.S.A., and PR being PR, a certain cheery optimism was evident throughout. — The Ed.]

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Solar Winds Hack: Preventing Future Energy & Security Catastrophe

by Roy Morrison

The Solar Winds hack, attributed to Russian intelligence, exposes the existential vulnerability of the U.S. electrical infrastructure including its nuclear plants.

The control and safety of our electric grid is now in the trustworthy hands of Vladimir Putin. What could possibly go wrong? What? We do not want to be at the mercy of malign foreign actors?

The transformation to a decentralized solar and energy storage system now underway is crucial, not just to escape from climate catastrophe, but to build a secure and reliable energy system resistant to hack attacks.

Solar Winds Hack: Power Grid & Nuke Vulnerability

The 2020 Solar Winds hack did more than just gain entry for malware and for data theft from networks of multiple U.S. agencies like Homeland Security, two national laboratories; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the National Nuclear Safety Agency, as well as Microsoft, Cisco, Intel, and 15 electric, oil, and gas companies.

But there's more. The Solar Winds hack also gained clear access to the networks of at least two OEMs (Original Equipment Manufactur-

ers) who supply power companies and update their controls and systems on an ongoing basis. Access to OEM operating systems by hackers means that a utility network could potentially be malware free but the OEM software granted ongoing access to the network could be used to gain knowledge of system operation and vulnerabilities weaponized in the future for malign purposes.

Putin in Action: Ukraine Example

In 2015, hackers shut down several Ukraine power plants for up to six hours in mid-winter, including an operating nuclear plant. They returned in 2016, this time for an hour and also shut down Ukraine State Administration of Railway Transport that runs the national rail system.

Malware programs like BlackEnergy2, BlackEnergy3, and KillDisk were found to have infected the Ukraine grid initially through spearfishing attacks. The hackers gained the ability to operate system breakers and shut down grid operations. This was combined with denial of service telephone attacks. At the same time KillDisk disabled some operator computers that meant open breakers needed to be closed manually. The Ukraine hacks were considered more of a test run of what can be done as well as a warning.

Nuclear plants require offsite power for normal operations of safety equipment. Offsite power is generally provided, for redundancy, by multiple separate power lines. If offsite power is cutoff, nuclear safety depends on operation of on-site diesel generators and battery backup. The failure of the backup generators flooded by the tsunami led to catastrophe at Fukushima and massive radiation releases and contamination.

Decentralized Solar and Micro Grid and Safety

Unlike the vulnerability of centrally controlled networks, the movement toward 100 percent renewable energy systems provides literally millions of distributed points of energy and storage. The renewable electric and storage system will include a plethora of micro-grids, ranging from single site nano-grids to large city micro-grids, each with their own substantial renewable generation and energy storage that will include the plug in batteries of millions of electric vehicles.

Instead of receiving signals from utility central to increase or decrease generation to maintain utility grid voltage and frequency, a renewable based energy system can monitor voltage and frequency at each generation site and respond accordingly.

The existing utility grid system depends on specialized power plants designed to rapidly throttle output up and down as voltage and frequency rises and falls. This is called AGC (Automatic Generation Control).

Your home solar utility system and its power inverters already have, or can be retrofitted to provide voltage and frequency control and the ability to disconnect itself from the utility feeder if voltage and frequency falls outside of acceptable levels. And, at the same time, renewable micro-grids can be programmed to ignore bogus malware signals to decrease or increase output.

What this means, is that in the future, city sized micro-grids will have the capacity to separate the micro-grid from the utility system and continue operation using their own micro-grid based renewable energy and storage.

Planning for a secure renewable energy system design should start now on the feeder and substation level to facilitate the ability of feeders and micro-grids to respond to voltage and frequency variations and to ignore central malware signals. Malware can easily endanger grid stability by sending false signals for generators to either increase or reduce power production, or sim-

ply shutting off power plants. Diverse renewable systems measuring voltage and frequency can easily be programmed to ignore malware commands.

This is not rocket science. But it is a fundamental change in mindset from central to decentralized control. This does not eliminate the need for sophisticated utility grid system balancing software, but it recognizes the ability of the micro-grids to continue to function properly and securely at somewhat reduced energy levels in the absence of utility grid operation.

Now's the time to start planning and implementation double speed for a reliable renewable future. A prosperous, sustainable and secure future is based on zero fuel cost renewable energy. Renewable energy is an ecological necessity. Renewable Energy is a security necessity.

