

The Fortnightly Rant

The Troika Takes Over

It has now been one full month since The Troika took over the U.S. government.

One might argue that we're being sloppy here, using the phrase "the government" in this way; technically, Trump and Musk, and their mascaared sidekick Vance, only have control over the Executive Branch. Allow us to retort.*

Far from representing a reliable bulwark against tyranny, the Judicial branch of our government has, for decades now, taken extraordinary measures to welcome it. First it opened the great sluiceways channeling the wealth of billionaires into a vast reservoir of political power. Then it declared that whoever is put in place by that power, to run the Executive branch on its behalf—no matter how ignorant, insane, or felonious he or she might be—is beyond the reach of the law.

As for the remaining branch, the Congress, well, what can we say... without running afoul of the laws pertaining to slander and libel? The nation has lost far too many news organizations as it is. It would be tragic if its oldest were extinguished because some invertebrate creature took offense at its own truthful portrayal.

The rest of the formerly-vaunted Fourth Estate, facing an existential demand to conform with the norms of the all-powerful Free Market, is naturally reluctant to accurately label our new form of government.

Perhaps we can help. On January 20th, the aforesaid Free Market scored a hat trick. A herd of billionaires,† whose net worth is more than \$1.3 trillion, gathered in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to witness the exaltation of their latest acquisition. One of their own is now on the throne of what can only be called our new oligarchy.

One can surely call our present arrangement an unholy trinity. This would surely aggravate the tender feelings of Christian Nationalists, but there is a limit to the self-censorship we're willing to exercise. Wake us up when they succeed in passing an amendment incorporating the Old Testament into the U.S. Code. Despite the incessant lip service they give to scripture, it's easy to see by their behavior that they have yet to absorb much, if anything, from the New Testament.

While we're on the topic of books, good or otherwise, we find it curious

that this bunch has such difficulty in doing things "by the book." The concept is pretty cut and dried, for most people, and therefore easy to grasp. Yet, for our new corporate overlords—whom, let us be perfectly clear, we explicitly do not welcome—it seems quite slippery. Odd, when one considers their common tendency to have sticky fingers.

They profess to revere "The Good Book," but they violate its Commandments all the time. A similar state of confusion surrounds Project 2025, the operating manual written for them by the Heritage Foundation's Russell Vought.

The titular head of the Troika ran on its "principles," if the threats contained therein can be so described. Yet, once elected on November 5th,‡ he disavowed all knowledge of it. Ordinarily, when this former television personality claims to know nothing about anything, we're inclined to believe him. In this case, though, every one of the executive actions spewing from the White House's Firehose of Bullshit appears to have been taken verbatim from that document.

In fact, they seem to have gone beyond their 2025 script, and purloined a few pages from "London Has Fallen," a critically-derided Gerard Butler extravaganza in which Islamic hordes blow up Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, and the Chelsea Bridge in rapid succession.

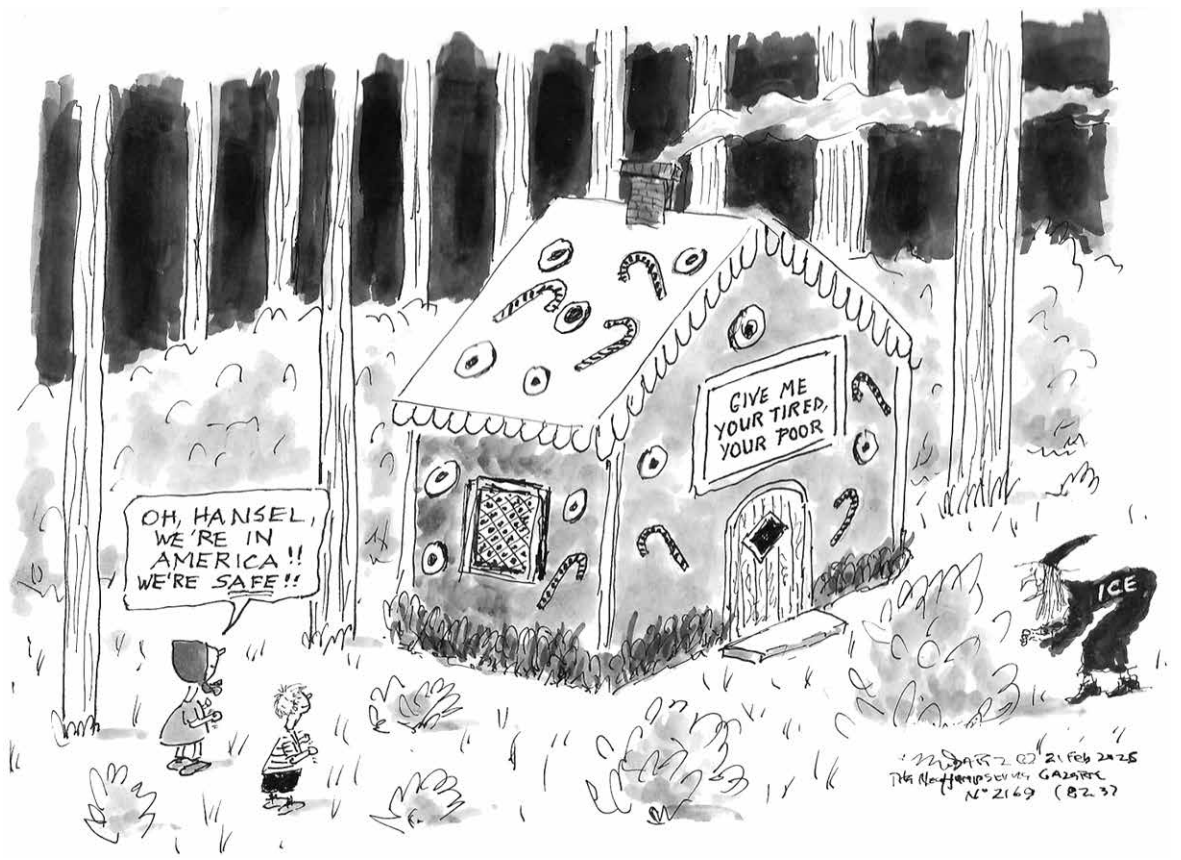
Taking the place of foreign landmarks, though, are such frivolities as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the agency that monitors the safety of our nuclear weapons arsenal, the cadre of health service professionals who track and fight infectious diseases, and the air traffic control system.

As if to make clear to we, the peonage, who is in charge and what he has in store for us, Vought finagled for himself the directorship of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [CFPB]. Unique among Federal institutions, over the 14 years

of its existence the CFPB has returned \$21 billion to the taxpayers that had been swindled from them by corporations—about triple what it cost to run. Like a cat with a mouse, Vought has not shut it down quite yet. Why dispatch your prey summarily, when you can savor the joy of torturing it until you lose interest?

The class war is under way. The aggressors have the upper hand—so far. But they may have forgotten, as have so many aggressors before them, the old military adage, "the enemy has a vote."

‡ On which day bomb threats were received in more than 200 polling places in heavily Democratic areas, nearly all of them traced to Russia.



No Kings on Presidents Day' Rallies Target Trump-Musk Assault on Democracy and Working Class

by Brett Wilkins

Democracy defenders from blizzard-bound Maine to sunny southern California and cities and towns in between took to America's streets and public spaces Monday for a "No Kings on Presidents Day" action against what organizers called the "anti-democratic and illegal actions of the Trump administration and its plutocratic allies."

Organized by the nascent 50501 movement—named for its goal of 50 protests in 50 states on one day—Monday's events follow a previous nationwide wave of anti-Trump demonstrations led by the group earlier this month.

"The current administration has clarified that it cares more about profit than people. We as a collective refuse to stand by as they continue to undermine the dignity of our communities," 50501 movement said on social media. "We are not just numbers or consumers. We are the People."

"We reject fascism. We reject the oligarchy. We reject the idea that any person's worth is less than another's," the group added. "Together, we are a force for change."

Organizers of the Phoenix ral-

ly—where chants included "Deport Elon!" and "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here!"—explained: "This demonstration aims to defend democracy and the working class while opposing fascism, oligarchy, mass deportation, and the administrative coup being carried out by President Trump and Elon Musk. Protesters will gather to send a strong message that Presidents Day should not be a celebration of unchecked power but a reaffirmation of democratic values."

Stephen Andolfo, who was among hundreds of people who braved subfreezing temperatures at a rally outside the Rhode Island State House, told WJAR, "We're here because of one reason: They're trampling on our constitution."

"We're living in a country now where if law doesn't matter then where do we turn? And you ignore the courts? We're at a turning point right now and we have to speak out against it."

Emily Manning, a Boston engineer who came to the rally with her two teenage sons, told The Associated Press that "I thought it was important to be here on Presidents Day to demonstrate for what America stands for."

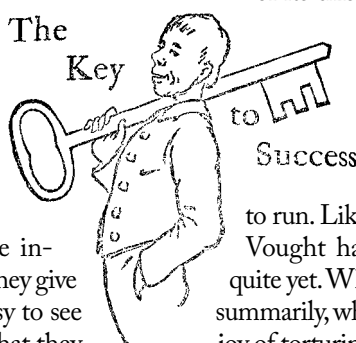
"American values are not the values of the plutocracy or the limited few rich people," Manning added.

In Seattle—where demonstrators rallied outside a Tesla dealership on Saturday to protest the company and Musk—at least three demonstrations are planned for Monday afternoon, including a candlelight vigil by healthcare workers for transgender children.

As was the case at the February 5 protests, Musk was a frequent target for demonstrators' ire at Monday's events. Protesters denounced the takeover and gutting of federal agencies including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Labor, Department of Education, and more—all under attack from the inside by Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

"Fuck Elon Musk," protesters chanted in Sacramento.

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

News Condensed

In the district court at Lynn Edward F. Grady and Edward Murray, for talking indecently over the telephone line, were given 30 days each in the house of correction.

"Hot Bill" was executed at Gretna, La., for the murder of an old white man named Dominick Commerio.

Thomas Morgan of Great Falls, N.H., dropped dead on the street, aged 45 years. He leaves a wife and son. Heart failure was the cause of death.

Albert Parker, four years of age, an adopted son of Daniel Parker of Valley Falls, was accidentally shot by his mother.

The San Francisco highbinders' feud has broken out again. Leong Chun, a Chinaman, was fatally stabbed by Loni Fook, a genuine highbinder, who, when arrested, was found armed to the teeth with knives.

Miss Flora Springer, the 20-year-old daughter of Jesse Springer of Goshen, N.J., is slowly hiccough-

ing to death. Three weeks ago she laughed hearty at a joke told by a lady friend, and soon after she commenced to hiccough. She has kept it up almost incessantly since.

Green Goods and Counterfeits

Haverhill, Mass., has recently been flooded with "green goods" circulars, and a number of \$5 counterfeits are said to be in circulations there. It is evident that the gang which is work-

* We allude, of course, to the book, *Allow Me To Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution*, by the formidable writer and former litigator Elie Mystal—whom we hereby nominate for U.S. Attorney General.

† For the record, according to Daniel E. Meyers, at Miami University in Ohio, the collective noun for parasites is "herd."

Why federal courts are unlikely to save democracy from Trump's and Musk's attacks

by Maya Sen

State governments, community groups, advocacy nonprofits and regular Americans have filed a large and growing number of federal lawsuits opposing President Donald Trump's barrage of executive orders and policy statements. Some of his actions have been put on hold by the federal courts, at least temporarily.

As a scholar of the federal courts, however, I expect the courts will be of limited help in navigating through this complicated new political landscape.

One problem is that the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years has moved sharply to the right and has approved of past efforts to expand the powers of the presidency. But the problem with relying on the courts for help goes beyond ideology and right-leaning justices going along with a right-leaning president, as happened in Trump's first term.

One challenge is speed: The Trump administration is moving much faster than courts do, or even can. The other is authority: The courts' ability to compel government action is limited, and also slow.

And that doesn't even factor in statements by Trump, Vice President JD Vance and "special government employee" multibillionaire Elon Musk. All three have indicated that they are open to ignoring court rulings and have even threatened to seek the impeachment of judges who rule in ways they don't like.

Speed

Musk has been put in charge of White House efforts to cut government services, both in spending amount and reach.

Constitutional law is clear: The executive branch cannot, on its own, close or shut down a federal agency that has been established by Congress. That is Congress' job. But Trump and Musk are trying to do so anyway, including declaring that the congressionally established U.S. Agency for International Development will be shut down and turning employees away from the agency's offices in Washington, D.C.

The administration's strategy, it seems, is the longstanding tech-company mantra: "move fast and break things." The U.S. courts do not—and by design cannot—move equally quickly.

It can take years for a case to wind its way through the lower courts to reach the U.S. Supreme Court. This is by design.

Courts are deliberative in nature. They take into account multiple factors and can engage in multiple rounds of deliberation and fact-finding before reaching a final ruling. At every stage, lawyers on both sides are given time to make their cases. Even when a case does get to the Supreme Court—as many of these lawsuits likely will—it can take months to be fully resolved.

By contrast, Trump's and Musk's actions are happening in a matter of days. By the time a court finally

resolves an issue that happened in late January or early February 2025, the situation may have changed substantially.

For an example, consider the effort to shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development. In the space of a week, the Trump administration put most of USAID's workers on administrative leave and halted USAID's overseas medical trials, which included pausing potentially lifesaving treatments.

As of this writing, a district judge has temporarily blocked the order putting USAID workers on leave. But even if the courts ultimately conclude several months from now that the Trump administration's actions regarding USAID were unlawful, it might be impossible to reconstitute the agency the way it used to be.

For instance, many workers may have been demoralized and sought other employment. New personnel would have to be recruited and trained to replace them. Contracts that were terminated or invalidated or expired would have to be renegotiated. And the countries and communities that had received help from USAID might be less committed to the renewed programs, because of concerns services could be cut off again.

Breadth

When Republicans disagreed with any of Joe Biden's executive actions—for example, his student debt forgiveness plan—they went to federal court to obtain nationwide injunctions stopping the implementation of the plan.

But injunctions will not be as helpful given Trump's recent play-

book. A court blocking one order isn't enough to stop the administration from trying different tactics. In 2017, courts blocked the first two versions of Trump's ban on travel to the U.S. from majority-Muslim countries—but ultimately allowed a third version to take effect. And if an attack on one agency is blocked, the administration can try similar—or different—tactics against other agencies.

The strategy of moving fast and breaking things is successful if the other side—or even the process of repair—can't keep up with all the different strategies. Courts can be part of the strategy to preserve the Constitution, but they cannot be its only defenders.

Authority

Researchers have argued that court-issued injunctions mostly work to stop the government from doing something, not to compel the government into doing something. Judges are already expressing concern that the Trump administration may fail to comply with orders to stop funding freezes.

For instance, a federal district judge in Massachusetts has ordered the government not only to refrain from implementing changes to federal research grant funding but to provide evidence to the court that it was complying with the court's order, immediately and every two weeks until the case is decided.

Another federal judge has already found the administration failed to abide by a court order—but so far has not imposed any consequences on Trump, the administration or other officials.

It's unclear whether Trump would

obey Supreme Court rulings against him, either. On the campaign trail, Trump's running mate JD Vance said, "When the courts stop you, stand before the country like Andrew Jackson did and say, 'The chief justice has made his ruling, now let him enforce it.'" He also recently remarked that "Judges aren't allowed to control the executive's legitimate power," hinting at strong opposition to rulings the administration disagrees with.

All this doesn't mean the courts are useless, nor that people shouldn't sue to challenge actions they deem illegal or unconstitutional. The courts—and the Supreme Court in particular—exist in part to arbitrate power disputes between Congress and the presidency. As Chief Justice John Marshall said in his landmark 1803 *Marbury v. Madison* ruling, "It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is."

But the courts alone will not be sufficient. The courts are like an antibiotic on a cut, helping healing and staving off further infection. They cannot keep a grievously wounded patient alive. For this, a robust political strategy is necessary. It is in all Americans' hands collectively to make sure that the constitutional structure is not just enforced, but also sustained.

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Maya Sen is Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School. This article originally appeared at The Conversation. We publish it here under a Creative Commons license.

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

ing New England is not yet frightened away.

The Manchester mouthpiece of the present city government says that Mayor Laskey is going to weed out some of the houses of ill-fame now maintained in the compact part of the city, and within a stone's throw of the city building. The *Chronicle* sincerely hopes that the mayor will

fulfill the promise, and that soon.

Mr. Richard M. Dane, the crack fisherman of the *Chronicle* force, captured eight pounds of large eels Thursday afternoon. Dick says the eel is the best fish for eating that swims the sea, and that he will convert their skins into shoe-strings.

How many of the "bosses" who are so shocked at the recent appointments on the navy yard, smelt gunpowder during the war of the rebellion? They profess now great love for the soldier, but the fact is notorious that during the time they were allowed to designate the men under them, they invariably discriminated against the veterans. This love for the soldier is all a sham and a fraud, and no one knows it better than the veterans themselves, who were kept out of employment for three years by these Pharisees. If one-half of the bosses were "bounced," and their

places given to old soldiers fully as competent, the public would applaud.

Police Court

At the police court Wednesday, Feb. 17th, George Washington Towle Brown of alcoholic memory, was arraigned for drunkenness. He acknowledges his guilt and asked Judge Batchelder to send him to jail as that institution was nearer home than Brentwood. The judge was obdurate, however, and sent him to Brentwood for sixty days and to pay costs of \$6.90.

A Challenge

The "weaking" says he can lick the coward who inspires the attacks upon him in the papers, either with or without weapons, and he believes that the fellow is one who ought to

Better Old News

to next page

What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?



To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation. A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

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The Myth of “Runaway Federal Spending”

by Mark Fernald

Republicans love to claim they will cut “out-of-control” federal spending. They say it often enough many believe out of control spending actually exists.

Except it doesn't. Since Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, there has been insignificant growth in federal outlays as a percentage of gross national product.

In fact, excluding Social Security and Medicare spending, the rest of the federal government has shrunk when compared to our economy as a whole.

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis keeps track of federal outlays in this handy graph [at right].

In 1981, federal spending was 21.2 percent of gross national product (GDP). In 2023, federal spending was 22.1 percent of GDP.

So, yes, federal spending has inched up almost one percentage point of GDP over 42 years.

But the story is a bit more complicated. As the Baby Boomers have aged and retired, spending on Social Security and Medicare has increased. From 1981 to 2023, Social Security benefits increased from 4.5 percent of GDP to 5.1 percent of GDP. The growth of Medicare

spending was even more dramatic, from 1.4 percent of GDP in 1981 to 3.8 percent in 2023. Taken together, Social Security and Medicare spending, as a percentage of GDP, increased by 3 percent.

“...federal spending has inched up almost one percentage point of GDP over 42 years.”

This means that federal spending on everything else—defense, environmental protection, law enforcement, border security, Medicaid, Food Stamps, the Inflation Reduction Act, interest on the national debt, and more—decreased from 15.3 percent of GDP to 13.2 percent of GDP.