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Fact Check

Solar Winds Hack: <https://theintercept.com/2020/12/24/solar-winds-hack-power-infrastructure/>

Ukraine Utility System Hack: <https://www.wired.com/2016/01/everything-we-know-about-ukraines-power-plant-hack/>

Roy Morrison builds solar farms at renewablesunpartners.com.

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from page six

"After an incredibly challenging 2020, many of us will be looking at 2021 with a sense of cautious optimism, hoping we will finally turn the corner of the pandemic. However, before we try to put the events of the last year in the rear view mirror, we should perhaps mentally prepare ourselves for, at least in terms of the weather, two pretty gloomy months in January and February. Wouldn't it be useful to be able to prepare if you knew when to expect the most miserable day of the year? After all, forewarned is forearmed (or forewarned)! Well, gather your woolly socks, a cup of hot cocoa and the ultimate rainy-day snack in anticipation for a full day of laying on the couch binge watching your favorite



Netflix show...

"Ezvid Wiki, a video wiki, software and media company, polled 3,000 of us to find out which month of the year we consider the gloomiest. The good people of New Hampshire overwhelmingly voted for January as the worst month of the year in the misery index. Some New Hampshireites may start off January on an optimistic note—viewing the year ahead as one full of promise. Yet as it progresses and the novelty of Christmas gifts wear off, and new year resolutions are quietly dropped, a more bleak outlook may emerge.... Ezvid Wiki then analyzed 36 years of past weather data in order to

identify the statistically coldest and wettest day in January, which in The Granite State falls on January 8th, making it New Hampshire's most miserable day of the year!

"Different states will experience their most miserable days on separate dates, based on the various climates across the country. For example, East Coast states like New York will have to hold out significantly longer for the inevitably gloomy day to arrive, as they voted February as the most miserable month—a time of the year when spring still feels far away, and the snow has turned from a crisp white

to a sludgy brown color.

"Admittedly, no one wants to be outdoors on such cold, gloomy days," says Caroline Eliasson from Ezvid Wiki. "Which is why it is the perfect opportunity to book the day off to spend a day in cuddled up in front of the TV. After a challenging 2020, you deserve it!"

=====

"Every reader of the Dreiser novels must cherish astounding specimens—of awkward, platitudinous marginalia, of whole scenes spoiled by bad writing, of phrases so brackish as so many lumps of sodium hyposulfite. Here and there, as in parts of The Titan and again in parts of A Hoosier Holiday, an evil

conscience seems to haunt him and he gives hard striving to his manner, and more than once there emerges something that is almost graceful. But a backsliding always follows this phosphorescence of reform."

— H. L. Mencken, *A Book of Prefaces* (1917)

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"It is ridiculous to seek to excuse Robert [E.] Lee as the most formidable agency this nation ever raised to make four million human beings goods instead of men. Either he knew what slavery meant when he helped maim and murder thousands in its defense, or he did not. If he did not he was a fool. If he did, Robert [E.] Lee was a traitor and a rebel—not indeed to his country, but to humanity and humanity's God."