This trend is reflected in the size of the federal workforce. In 1981, when Reagan took office, we had 2,961,000 federal employees. In December, 2024, federal employees totaled 3,010,000. From 1981 to 2024, the U.S. population grew by 50 percent, but the number of people employed by the government to serve that population barely grew at all.

The growth in outlays for Social Security and Medicare is not a surprise. Everyone knew that when the Baby Boomers retired, spending for those retirement programs would

expand enormously, so we planned for that. In 1983, President Reagan signed bipartisan legislation that increased the Social Security tax rate, and delayed the full retirement from age 65 to age 67. Social Security ran a surplus for over thirty years.

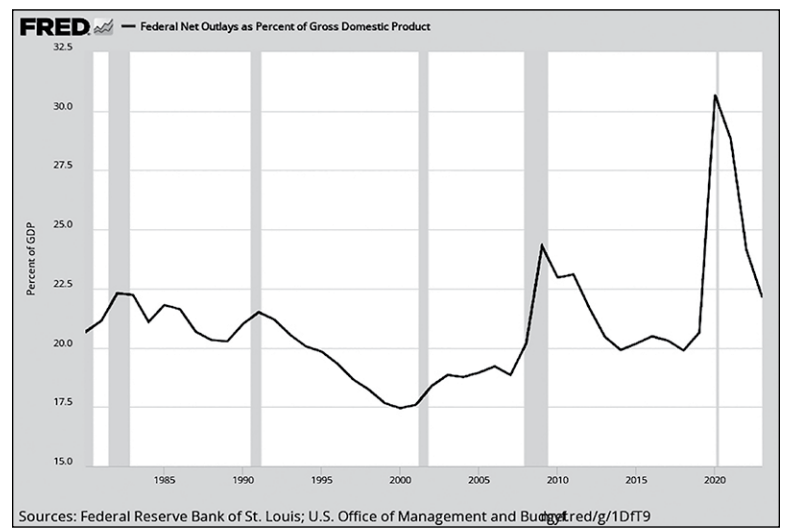
The interesting question is: How can the federal deficit be so huge if Social Security ran a surplus for so many years, and the rest of the government has grown more slowly than the economy?

The answer becomes clear when you look at both spending and revenue. The federal deficit is mostly due to decreased revenue, not increased spending.

“From 1981 to 2024, the U.S. population grew by 50 percent, but the number of people employed by the government to serve that population barely grew at all [1.6 percent].”

In 2000, federal tax receipts were 20 percent of GDP, and the federal government enjoyed a surplus. In 2023, federal tax receipts were just 16.5 percent of GDP, and the deficit was \$1.7 trillion.

If federal government receipts went back up to 20 percent of GDP, the federal deficit would be cut by more than half—something we could easily accomplish by increas-



This inconvenient chart, published by the Federal Reserve, lets the hot air out of longstanding Republican claims about “runaway Federal spending.”

ing taxes on the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans.

We don't have runaway federal spending. We have runaway tax cuts for the wealthy that endanger the fiscal health of our country.

Republican calls for massive cuts in federal spending are part of a recurring pattern. Over the last 45 years, each time Republicans have taken control of the White House, they have cut taxes for the wealthy. Each time, the deficit ballooned. Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump each left office with a much higher deficit than when he took office. And each called for big spending cuts, to reduce the

deficit he created. You would think that Republicans would learn from this history, and understand that their repeated tax cuts for the wealthy is the main driver of the deficit. But in the upside-down world of Republican politics, taxes for the wealthy will be cut again, and Republicans will blame everyone but themselves when the deficit increases.

Mark Fernald is a former State Senator, and a former Democratic candidate for Governor. He can be reached at mark@markferald.com.



The wholesale firing of the nation's entire cadre of Federal Road Salt Barn Inspectors has led to a predictable result—and a prompt one at that. The storage facility whose wreckage is seen here has stood on this spot since the Mayoral administration of Eileen Foley, at the least, and may even date back to the administration of her mother, Mary Ellen Carey Dondoro.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page two

know what punishment the United States statutes prescribes for thieving.

The New Hampshire Gazette
February 25, 1892

Some Curious Tribes

... In western Patagonia, among the Cordilleras Mountains, dwell the giants of whom so many big stories have been told. As a matter of fact these Aaraucaians, as they are called, are rarely under six feet in height and sometimes reach eight feet, seven-foot men being not infrequent.

Juniata McAlevey, fifteen years old, of Huntington, Pa., was married at 10 o'clock Thursday morning to George Cunningham, and died at

1 o'clock. She had had a severe attack of the grip and was still weak from its effects.

Since Saturday night the city has been perfectly quiet, and there has not been a single disturbance that called for armed police interference. It is believed that the disorderly movement has spent its force and that no further trouble is to be apprehended.

Kittery

In view of the fact that the people of this town are led into temptation by the liquor saloons of Portsmouth, N.H., therefore

Resolved, that we hereby show our approval of the proposed restrictions of the same. That God-speed the mayor and officials in their efforts for the suppression of these

curses of our homes and nation. J.G. Dutton, pastor Second Christian Church, J.H. Trask, pastor Second M.E. church, Committee.

There was quite a row at the dancing school Saturday evening last, by a lot of outsiders who tried to break up the school, but they failed.

Scud.

North Kittery

One of the Portsmouth evening papers was a little fresh last week in publishing a “Neck” man missing, simply because he failed to visit his usual haunts for a single day. “Billie” thinks if a detective followed the pair who made up that article he might shortly reveal things they would not want everybody to know.

The New Hampshire Gazette
March 3, 1892

Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 “Looking at life from a different perspective makes you realize that it's not the deer that is crossing the road, rather it's the road that is crossing the forest.”
 — Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

“Lies written in ink cannot disguise facts written in blood.”
 — Lu Xun (1881-1936) Chinese author and critic
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Trump's Firehose of Stupidity

To the Editor:

Merriam Webster defines stupidity as acts "lacking intelligence or reason." A corollary is that stupid decisions reflect a lack of understanding of their consequences. Given these propositions, the torrent of ill-conceived, consistently incompetent, and sometimes illegal appointments, policies and directives emanating from the Trump White House can best be described as a firehose of stupidity. Trump's recent decisions lack intelligence and demonstrate little understanding of their possible consequences.

Trump's imposition of a 25 percent tariff on a broad range of Canadian and Mexican goods makes little sense even considering their thirty-day suspension. Even the *Wall Street Journal* has called the policy "The dumbest trade war in history." The ostensible reason for the tariffs is to pressure Canada and Mexico to reduce the flow of fentanyl and immigrants into the U.S. Tariffs are an inappropriate tool for doing this. They are a blunt instrument that will bring economic pain to our two largest trading partners and allies while raising prices that American consumers pay. Tariffs are a tax—the question is not whether they will raise domestic prices but by how much. Moreover, American consumers will suffer added losses due to retaliatory tariffs on American goods announced by Canada and Mexico. Trump contends that tariffs will make America richer. This is nonsense and bears no relation to the reality of modern global economics. The policy will impose unjustified economic pain on those Americans already suffering from high prices to solve a problem better suited to more precise and specialized policies.

Trump's peremptory freeze on federal assistance funding is another example of a harebrained policy. It halted several valuable social programs without evaluation of their merits and disregarded potential damage to participants. The freeze was likely illegal since it infringed on Congress's Constitutional authority over spending. This action may well have led to a

Constitutional crisis if not for a court injunction that led to the withdrawal of the freeze.

Trump's purge of the federal work force has proceeded on two fronts. His imperious firing of several DOJ prosecutors and FBI directors, as well as the impending purge of FBI agents, was clearly an act of vengeance. It targeted individuals who participated in the investigations of his malfeasance during his first term. A broader effort is the purge of the so-called "Deep State" led by Elon Musk and his minions of puerile hackers. As exemplified by the destruction of USAID, Musk and Trump are taking a wrecking-ball to administrative departments that they perceive as ideological enemies under the guise of increasing efficiency. Few argue against reasonable efforts to make government more efficient, but the willy-nilly demolition of agencies has nothing to do with improving government efficiency and will inhibit the effectiveness of targeted agencies in delivering worthwhile services. Musk seems to be enacting the Silicon Valley imperative to "move fast and break things." The maxim may be useful for implementing innovation in small tech start-ups, but the U.S. government is vastly larger and more complex than any start-up business. The U.S. government employs approximately two and a half million people and is made up of 15 executive departments and 2,000 agencies that are charged with implementing a bewildering array of laws and executive directives. To identify sources of inefficiency and craft plans to eliminate them without damaging the effectiveness of the agencies requires expert knowledge of governmental systems that neither Musk nor his youthful cronies have. Musk is not reforming inefficient agencies; he is destroying them without any reasonable understanding of long-term consequences.

The issues discussed above include only a small part of the massive flow of ill-advised policies from the Trump administration. The question becomes who will defend the nation against this onslaught? Republican members of Congress have proven to be spineless



sycophants for Trump and offer little opposition to his agenda. Democrats appear to be largely disorganized and lacking focus in their resistance. Only the courts offer potential defense against the authoritarian initiatives of Trump, and it is unclear whether they will provide effective, coordinated action. It is truly a perilous time for the nation.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.

Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

You write that "only the courts offer potential defense," while (wisely) casting doubt on their dependability.

We probably trust the courts less than you. So, whence cometh our salvation? We turn to Antonio Gramsci, a sickly, hunch-backed, imprisoned Italian Marxist, who wrote, "I'm a pessimist because of intelligence, but an optimist because of will." We believe that there are enough sensible people in America to eventually prevail over this lot of cretins.

The Editor

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"The Lamps Are Going Out..."

To the Editor:

Sir, in 1914 just before the start of World War I the British foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey was quoted as saying, "the lamps are going out all over Europe, and we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

In light of the events since January 20th, and up to and including both J.D. Vance and Pete Hegseth's recent policy speeches, one wonders how many in the U.S., Europe and around the world now have similar forebodings.

David Severn

Portsmouth, N.H.

David:

How many? Not enough, apparently. It won't be long, though, before forebodings become passé.

We look forward to seeing how people push back once the consequences of this idiosyncrasy become undeniable.

The Editor

U.S. Branded Ethnic Cleansing

To the Editor:

President Trump says he wants to "clean out" Gaza, plus he is ordering the U.S. military to resume sending Biden's 2000-pound bombs to Israel. Happy Valentine's Day, Gazans!

What America needs immediately is to "clean out" this rogue administration—nonviolently, of course.

We, who believe in the Constitution and the rule of law, must persuade our Congressional legislators to initiate Impeachment proceedings against this rogue president and his sycophants.

Remember Lord Acton's quote: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Will Thomas

N.H. Veterans for Peace

Will:

Current events make us nostalgic for the days when criminal wars were camouflaged with rah-rah rhetoric.

The Editor

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A Literally Sickening Appointment

Dear Editor:

Despite all the controversy and concerns about Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s anti-public health positions, his lack of any relevant medical or public health experience or education, the Senate confirmed him as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). As such, Kennedy will have control over the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a host of other vital research and disease prevention agencies. This raises very serious concerns about the future of public health and the consequences for all Americans.

In a speech before an anti-vaccination group in November, 2024, Mr. Kennedy stated, "I'm gonna say

to NIH scientists, God bless you all.

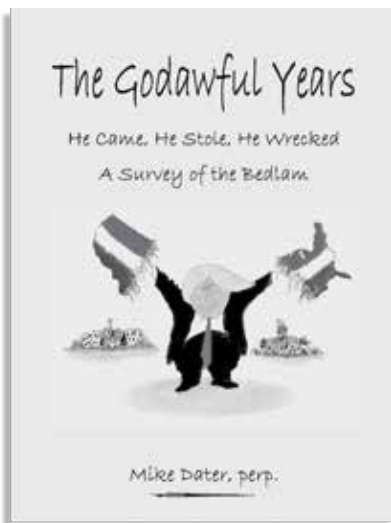
Thank you for your public service. We're going to give infectious disease a break for about eight years." This is one of the most dangerous comments I have ever heard from a person who is responsible for protecting public health.

As a retired public health epidemiologist and former Chief of Communicable Disease Epidemiology for the N.H. Division of Public Health Services, who spent over 30 years working on both infectious and chronic diseases and injury, I find Mr. Kennedy's comments to be terribly frightening. Mr. Kennedy has no understanding of the growing threats of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. We have just been through a horrific pandemic caused by a coronavirus that claimed over a million American lives, and the threat of a Bird Flu pandemic is growing everyday. Mr. Kennedy also does not understand the relationship between infectious diseases and chronic diseases such as cancer and other chronic diseases. Hepatitis B and C are linked to liver cancer, human papillomavirus to cervical cancer, and COVID to dementia. *H. pylori* is linked to gastric ulcers and cancer. HIV, herpes, Epstein Barr Virus, and Merkel cell polyomavirus are also all linked to various cancers.

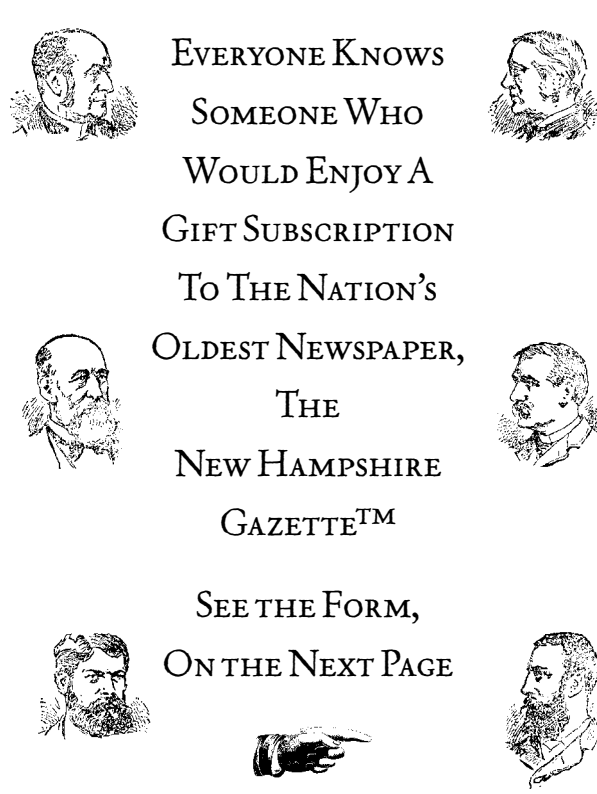
Halting research on infectious diseases for eight years is an eternity in terms of science and how quickly things can change in nature and in science. To abandon research on infectious diseases, including the rapidly growing threat of the development of "superbugs" that are, or will become, resistant to all available antibiotics is dangerous and irresponsible. To abandon research on better vaccines, diagnostic tests, better treatments for infectious diseases, and finding new

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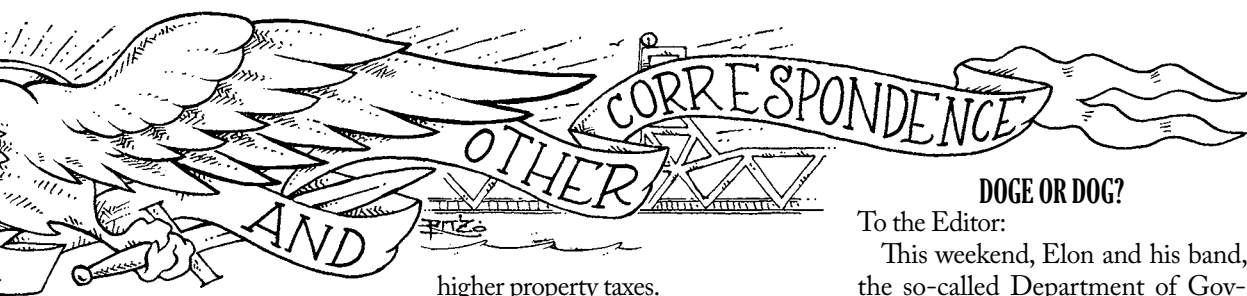
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CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER

DOGE OR DOG?

To the Editor:

This weekend, Elon and his band, the so-called Department of Government Efficiency, DOGE, illegally closed down the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The CFPB needs to be closed because it is *too efficient*. For every dollar it spends, it has clawed back four and returned them to defrauded consumers. Twenty billion so far. Musk and Trump's overpaid hatchet crew should lose the E for "Efficiency," and just be called The Department of Government..., or DOG for short.

The CFPB's purpose is to protect citizens from becoming victims of financial fraud; the fraud practiced by financial institutions like banks and mortgage brokers that led to the great recession in 2008. Ten million Americans lost their homes in that recession! Almost exclusively because of fraud.

So, why does CFPB need to go? I'll give you a hint: both Trump's media company and Musk's X have recently announced that they were launching financial wings to sell financial products. Sinking the CFPB means they don't have to worry about following consumer protection laws and they can get away with defrauding consumers. Their billionaire friends are applauding.

Trump's moves have focused on destroying watchdog agencies, anything that can protect the middle or working class has to go! You should be quaking in your shoes—and fighting back.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

While they're shuttering the CFPB, they're de-funding the IRS. Their agenda could not be more obvious: Rob the poor while giving the rich a license to steal.

Meanwhile they're doing all they can to impose their purported Christian beliefs on the rest of us.

Self awareness? Zero.

The Editor

higher property taxes.

When you pay your property tax, remember to thank former Governor Sununu and his party for the annual \$150 million gift to the rich paid for at your expense.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

You broke the First Rule of Class War: You don't talk about Class War!

The Editor

=====
"No!"

To the Editor:

"Five months after being liberated from Spaniards by Americans, Filipinos begin fighting the liberators." [Tidal Guide, Feb. 4th, 1899, *New Hampshire Gazette*, January 24th.]

NO—we were not liberators in this stupidly named Spanish-American War—it should be termed the American-Spanish War. Why? We started it! Anyway(s), their independence movement controlled all of the country except Manila. We refused this effort with war. We termed the event an "Insurrection." Why did we refuse? We were in our empire mode. We now had Guam and Puerto Rico. Cuba became a territory; after independence we dominated the island economically until Castro—as our influence in the Caribbean increased. Our military involvement in the "new" nation of Panama was related to our successful canal effort. Wake, Midway and the American Virgin Islands plus Hawaii were added. Filipino independence? 1946.

J K Folmar I, A.B, M.A., PhD.,
Boy Scout 2nd Class
California, Pa.

J.

Perhaps our use of irony in that entry failed to achieve its objective. That's OK, though. Thanks for adding background.

The Editor

"We Don't Need No Stinkin' Climate"

To the Editor:

Former Fox News contributor and current U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy recently issued a memo calling for the elimination of nearly all Biden Administration "orders, directives, rules, regulations, notices, guidance documents, funding agreements, programs and policy statements" related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the previous administration, the department considered how the impacts of climate change, such as increased heat, wildfires, flooding and drought, could affect roads and other transportation infrastructure.