— W. E. B. Du Bois

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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, JANUARY 3	MONDAY, JANUARY 4	TUESDAY, JANUARY 5	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6	THURSDAY, JANUARY 7	FRIDAY, JANUARY 8	SATURDAY, JANUARY 9
<p>2006—Hotshot Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleads guilty to three felony counts for defrauding Indian tribes and bribing officials.</p> <p>1967—Jack Ruby conveniently dies in prison while awaiting retrial.</p> <p>1966—Ronald Reagan announces for Governorship of California, claiming it leads in bankruptcies and has 40% higher unemployment than the rest of the country, neither of which is true.</p> <p>1966—Navy vet and civil rights activist Samuel L. Younge, Jr., 21, is murdered in Tuskegee, Ala., by a white, 68-year-old gas station attendant later acquitted by an all-white jury.</p> <p>1961—In Idaho, three military technicians are killed in a steam explosion at a nuclear reactor.</p> <p>1955—The U.S. government announces that over 3,000 federal employees have been sacked to quell Joe McCarthy's paranoia.</p> <p>1943—Ball turret gunner SSgt. Alan Magee escapes without a parachute from a doomed B-17, falls 22,000 feet, and crashes through the roof of a St. Nazaire railroad station. He dies in 2003 at the age of 84.</p> <p>1931—Fearing insurrection, merchants in England, Ark. hand over food to a mob of 500 hungry people.</p> <p>1924—Tutankhamen's tomb is robbed by a Brit, Howard Carter.</p> <p>1891—Oz author L. Frank Baum, writing in the Aberdeen (S.D.) <i>Saturday Pioneer</i>, calls for the "total extermination" of Native Americans.</p>	<p>1971—George Mellendorf, in Vietnam, mails a letter to the White House complaining of slow mail delivery. His answer arrives in 1978.</p> <p>1965—Having forced UC Berkeley Regents to drop their ban on political speech, the Free Speech Movement holds a rally that's legal for a change.</p> <p>1960—During a Minimum Interval Takeoff at Pease AFB, the second of three B-47s crashes and burns; four crewmen die.</p> <p>1958—In a New York cab, ex-Commie, ex-McCarthy aide and ex-editor of <i>Confidential</i> Howard Rushmore shoots his wife, then himself.</p> <p>1956—A Senate Internal Security Subcommittee begins investigating newspapers, including the <i>New York Times</i>, for alleged Commie influence.</p> <p>1955—The U.S. agrees to pay Japan for nuking the Marshall Islands.</p> <p>1933—Farmers in Primghar, Iowa throw a rope around a banker's neck and threaten to lynch him unless he promises to end foreclosures.</p> <p>1903—Topsy the Elephant, unjustly accused of being a killer, is fitted with copper sandals, fed carrots laced with a pound of cyanide, and electrocuted by the owners of Luna Park at Coney Island. An Edison crew films the fun.</p> <p>1882—John McCarton, ship's printer aboard the <i>U.S.S. New Hampshire</i>, leaps overboard off Newport, R.I. to save Musician 2nd Class Jabez Smith from drowning; McCarton is later awarded the Medal of Honor.</p>	<p>2011—Shortly after he's sworn in, Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.] assures David Koch that he'll attend a party being held for new employees Republican Congressmen.</p> <p>1970—With no word from them since Xmas, Kenneth Yablonski goes to Clarksville, Pa. and finds his dad, UMW presidential challenger Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, his mom, and his sister, murdered in their sleep five days earlier on orders of incumbent UMW president "Tough Tony" Boyle.</p> <p>1968—Feds indict Dr. Spock for expressing concern about the health of his ex-patients now in uniform.</p> <p>1968—The CIA sends the third of four reports on illegal surveillance of U.S. students to LBJ, who rejects them all on grounds that they found no foreign influence.</p> <p>1964—The FBI starts bugging MLK.</p> <p>1942—Mutual Broadcasting's John B. Hughes begins an anti-Japanese-American radio campaign that results in the establishment of U.S. concentration camps.</p> <p>1937—The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is formed to fight fascism—"prematurely," some say.</p> <p>1914—To reduce his 370% turnover rate, Henry Ford offers \$5 for an 8-hour day—to workers who comply with his rigid behavioral standards.</p> <p>1781—Benedict Arnold helps the Brits burn and plunder Richmond, Va.</p> <p>1776—New Hampshire ratifies the nation's first state constitution.</p>	<p>2018—Pres. Donald J. Trump asserts that he is a "very stable genius."</p> <p>2006—George W.[MD] Bush OKs \$20 million for a celebration of "success" in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p>2005—A switching error causes a 2:40 a.m. train wreck in Graniteville, S.C.; 60 tons of chlorine gas escape, killing nine immediately and one months later.</p> <p>1986—One person dies and 100 are injured in an accident at Kerr-McGee's nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma.</p> <p>1970—The Supreme Court OKs suppression of a GI paper at Fort Bragg.