Notably, a 2020 report on managing climate risk by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission validates President Biden's climate goals. This document details the threat that climate change poses to America's energy, water, transportation and communication infrastructure.

For example, it asserts that extreme precipitation, inundation from sea-level rise, extreme heat and forest fires "challenge nearly every element of transportation systems, from bridges and airports to pipelines and ports."

I also want to draw attention to a remarkable document on climate change and national security. "A Climate Security Plan for America: A Presidential Plan for Combating the Security Risks of Climate Change" is signed by over 20 admirals and generals, including Rear Admiral David Titley, former Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy, and General Gordon Sullivan, former Chief of Staff of the Army.

This comprehensive report asserts that increases in extreme weather "can devastate essential energy, financial and agricultural centers that undergird U.S. and global economic viability and the well-being of our populations." It calls for initiatives to improve the resilience of our critical infrastructure and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. and globally in order to avoid

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

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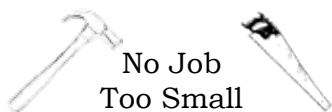
Ayotte's Economic Falsehood

To the Editor:

Governor Ayotte proposed a \$150 million cut in the state's budget citing tighter economic times. This is completely false.

In 2023 the GOP controlled state legislature voted to end the interest and dividend tax by 2025—a tax which brought in \$150 million a year. This tax was paid by the richest people in New Hampshire. I was one who paid that tax, and believe the State will now cut spending benefiting the poor and middle class, and push more burdens onto cities and towns, resulting in

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from page five

“catastrophic security consequences.”

Duffy’s memo is reminiscent of Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) signing legislation that erased most references to climate change from Florida state law.

The memo is also consistent with President Donald Trump’s mocking of the threat posed by global warming. Trump once declared, “Global warming is an expensive hoax!”

To counter climate misinformation from the Trump Administration, I encourage reading “The Scientific Guide to Global Warming Skepticism.” It’s available online and provides an excellent summary of the lines of evidence that have led 200 science academies throughout the world, including the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, to conclude that climate change is human-caused.

Consider that the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran agree on this issue.

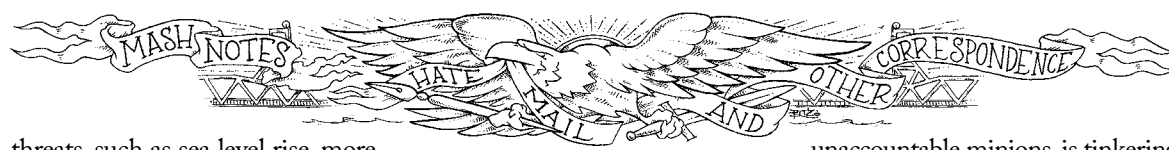
If one is serious about examining the issue of human-induced climate change, the place to start is understanding why scientists believe it.

In reality, however, the climate debate isn’t about science—it’s about the role of government. Many conservatives dismiss evidence of climate risk because they fear that acceptance of this evidence will lead to greater government intrusion in our lives. Science is a proxy debate.

Ever wonder why we don’t hear scores of angry voices claiming that HIV doesn’t cause AIDS? It’s because that scientific conclusion doesn’t threaten deeply held values.

In his book, *The Constitution of Liberty*, Nobel Prize-winning economist and libertarian Friedrich Hayek writes: “Personally, I find that the most objectionable feature of the conservative attitude is its propensity to reject well-substantiated new knowledge because it dislikes some of the consequences which seem to follow from it.”

Climate change poses great



threats, such as sea level rise, more intense wildfires and the ravaging of the world’s coral reefs. Conservatives would be unlikely to tolerate this level of risk with regard to national defense or financial markets.

Prudence dictates that we also hedge against the risk of disastrous climate change.

Terry Hansen
Milwaukee, Wis.

Terry:

Just think: if they didn't own Congress and the White house, we could impose confiscatory and retroactive wealth taxes on oil billionaires to mitigate the devastating damage that's coming our way.

The Editor

What Future for Gaza? For Trump?

Editor:

Instead of planning for the ethnic cleansing of, and proposed land grab of war-torn Gaza, President Trump should be proposing a Marshall Plan for the wartime destruction in Gaza. Yes, Gaza needs to be rebuilt. America bears responsibility for supplying the weapons Israel used to destroy Gaza’s apartment buildings and homes, places of worship, along with its infrastructure, schools, and 11 colleges and universities. Today 16 of the region’s 36 hospitals remain partially operational, and many of its medical doctors, nurses, and staff frog-marched off to Israeli prisons where they were reported to have been beaten and tortured.

Following World War II, the Nuremberg trials were held for plotting and carrying out invasions of other countries across Europe and atrocities against their citizens. On November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) voted unanimously to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Warrants were also issued for three Hamas leaders who were subsequently assassinated by Israel.

If President Trump makes good on his promise to seize Palestinian land in Gaza, bulldoze its dead beneath the rubble and what little remains of its homes, schools, and places of worship, and ethnically cleanse and depopulate the territory, he too may find himself with an International Criminal Court arrest warrant and inability to travel too far from America’s borders, except, of course, to Israel.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser
Orange, Mass.

Genevieve:

A lot of Silicon Valley techbros are obsessed with living forever.

While that seems to us like an idiotic pursuit, we can see one potential socially-valuable use for unnatural longevity.

We know of a certain guy whose current age will inevitably preclude his spending enough time behind bars to pay his debt to society.

Let's lock him up, sentence him to life, and see how long we can make him live.

The Editor

Mumpsk: Terrifying and Boring

To the Editor:

We’re now into Week Three of the Mumpsk Administration. Apparently, the Executive Orders assembly line is working at top speed to get all those large binders ready for Mumpsk to wield the Executive Sharpie. Somebody could create a live feed of that; somehow, it would be terribly terrifying and boring at the same time.

Congress (formerly known as one of the three main branches of government) continues to meet and deliberate over an array of nominees with dubious qualifications. They question and ponder (some are quoted as “having grave concerns,” but these are likely mostly about their next election cycle) and then approve, so that assembly line is working as intended.

Meanwhile an unelected entrepreneur (also a major political donor), with some unvetted and

unaccountable minions, is tinkering with sensitive government systems so taxpayer dollars are used “wisely,” we are told. And the elected figurehead, and assorted minions, are threatening allies, redrawing and renaming geographic locations, and planning a wholesale rebuilding and rebranding of an area devastated by war (the displaced residents of said area are an afterthought).

Somehow eggs are still scarce and groceries are still pricey.

The Mumpsk Team has been busy!! Are we Great Again?

Beth McCarthy
Tamworth N.H.

Beth:

It seems we are if we think we are!

The Editor

The High Value of Hot Air

Dear Editor,

Does Elon Musk have the proper security clearances for access to agency personnel records and government payment systems? Of course he does.

People have forgotten the new theory of presidential authorization floated up in the classified documents case. Any and every document is declassified as soon as the President says it is.

In today’s federal government, there is no paperwork required, no accountability channels to clear, just the President’s word.

Even sweeping national policies can be enacted in one breath today and taken away in one breath tomorrow. Twenty-five percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico today, zero tariffs tomorrow. An end to TikTok today, back in business tomorrow. Forced and final displacement of Gazans today, a return of Gazans to their land tomorrow.

Land deals are handled the same way. Today the President can “own” great big strips of foreign land with no diplomacy or treaty paperwork involved. Greenland, Gaza, the Gulf of America, and the Panama Canal belong to America, just by the President’s say so.

If you have all the power and all the money, just blow some wind out of your mouth.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:

Thanks for your restraint in assigning a point of origin for that hot air.

The Editor

A Bright Future for Oligarchs To the Editor:

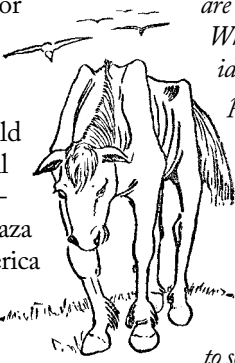
The investors and CEOs of large tech firms are among the most powerful of the capitalist oligarchs. Their influence was in evidence at the Trump inaugural ceremonies as the CEOs of Amazon, Meta, Alphabet and Apple occupied prime seats, but the power of the information age gurus came into sharp focus with the elevation of tech oligarch Elon Musk to “special government employee” and head of the Department of Government Efficiency.

Musk is a creature of a Silicon Valley culture that values extreme individuality and detests government regulation. He is among the tech oligarchs who successfully gamed the wave of innovation in information technology that emerged in the 80’s and 90’s, starting as competition among small tech start-ups and resulting in the technology behemoths of today.

Two maxims characterize Silicon Valley culture: (1) “Move fast and break things,” and (2) “Fake it until you make it.” Both are instructive in understanding Musk’s behavior as head of DOGE. He and his cadre of impudent hackers are certainly moving fast in their effort to eviscerate and dismantle federal agencies but without any transparency or sense of the potential damage they may cause. Musk and his minions have little expertise that would contribute to understanding the inefficiencies of a sprawling federal bureaucracy. They are programmers and software engineers who spend their time creating computer code, not analysts with the expertise to conduct forensic examinations of organizational systems. Their solution to ending inefficiency and fraud is to decimate the agency by firing or suspending large numbers of employees and freezing agency funding. This approach is akin to a physician treating a patient with stomach pain by randomly removing abdominal organs without diagnosing the cause of pain.

Musk has disingenuously claimed that if a beneficial program is cancelled, it can be easily restored. That statement shows either his lack of knowledge about complex organizations or his cynicism. When large numbers of experienced employees are laid off, their institutional knowledge is lost and not easily restored. When complex systems are destroyed, they are difficult to re-constitute. Rather than diagnosing and

to next page



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King Arthur May Have Been Right, After All

by W.D. Ehrhart

In a famous scene from “Monty Python and the Holy Grail,” King Arthur explains to a peasant named Dennis that he became king after the Lady in the Lake gave him Excalibur. Dennis replies, “Strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government.”

I’ve thought a lot about that scene over the years since I first saw it in 1975. Since then, this nation has been governed by a president who was elected by the voters of a single congressional district in Michigan, a president who used to peddle Chesterfield cigarettes as great Christmas gifts and played second fiddle to a chimpanzee named Bonzo, a president who told people to read his lips, a president who got blowjobs from a White House intern in the White House, a president who initiated not one but two unwinnable wars, a president who insisted “Yes We Can” but didn’t, a president whose greatest success was as a television “reality” star, a president who stuck around long enough to reveal his fading mental capacity on national television, and now—once again, like a recurring nightmare—Trumpy Dumpty, Trumpasaurus, the MAG-AMobster.

Indeed, whatever once was able to pass itself off as American “democracy” has steadily deteriorated over the course of my lifetime to the sorry situation we have today: a burgeoning fascist dictatorship run by utterly incompetent sycophants like Pete (“So I like to drink, so what?”) Hegseth, Kristi (“I shot my dog, and I’m proud of it”) Noem, and Robert F. (“What’s wrong with leaving a dead bear carcass in Cen-

tral Park?”) Kennedy, Jr., for the benefit of American oligarchs like Elon (“Just passing through on my way to Mars”) Musk, Jeff (“Endorse a Black Woman? You’re kidding, right?”) Bezos, and Mark (“We don’t need no stinkin’ fact-checking anyway”) Zuckerberg.

Meanwhile, our Supreme Court—from whose decisions there is no appeal—is now stacked with right-wing activists who believe that free speech is free only to those who have enough money to buy it, women’s bodies belong to men in black robes, and presidents—especially the one who appointed them—are immune to criminal prosecution. And over the next four years, that grotesque court imbalance is likely to get even worse.

At the state and local levels, the situation is hardly any better. Here in my home state of Pennsylvania, my fellow citizens just elected to the U.S. Senate a billionaire carpetbagger who lives in Connecticut and made many of his billions investing in Chinese firms that supply and strengthen the Chinese military.

The corrupting influence of money in politics is nothing new, but attempts to curb that influence in the course of my lifetime have been completely eliminated. Thanks to *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related court decisions, any and all restrictions on election spending are gone, and thanks to what is called “Dark Money,” donors can give unlimited amounts of cash without even having to report it or say who they’ve given it to.

And the sad truth is that we have come to this sorry state of affairs through the very system and mechanisms we Americans have always considered sacrosanct and foolproof fraud and the obvious choice of DEI initiatives for elimination are indications that improving efficiency is less of a concern than eradicating programs considered to be ideologically incorrect. Additionally, claims that mass layoffs will result in significant cost savings are overblown. Labor costs are a mere four to five percent of the federal budget. As *Fortune Magazine* points out, even a reduction in 25 percent of the workforce would only reduce government spending by one percent. What mass layoffs accomplish, however, is to reduce agencies’ ability to implement programs enacted by law and to constrain overreach by an authoritarian executive, precisely one of the goals of Project 2025 (the Heritage Foundation document that Trump knew nothing about).

Trump is less concerned with

protection against tyranny: the Constitution, that founding document with its separation of powers between three branches of government, and that sets forth the obligations and duties of each of those branches, and incorporating our Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments that contain most of what we think makes us uniquely American.

But what has unfolded over the course of my lifetime, and with dizzyingly accelerating speed in the past decade, has in fact all been perfectly legal. Take for instance, Mitch McConnell’s refusal to allow Barack Obama to nominate a Supreme Court candidate during the last year of his presidency only to allow #45 to appoint one weeks before his election defeat in 2020? Both actions were perfectly legal by the rules set by a Congress elected by the people.

Or how about the filibuster in the U.S. Senate that made it nearly impossible for Obama or Biden to get anything through Congress without making often terrible concessions to obstructionist politicians? Or the two impeachments of #45 that stood zero chance of conviction because of partisan party politics? All perfectly legal under our system of government.

I have frequently heard all sorts of people proclaiming that this action or that action of #47 is “unconstitutional,” but once again, the truth is that only the Supreme Court can ultimately determine what is or is not constitutional, and given the track record of today’s sitting court, I very much doubt these “Justices” are going to rule that anything the Emperor Trump does is going to be deemed unconstitutional.

I wonder how many people real-



ize that Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, and Adolph Hitler all came to power legally, using the mechanisms available to them at the time each came to power. Donald Trump has now done the same thing.

We know, of course, that once Stalin, Mussolini, and Hitler came to power legally, each proceeded to take control of the systems that had abetted them, twisting and distorting what was considered legal until the very concept of legality became a caricature.

We don’t know what the Orange Cheeto will do over the next four years, but I have a bad feeling that it isn’t going to be good for anyone but the sycophants and the oligarchs, and maybe even the sycophants will come to realize they’ve been kissing the wrong ass.

And this brings me back to Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Could we really be doing any worse if our government and its various members were chosen by “some watery tart” throwing swords at them? Given where we find ourselves today, I’m certainly ready to give it a try.

====

W.D. Ehrhart is a retired Master Teacher of History & English, and author of a Vietnam War memoir trilogy published by McFarland.

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Trump’s Thought Police Are Stomping On Freedom of Speech

by Jim Hightower

In *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, Humpty Dumpty autocratically declares that “When I use a word, it means what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.” But, says Alice: “The question is whether you can make words mean so many different things.” To which Humpty retorts: “The question is which is to be master—that’s all.”

Now comes Trumpy Dumpty, asserting that he and his government redefiners are our linguistic masters. For starters, they unilaterally exed out three hallowed words that have historically expressed our people’s proud democratic purpose—diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This month, investigative journalist Judd Legum uncovered dozens of words that partisan Trump functionaries are perverting and purging in a bizarre authoritarian frenzy. Legum even found that NSA, a non-partisan security agency, has now banned its staff from using 27 common words including bias and injustice. It’s as though Trump’s word police think censoring language will hide the ugly realities the words express.

In fact, the control of language is central to the entrenchment of totalitarian regimes, as George Orwell laid out in his bleak novel, *1984*. He wrote about “Newspeak,” “doublethink,” and other linguistic twists as mass propaganda tools that eliminated inconvenient ideas and provided new “truth” for the party faithful to spread. Such manipulation, Orwell says, creates “loyal willingness to say black is white.” Thus, we see the spectacle of Trump blindly signing an executive order titled “Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship”—even as he blatantly censors speech and stomps on our freedoms.

So come on—speak up against such thuggish Orwellian tyranny! For information, go to National Coalition Against Censorship: NCAC.org.

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from previous page

remedying causes of inefficiencies, Musk apparently is willing to cut effective programs in a haphazard smash and destroy campaign.

“Faking it” is a fundamental element of the Musk/Trump strategy for eviscerating the federal bureaucracy. Both Musk and Trump have trumpeted that DOGE has already found billions of dollars in fraud and inefficiency in federal agencies but neither has provided proof of their allegations. Both are inveterate liars. Their claims of fraud and inefficiency are cover for their real intentions. The first agencies targeted by Musk have been those that have long been anathema to far right conservatives (e.g. USAID and the CFPB). The programs that have been described as fraudulent are overwhelmingly DEI related. The lack of evidence of

reducing costs by improving government efficiency than he is in establishing an imperial presidency. By leading DOGE, Musk gains less oversight of his businesses and the freedom to pursue his grandiose ambitions without government restraint. The election of Trump has ceded government to unhinged oligarchs and their far-right minions. The future seems bright for the oligarchy but not for the average American.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:
It’s a damn shame these greedy, short-sighted knuckleheads are blind to the fact that were it not for mutual cooperation, our species would still be prey to carnivores.

The Editor

====

~ Better Old News Than New Lies ~ Municipal Corruption

A correspondent of an out-of-town paper comes to the defense of the present city government in its outrageous conduct of city affairs. There is need enough of defenders, sure, but all the correspondents in the country will not alter the fact that the present is the most extravagant, careless and corrupt in the history of the municipality, and our citizens will be made aware of that fact long before next August. Our little exposure of the way in which the city’s money is being disposed of without anyone knowing anything about it except a few privileged few, and without any warrant shown by the published record of business done in the board of aldermen, evidently struck a tender spot.