</p> <p>1951—U.S.-backed South Korean security forces torture and massacre between 212 and 1,300 unarmed suspected commies in Ganghwa.</p> <p>1947—Callahan, Calif. school kids find a Black man lynched near their one-room schoolhouse.</p> <p>1946—Thousands of GI storm HQ in the Philippines, protesting slow re-deployment back to the U.S.</p> <p>1944—RIP Ida Tarbell, pioneering muckraker, in Bridgeport, Conn.</p> <p>1927—Freelance executioner Robert Greene Elliot electrocutes three convicts in Charlestown, Mass., then three more in Sing Sing, N.Y.</p> <p>1895—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani is arrested in Hawaii after a failed coup against Sanford Dole.</p> <p>1853—President-elect Franklin Pierce and his wife Jane survive an Andover, Mass. train derailment, but, with two sons dead already, see their third son dead, nearly decapitated.</p>	<p>2015—Two brothers, Wahhabi extremists, kill 12 and wound 11 at <i>Charlie Hebdo's</i> offices in Paris.</p> <p>1999—The Senate tries Bill Clinton for lying about canoodling with a young intern. His prosecutor: Rep. (and adulterer) Henry Hyde [R-Ill].</p> <p>1998—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush lied: he did attend meetings about arms sales to Iran.</p> <p>1980—San Franciscans hold a grand bash to honor Emperor Norton I on the 100th anniversary of his demise.</p> <p>1948—Captain Thomas F. Mantell, a Kentucky Air Guard ace, takes his F-51 too high pursuing a UFO; hypoxic and unconscious, he crashes.</p> <p>1945—U.S.S. <i>Hovey</i>, named for Portsmouth-born Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, is sunk by kamikazi and torpedo attack off Luzon.</p> <p>1931—Inspired by the Jan. 3rd "food riot" in England, Ark., Will Rogers begins a campaign for federal assistance—helping to topple Hoover.</p> <p>1861—Mayor Fernando Wood, a Democrat, proposes that New York City secede from the Union.</p> <p>1851—"That a war of extermination will continue to be waged...until the Indian race becomes extinct," Gov. Peter H. Burnett informs the California legislature, "must be expected."</p> <p>1806—Cherokees in Tennessee and Alabama cede 7,000 square miles of land to whites, in return for which gesture they are not killed.</p>	<p>2020—Reacting to the U.S. drone-strike assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, Iran fires missiles at bases in Iraq; 64 U.S. troops suffer traumatic brain injuries. Trump denies any were injured.</p> <p>2007—The <i>U.S.S. Newport News</i>, submerged, collides with a Japanese oil tanker near the Strait of Hormuz.</p> <p>2005—The <i>U.S.S. San Francisco</i>, submerged, collides at flank [top] speed with an undersea mountain near Guam. One sailor dies, 98 are injured.</p> <p>2003—"The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein," explains George W.[MD] Bush, "because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself."</p> <p>1992—At a formal dinner in Japan, Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush turns his head to P.M. K. Miyazawa and vomits in his lap.</p> <p>1982—Reagan's White House grants tax-exempt status to racially-segregated colleges. (That lasts 4 days.)</p> <p>1973—Five employees of President Nixon plead guilty to burglary.</p> <p>1958—An accident at the Cheyabinsk plutonium plant in the U.S.S.R. kills hundreds.</p> <p>1956—Indigenous Hoaroanis in Ecuador register their annoyance with missionaries by spearing five to death.</p> <p>1811—A small group of enslaved Black men attack a plantation owner, take up arms, and march for New Orleans; their numbers grow as they go.</p>	<p>2002—Future A.G. Al Gonzales writes that parts of the Geneva Conventions are "obsolete" and "quaint."</p> <p>1980—Sixty-three participants in the 1979 seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca are beheaded with swords in the public squares of eight Saudi cities.</p> <p>1967—Calculations show ARVN desertions at 5.7x the rate of the NVA.</p> <p>1964—Panama suspends relations with the U.S. after U.S. troops kill 21 anti-American protesters.</p> <p>1952—In Phenix City, Ala., anti-vice crusader Hugh Bentley's house is destroyed by a bomb.</p> <p>1939—In Missouri's "Bootheel," 1,700 homeless sharecroppers, Black and white, stage a sit-down strike in the middle of Highways 60 and 61.</p> <p>1918—The 10th Cavalry and Yaqui Indians conduct the last battle of the Indian Wars at Bear Valley, Ariz.</p> <p>1913—Richard Milhous Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, Calif.</p> <p>1861—Mississippi declares its seceding because "none but the Black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun...[and] a blow to slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization."</p> <p>1811—The number of enslaved but armed Black men marching on New Orleans rises into the hundreds.</p> <p>1805—Ohio passes "Black laws"—no Blacks may testify in court.</p> <p>1766—A "grand mob" in Portsmouth relieves stamp master George Meserve of his commission and raises the colonies' first "No Stamp" flag.</p>
1:51 7:44	1:57 8:20	2:37 9:30	3:42 10:29	4:41 11:32	5:17 12:36	5:45 1:39
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10	MONDAY, JANUARY 11	TUESDAY, JANUARY 12	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13	THURSDAY, JANUARY 14	FRIDAY, JANUARY 15	SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
<p>2017—CNN reports on the Steele dossier; <i>Buzzfeed</i> publishes it.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush denies ever meeting Enron CEO Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor.</p> <p>1992—A busted shipping container releases 28,000 floating toy animals in the mid-Pacific, which are then tracked by oceanographers; the gripping tale is told in <i>Moby Duck</i>.</p> <p>1984—Responders to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch at Warren AFB, Wyo. park an armored car atop the silo as a precaution.</p> <p>1967—Lester Maddox, a school dropout who gave ax handles to his restaurant customers to ward off integration, becomes Governor of Georgia.</p> <p>1957—Four Black churches and homes of two Black leaders in Birmingham, Ala. are bombed.</p> <p>1946—"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity," says Ike in Ottawa, Canada.</p> <p>1880—Emperor Norton's funeral draws 20,000 in San Francisco.</p> <p>1860—The Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., overloaded with machinery to boost profits, collapses killing 145 and injuring 166; the worst industrial disaster in state history.</p> <p>1855—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food.</p> <p>1776—<i>Common Sense</i> is published anonymously in Philadelphia by Thomas Paine, who takes no royalties.</p>	<p>2018—Trump's flunkies say they'll deny Medicaid to the unemployed.</p> <p>2008—"There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office," says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2003—"You can count on this," Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing plans for the Iraq War. "This is going to happen."</p> <p>2002—Joe Foss, 86, ex-Governor of South Dakota, is detained at a Phoenix airport; security personnel mistake his Medal of Honor for a weapon.</p> <p>2000—"Rarely is the question asked," says George W.[MD] Bush, "is our children learning?"</p> <p>1986—The CIA polygraphs Ollie North's co-conspirator Manucher Ghorbanifar. Two answers out of 15 are true: name and birthplace.</p> <p>1974—Joint Chiefs Chair Admiral Moorer is reported to have spied on the executive branch to get secret info on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.</p> <p>1943—Anarchist newspaperman Carlo Tresca is gunned down in New York City, probably by Carmine Galante on orders from Generoso Pope, Sr. as a favor for Mussolini.</p> <p>1917—Fire consumes 39 buildings comprising a munitions plant in Lyndhurst, N.J. Switchboard operator Tessie McNamara's warnings help 1,400 workers escape.</p> <p>1912—In Lawrence, Mass., 32,000 women and children strike for bread—and for roses, too.</p>	<p>1991—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.</p> <p>1984—Reagan Deputy Secretary of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can.</p> <p>1971—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap Henry Kissinger and bomb federal buildings.</p> <p>1968—Lima Site 85, a tiny USAF navigational facility on a remote mountaintop in Laos, is rocketed, bombed, and strafed by two NVA-piloted, Soviet-built Antonov biplanes.</p> <p>1962—U.S. helicopters fly their first combat mission in South Vietnam.</p> <p>1951—For bombing an airliner, Albert Guay goes to the gallows in Canada, saying, "At least I die famous."</p> <p>1943—Federal bureaucrats announce that hot dogs will henceforth contain less meat and more soybeans, and be called "victory sausages."</p> <p>1932—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Ark.) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>1931—Raymond Gunn, 27, accused of killing Maryville, Mo. school-teacher Velma Colter, is burned alive by a lynch mob on the roof of her schoolhouse.</p> <p>1928—Tom Howard of the <i>New York Daily News</i> takes an unauthorized photo of Ruth Snyder as the State of New York kills her in an electric chair.</p>	<p>2018—Hawaiian authorities issue an alert: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND ... SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL." A retraction comes 38 minutes later.</p> <p>2017—N.H. State Rep. Carolyn Halstead [R-Milford] drops a loaded handgun on the floor during a packed public hearing at the State House.</p> <p>1987—Lee Atwater admits the Reagan anti-drug campaign was "the epitome of the fad issue, a classic really. It came and went in three weeks, max."</p> <p>1975—The <i>N.Y. Times</i> reports that USAF Maj. Harold L. Hering was discharged for asking, during Minuteman training, "How can I know that an order...to launch my missiles came from a sane president?"