The New Hampshire Gazette,
March 3, 1892

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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

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, FEBRUARY 23	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28	SATURDAY, MARCH 1
<p>2016—"I love the poorly educated," Dolt #45 confesses to a mob in Nevada.</p> <p>2008—Because one maintenance crew fails to warn another that humid air confuses its sensors, a \$1.4 billion B-2 bomber crashes in Guam.</p> <p>2004—Rod Paige, U.S. Sec. of Education, calls the nation's largest teachers union a "terrorist organization."</p> <p>1974—Days after presiding over his paper's 100th birthday, and deep in debt to mobsters, <i>Oakland Tribune</i> owner and ex-Sen. William Knowland (R-Calif.), shoots himself dead.</p> <p>1971—Lt. William Calley confesses to mass murder, and says his CO, Capt. Ernest Medina, ordered it.</p> <p>1966—Barry Bondhus dumps human digestive byproduct on draft files in Elk River, Minn. He gets 14 months.</p> <p>1954—Jonas Salk starts disrupting man's natural relationship with polio.</p> <p>1942—The huge [356-foot] Japanese submarine <i>I-17</i> fires more than a dozen 5.5 inch rounds at the Richmond oil refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif.</p> <p>1868—In Great Barrington, Mass., W.E.B. DuBois is born.</p> <p>1775—"Give me liberty, or give me death," says Patrick Henry—or words to that effect. Multiple accounts differ.</p> <p>1669—Diarist Samuel Pepys, visiting Westminster Abbey with his family, kisses and fondles Katherine of Valois, interred more than 200 years earlier.</p> <p>1455—In Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg completes the world's first big print job, <i>i.e.</i>, the Bible.</p>	<p>2001—"My plan reduces the national debt, and fast," says G.W.[MD] Bush. "...economists worry that we're going to run out of debt to retire."</p> <p>1989—Bad door latch design results in nine passengers being sucked out of a Boeing 747 southwest of Hawaii.</p> <p>1988—SCOTUS says it's OK to portray Jerry Falwell drunkenly losing his cherry to his mama in an outhouse.</p> <p>1988—Capitol cops carry Sen. Bob "The Groper" Packwood (R-Ore.) into the Senate to make up a quorum.</p> <p>1942—Turned away from Istanbul, <i>MV Struma</i>, a decrepit hulk carrying 791 Jewish refugees, is torpedoed by a Soviet sub. The 19-year old sole survivor, David Stoliar, lives to be 91.</p> <p>1942—Anti-aircraft guns in Los Angeles fire 1,400 rounds at a weather balloon. Three Angelenos are trampled to death in the resulting panic and dozens more are injured.</p> <p>1922—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt and former British Secretary of State for the Colonies, commits suicide rather than face public accusations of pederasty.</p> <p>1912—On orders from mill owners, Lawrence, Mass. cops beat the hell out of women and children for trying to get on a train to Philadelphia.</p> <p>1836—Rep. and N.H. native Jonathan Cilley [D-Maine], is killed in the 3rd volley of a rifle duel by Rep. William Graves [Whig-Ky].</p> <p>1803—The Supreme Court grabs the power to decide who can do what.</p>	<p>2020—"We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here," says Dolt #45's Kayleigh McEnany. "Isn't that refreshing when contrasting it with the awful [Obama] presidency...?"</p> <p>2011—"[A]ny future Defense Secretary who advises the President to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should have his head examined," says Defense Secretary Gates.</p> <p>1968—"I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war," says Gen. William "Clueless" Westmoreland.</p> <p>1953—President Ike advises vigilance, lest communist teachers sneak propaganda into math problems.</p> <p>1913—The IWW's Paterson, N.J. strike begins. One organizer: Concord, N.H.'s Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.</p> <p>1906—Pianist Nikolay Benurin & comrades rob the Russian State Bank in Helsinki to fund the Revolution.</p> <p>1899—Londoner Edwin Sewell, 31, is the first auto driver to die in a wreck.</p> <p>1870—Hiram R. Revels (R-Miss.) becomes the first Black U.S. Senator.</p> <p>1836—Colt patents the six gun.</p> <p>1836—Joice Heth, formerly exhibited by P.T. Barnum as George Washington's 162 year-old "Mammy," is autopsied in New York City at Barnum's behest before 1,500 paying spectators.</p> <p>1643—Under orders from Willem Kief, Director of New Netherlands, 120 Weckquaesgeek Indians are murdered in their sleep at Pavonia, near present-day Hackensack.</p>	<p>2020—"Within a couple of days, [Covid will be] close to zero. That's a pretty good job we've done." —#45</p> <p>2015—Sen. James Inhofe [R-Okla.] conclusively proves that global warming is a hoax—or that he's an idiot—by brandishing a snowball in the Senate.</p> <p>1993—A truck bomb explodes beneath the World Trade Center in NYC; six are dead, 1,000 injured.</p> <p>1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush admits the U.S. has been supporting the Khmer Rouge.</p> <p>1979—A 328-year old faith which holds that God pays no attention to Earth, and won't until He ends it, dies out along with Philip Noakes, of Kent, England: the last Muggletonian.</p> <p>1974—A Senate report says Ford Motor Co. had close ties with the Nazis.</p> <p>1972—Pittston Coal's cheap-jack dam on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia collapses killing 118, injuring 1,121, and leaving 5,000 homeless. The company ends up paying fines amounting to less than \$15,000 per casualty.</p> <p>1954—Buzzing the courthouse in Huntingdon, Tenn., U.S.A.F. Lieut. Jack Jenkins pulls up too hard. The wings of his C-119 fall off; four on board die, two on the ground are hurt.</p> <p>1913—Congress's Pujio Committee says a handful of men control banks, industries, and the stock market.</p> <p>1860—Egged on by the local newspaper, whites massacre about 150 Wiyot Indians, mostly old men, women, and children, in Humboldt County, Calif.</p>	<p>2019—"I fear that if [Trump] loses the election in 2020," says his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen, "there will never be a peaceful transition of power."</p> <p>2014—Senate Republicans block a bill to fund veterans health care because it would cost too much.</p> <p>2001—Rep. David B. Vitter [R-La.] skips a House vote honoring 28 Desert Storm KIA's to take a call from Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the D.C. Madam.</p> <p>1975—The FDA recalls a batch of 1,241 GE pacemakers—after they've all been implanted.</p> <p>1973—The American Indian Movement occupies Wounded Knee, S.D.</p> <p>1970—<i>New York Times</i> stenographers report that the U.S. Army no longer conducts illegal domestic surveillance. Wasn't true then, probably isn't now.</p> <p>1968—Walter Cronkite says on the <i>CBS Nightly News</i> that "we are mired in stalemate" in Vietnam.</p> <p>1962—Renegade South Vietnamese pilots use U.S. planes to bomb Saigon's Presidential Palace.</p> <p>1938—Britain and France grant diplomatic recognition to General Francisco Franco's fascist government.</p> <p>1933—Nazis burn the Reichstag and blame the fire on Communists.</p> <p>1869—Congress votes not to seat John Willis Menard, winner of a special election. Guess what? He's Black.</p> <p>1859—Rep. Dan Sickles [D-N.Y.] shoots D.C. District Attorney Philip Barton Key II—the son of Francis Scott Key, and his wife's lover.</p>	<p>2024—Nine Free Staters help Dustin Duren, his partner Lyn Naffziger, and their two children to Berlin. The next day he's arrested for murdering her.</p> <p>2003—A former gay male escort begins attending White House press briefings with his official pass issued under the pseudonym "Jeff Gannon."</p> <p>1997—That blue dress gets soiled.</p> <p>1993—The ATF tries to serve a warrant on a religious community in Waco. It does not go well.</p> <p>1947—Hooligans in Taiwan riot over routine government corruption. Koumintang troops—brave anti-Communists—justly massacre thousands.</p> <p>1921—The Kronstadt Rebellion against bolshevism begins in Russia. "Shoot them down like partridges," orders Leon Trotsky.</p> <p>1913—Denied information and cooperation, Congress' Pujio Commission nevertheless finds that a Money Trust runs Wall Street. <i>NY Times</i>: "Move along, nothing to see here."</p> <p>1893—Birth of Ben Hecht, newspaperman and author of <i>The Front Page</i>.</p> <p>1877—The U.S. seizes the Black Hills, in violation of a treaty.</p> <p>1854—A group of political activists meet in Ripon, Wis.; they may or may not have found the GOP.</p> <p>1844—On the Potomac, during a VIP cruise aboard USS <i>Princeton</i>, Secretary of the Navy T.W. Gilmer pulls the lanyard to fire a huge untested gun. It explodes, killing him, the Secretary of State, and four others.</p>	<p>1991—"By God," President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush tells Koch-heads, "we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all."</p> <p>1985—President Reagan insults the Founding Fathers, saying the Contras are their "moral equivalent."</p> <p>1978—The late Charlie Chaplin's tomb is raided by corpse-nappers.</p> <p>1973—Kissinger tells Nixon, "...if they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern." Nixon replies, "I know."</p> <p>1971—The Weather Underground bombs the U.S. Capitol.</p> <p>1954—The "Justice" Department agrees to let the CIA decide which of its crimes should be prosecuted.</p> <p>1954—H-bomb test Castle Bravo delivers thrice its expected yield at Bikini Atoll. Unanticipated winds spread millions of tons of radioactive debris over inhabited islands.</p> <p>1954—Four Puerto Rican nationalists in the Gallery fire 30 rounds towards the floor of the U.S. House, wounding five U.S. Congressmen.</p> <p>1953—Joe Stalin spends the day on the floor in a puddle of urine because his aides don't dare open his door.</p> <p>1910—In Wellington, Wash., an avalanche pushes two trains 150 feet into the Nye River, killing 96.</p> <p>1906—Emma Goldman publishes the first issue of her anarchist newspaper, <i>Mother Earth</i>.</p> <p>1872—Yellowstone, the world's first national park, is created.</p>