</p> <p>1964—The tail falls off a B-52, which crashes in Barton, Md. with two nukes aboard. Four crewmen bail out alive, but two of them die of exposure, one just 800 yards from a streetlight.</p> <p>1957—Frisbees go on sale.</p> <p>1946—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man's <i>Magna Carta</i>. It's for radical reform of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted.</p> <p>1874—NYC Police Commissioner Abram Duryée says 1,600 cops beating unemployed demonstrators was "the most glorious sight I have ever seen."</p> <p>1842—Riding into Jalalabad alone is William Brydon, sole survivor of the 4,500 British soldiers who began a retreat from Kabul one week earlier.</p>	<p>2000—"This is still a dangerous world...of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses," warns George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1969—After warnings from enlisted men aboard the nuke-powered <i>U.S.S. Enterprise</i> go unheeded, the exhaust of a flight deck tractor cooks off a Zuni rocket. It hits an F-4's fuel tank, causing a fire which detonates 4.5 tons of bombs. The whole farrago kills 27, injures 85, and nearly sinks the ship.</p> <p>1967—The First Human Be-In is held—in San Francisco, of course.</p> <p>1963—Standing on a gold star marking the spot where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy, George Wallace, being sworn in as Governor of Alabama, vows, "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."</p> <p>1957—"I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis," says former Portsmouth Naval Prison guard Humphrey Bogart, dying at 57.</p> <p>1942—A B-18 crashes on Mt. Water-nomee, two die. Future Gov. Sherman Adams helps rescue five survivors.</p> <p>1878—The U.S. Supreme Court says railroads may provide unequal levels of service on the basis of race.</p> <p>1850—Anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death at 35. That sentence suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, contracts scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, travels the world making trouble for authorities, and eventually dies in Switzerland at 62.</p>	<p>1992—George H.[H.]W. Bush, in N.H. for votes, says "[W]e are blessed. So don't feel sorry for ... don't cry for me, Argentina."</p> <p>1989—On "Larry King Live," guest Donald Trump asks his host, "Do you mind if I sit back a little bit? Because your breath is very bad."</p> <p>1989—The Gipper, on MLK Day, says some civil rights leaders are "doing very well...keeping alive the feeling that they're victims of prejudice."</p> <p>1970—Americans learn from the <i>U.S. Washington Monthly</i> that the U.S. Army has had 1,000 investigators spying on U.S. citizens since 1965.</p> <p>1968—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he's shot to death in a suicidal robbery.</p> <p>1968—Ex-Rep Jeanette Rankin [R-Mont.], 87, who voted against WW I and WW II, leads a march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1965—Cuba deports Alan Ginsberg for calling Che Guevara "cute."</p> <p>1943—Future Senator Strom Thurmond [R-S.C.] has backseat sex with murderer Sue Logue as she's being driven to the electric chair.</p> <p>1919—In Boston, a badly-built tank collapses, releasing a flood of molasses—a raw material for war munitions; 21 die, 150 are injured.</p> <p>1885—W.A. "Snowflake" Bentley makes the first successful photograph of a snowflake in Jericho, Vermont.</p>	<p>2018—White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson claims Donald Trump a) passed a cognitive test, and b) might live to be 200 if he had a healthier diet.</p> <p>2014—Unable to acquire their usual poison, Ohio tries a new drug combo. A witness called watching Dennis McGuire gasp and snort for 15 minutes "ghastly."</p> <p>1986—The Department of Energy announces a seven-year search for a nuclear waste dump site. One potential site: Hillsborough, N.H.</p> <p>1981—Jeanne Kirkpatrick is made Ambassador to the U.N. Within days she complains that her office, limo, staff, and security are "inadequate."</p> <p>1980—Anti-drug pencils are recalled in New York: "Too Cool to Do Drugs" becomes, on sharpening, "Cool to Do Drugs," then "Do Drugs."</p> <p>1972—Vesna Vulović falls 33,000 feet from a bombed DC-9, lands on a snow-covered slope, and lives.</p> <p>1936—Serial killer and cannibal Albert Fish is executed at Sing Sing.</p> <p>1920—Prohibition takes effect: 13 years to the next legal drink.</p> <p>1917—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs his ambassador in Mexico, proposing a German/Mexican alliance and offering the return of Texas, Ariz., and N.M.</p> <p>1865—Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman issues Special Field Order No. 15, granting the formerly enslaved 40 acres and a mule. President Andrew Johnson later reverses the order.</p>
1:48 8:13	2:39 9:10	3:36 10:03	4:34 10:54	5:24 11:44	6:07 12:24	6:53 1:10
1:48	2:39	3:41	4:29	5:20	6:13	7:01

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