<p>7:01 7:50</p>  <p>12:33 1:31</p>	<p>7:59 8:43</p>  <p>1:33 2:26</p>	<p>8:51 9:31</p>  <p>2:29 3:15</p>	<p>9:41 10:15</p>  <p>3:20 4:01</p>	<p>10:27 10:58</p>  <p>4:09 4:44</p>	<p>11:13 11:41</p>  <p>4:57 5:27</p>	<p>11:59</p>  <p>5:44 6:10</p>
SUNDAY, MARCH 2	MONDAY, MARCH 3	TUESDAY, MARCH 4	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5	THURSDAY, MARCH 6	FRIDAY, MARCH 7	SATURDAY, MARCH 8
<p>2004—UN weapons inspectors report that Saddam Hussein didn't have any WMD after all. Oops....</p> <p>1991—At Ramaila, Iraq, under future-MSNBC military analyst Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. 24th Infantry Division kills about ten percent of the 7,000-man 1st Hammurabi Armored Division, two days after the Gulf War cease-fire.</p> <p>1955—The Screen Actors Guild votes to expel any member who takes the Fifth to avoid self-incrimination.</p> <p>1948—The KKK parades and burns crosses in Wrightsville, Ga. None of the town's 400 Black voters show up for a primary election the next day.</p> <p>1942—The U.S. Army tells all Japanese-Americans to move away from the West Coast, for their own good.</p> <p>1877—The Electoral Commission, to which Congress had passed the buck, adopts a plan concocted by newspaper editors and railroad barons: Republicans gets the Presidency, Southern Democrats get white supremacy.</p> <p>1860—Abraham Lincoln visits the Amesokeg mills in Manchester, then speaks at City Hall in Dover.</p> <p>1859—Pierce M. Butler, profligate grandson of a signer of the Constitution, holds a two-day auction in Savannah, Ga. to settle gambling debts. On the block: 439 human beings.</p> <p>1808—At Bladensburg, Md., Rep. Barent Gardiner [F-N.Y.] and Rep. George Washington Campbell [DR-Tenn.] meet to shoot at each other.</p>	<p>2016—Dolt #45 asserts on live TV that his genitalia are adequate.</p> <p>1991—LAPD cops savagely beat Rodney King—on tape, it turns out.</p> <p>1981—Burlington, Vt. elects a new mayor: Socialist Bernie Sanders.</p> <p>1969—An under-manned company of the 4th Division is sent after a crack NVA battalion west of Kontum; result: 47 percent end up KIA or MIA.</p> <p>1934—John Dillinger busts out of the Crown Point, Ind. jail with a hand-carved wooden pistol and drives off in the sheriff's new V-8 Ford.</p> <p>1931—In Laredo, Texas, 17-year old Harlon Carter murders Ramón Casiano, 15, with a shotgun. Sentenced to three years, Carter does two; 46 years later he takes over the NRA.</p> <p>1903—Congress bars entry to whoremongers, epileptics, and anarchists; its own members are not sanctioned.</p> <p>1873—Congress passes the Comstock Act, banning obscenity, contraceptives, abortifacients, and sex toys from the U.S. Mail, and the "Salary Grab Act," giving itself a 50 percent raise, retroactive for two years.</p> <p>1871—Congress passes an act effectively denying that Indian tribes exist: they're all individuals from now on.</p> <p>1863—Congress passes the first U.S. draft law, exempting men who can pay the government a \$300 bribe.</p> <p>1791—Congress passes Hamilton's whiskey tax. It pays tax-free interest to rich bond holders and puts small distillers out of business.</p>	<p>2001—Fox broadcasts a "Lone Gunman" show in which U.S. agents remotely hijack an airliner and try to crash it into the World Trade Center.</p> <p>1987—Ronald Reagan admits trading arms to Iran for hostages.</p> <p>1960—<i>La Coubre</i>, a French munitions ship, explodes in Havana harbor. Between 75 and 100 people die. CIA involvement is "suspected."</p> <p>1937—The UAW wins a sit-down strike in Flint, Mich.</p> <p>1933—"We have nothing to fear," says FDR, "but fear itself."</p> <p>1929—Oscar Stanton de Priest [R-Ill.] becomes the first African-American to take a seat in Congress since Reconstruction.</p> <p>1917—In Congress, Sen. Harry Lane (D-Ore.) prepares to stab Ollie James (D-Ky.) in the neck if James pulls out his pistol; meanwhile, Democrats prevent Sen. Robert La Follette (Progressive Rep.-Wis.) from bashing the presiding officer with a spittoon.</p> <p>1909—President Taft and First Lady Nellie move into the White House. Under the lawn is a voodoo doll of Mrs. Taft, buried by Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice.</p> <p>1849—From noon today until noon on the following day, the U.S. is without a president because Zachary Taylor will not profane the Sabbath.</p> <p>1825—Daring to eschew the Christian Bible, John Quincy Adams takes the Presidential Oath with his hand on a book of Constitutional law.</p> <p>1770—Evil British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.)</p>	<p>2007—In Bloomington, Ill., Dec Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window.</p> <p>2001—A Nor'easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on New Hampshire's Rockingham County.</p> <p>1963—Patsy Cline, singer of "I Fall to Pieces," dies when her plane crashes.</p> <p>1960—Alberto Korda takes "that photo" of Che Guevara.</p> <p>1953—Car thief and armed robber Pearl Miller, on the lam since an escape in 1948, on the FBI's most wanted list for one day, is arrested at a diner in Somersworth, N.H.</p> <p>1953—Everybody dies; this time, to the relief of many, it's Joe Stalin.</p> <p>1933—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a plurality in the Reichstag.</p> <p>1927—One thousand U.S. Marines land in China.</p> <p>1877—A commission run by a railroad tycoon makes "Rutherford" B. Hayes President. Hayes bails out bankrupt railroads and betrays freed Blacks by pulling Federal troops from the South. They're sent North to fight and kill striking railroad workers.</p> <p>1871—Rosa Luxemburg is born.</p> <p>1854—"Know-Nothings" heave a stone given by the Pope for use in the Washington Monument into the Potomac.</p> <p>1770—Evil British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.)</p>	<p>2011—The Hooksett water treatment plant disgorges two million two-inch plastic discs into the Merrimack after heavy rains. By August they're at Campobello Island and Rhode Island Sound, in 2014, the English Channel.</p> <p>2007—Dick "Dick" Cheney's Chief of Staff "Scooter" is found guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice.</p> <p>2003—President George W.[MD] Bush claims Saddam Hussein has "biological and chemical agents" that move "every 12 to 24 hours...in vehicles...in residential neighborhoods."</p> <p>1991—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has ushered in a "new world order."</p> <p>1974—Ayn Rand addresses West Point cadets on the topic, "Philosophy — Who Needs It?"</p> <p>1971—Lawrence Welk's singers perform "One Toke Over the Line," the FCC bans songs that "promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs."</p> <p>1944—The U.S. Army uses napalm for the first time, in Berlin.</p> <p>1919—A gasoline delousing bath at an El Paso jail accidentally burns 26 Mexicans and two whites to death.</p> <p>1918—U.S. Army intelligence officers break into the New York office of the National Civil Liberties Bureau and steal documents.</p> <p>1857—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Dred Scott</i>: "the unhappy [B]lack race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect."</p>	<p>1981—Stabbed at Disneyland, Mel C. Yorba becomes the Magic Kingdom's first murder victim, because Disney employees feared the consequences if they called an ambulance.</p> <p>1965—Civil rights marchers en route to Montgomery try to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. They're mercilessly beaten by law enforcement officers and deputized goons.</p> <p>1960—In front of the <i>Union Leader</i> building, JFK deftly paints the paper as irresponsible and its publisher as a liar. Next day he wins the primary.</p> <p>1953—Newark, N.J. officials publicly burn allegedly lewd photos, movies, and books valued at \$100,000.</p> <p>1932—Dearborn, Mich. cops fire on Ford hunger marchers; five die.</p> <p>1908—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that "women are not physically fit to operate automobiles."</p> <p>1906—Finland's Senate OKs universal suffrage—except for the poor.</p> <p>1905—NYC subway workers strike. The City hires James Farley, the notorious strikebreaker. In a week, his thugs beat workers into submission.</p> <p>1876—Alexander Graham Bell gets a patent for the telephone without having submitted a working model. It is remarkably similar to Elisha Gray's previously-submitted design.</p> <p>1850—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate, argues that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their ownership of the enslaved.</p>	<p>1985—A joint U.S./U.K./Saudi operation detonates a 440 lb. car bomb in Beirut; 83 innocent civilians die. The target—also innocent—is unscathed.</p> <p>1983—Ronald Reagan runs the phrase "evil empire" up the flagpole.</p> <p>1973—President Nixon gripes to Al Haig, "What the hell's Agnew doing? He's never spoken up once on this Goddamn [Watergate] thing."</p> <p>1971—The Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau's Media, Pa. office, obtaining 1,000+ documents revealing COINTELPRO. The Bureau fails to find the perps. [See 1956.]</p> <p>1965—The first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Danang ready to fight. Vietnamese girls greet them with flowers.</p> <p>1956—At a meeting of the National Security Council, J. Edgar Hoover proposes a measure to include warrantless wiretapping and break-ins: COINTELPRO. Despite the illegalities, Ike and his A.G. say, "OK."</p> <p>1906—Winchester, N.H. native Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood proudly surveys the results of his illegal order: 900 Filipinos of all ages and genders, massacred in a volcanic crater. TR later calls it "a brilliant feat of arms [upholding] the honor of the American flag."</p> <p>1782—After granting them a night of prayer, Pennsylvania militiamen massacre and scalp 96 captive Christian Lenape Indians, men, women, and children, at Gnadenhütten, Ohio.</p>
<p>6:32 6:54</p> 	<p>7:22 7:39</p> 	<p>8:13 8:28</p> 	<p>9:09 9:21</p> 	<p>10:10 10:21</p> 	<p>11:17 11:27</p> 	<p>12:28</p> 

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