

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Trump (Nearly) Exonerated!

In compliance with a bold and decisive order from Donald J. Trump, the 45th and 47th President of the United States of America, on Tuesday the National Archives made the greatest-ever release of formerly-classified documents regarding the horrible, really bad murder of one of his many, many less-great predecessors, specifically, John F. Kennedy.

Obviously, like so many bold moves from this unprecedented President, this truly terrific release had an immediate, and really, really strong impact—as one might expect from a Chief Executive who single-handedly forged a whole New Frontier in declassification, despite constant opposition by a bunch of rotten, corrupt, biased bureaucrats and so-called judges.

In keeping with our reputation for hard-hitting, let the chips fall where they may journalism, while still hoping to somehow retain our ability to perform our unique brand of journalism during a time when far better-funded rags than ours are scurrying for cover like frightened vermin, we called upon, for the first time, the very latest in technological advances to ask the most important and most pertinent question possible.

The question we posed to *iAsk.ai* was this:

“Do the JFK documents released by the National Archives on Tuesday include any evidence suggesting that Donald J. Trump was involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy?”

Without wishing to blow our own horn—because few things are so vulgar and distasteful as to constantly be seen bragging and boasting and generally claiming to be somehow superior, particularly when all the available evidence seems to suggest otherwise—we’ll point out here that, by asking this question, we have demonstrated, in our own small way, the sort of courage that, if we had better connections, might result in an award. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, for example, just to throw out one possibility.

After all—what if *iAsk.ai* sifted through those 63,000 pages and replied, “Ooh, you’re in trouble now. It looks like...,” followed by a bunch of links to incriminating documents? If that were the case we could no doubt look forward to a black bag over the head and a rough flight to Cuba.

Fortunately, we were spared. *iAsk.ai* replied:

“After reviewing the content and context of the recently released JFK documents from the National Archives, it can be concluded that there is no evidence suggesting that Donald J. Trump was involved in

the assassination of President John F. Kennedy... .

Great, huh? We don’t know about you, dear reader, but we’re relieved... wait a second.

“Probability that this answer is correct: 95 percent.”

Uh-oh. Joke’s on us. So much for our brilliant plan of using this document release—the latest distraction from the ongoing assault on the U.S. Constitution—to buy a little leniency from the Justice Department. According to the latest whizbang technology, there’s a five percent chance that 17-year old Donald J. Trump went AWOL from the New York Military Academy and whacked JFK. Gitmo, here we come.

May as well be hanged for a sheep as for a goat, so let’s dig a little deeper into this document release.

Last month the man some call the Mango Mussolini purged Biden appointees from the Kennedy Center’s Board of Trustees. The new Board then annointed him Chairman, giving him the run of the joint.

Monday he put it to use, for a grandiose photo op worthy of Il Duce: The Donald, surrounded by comforting Republican red, standing in the Presidential Box, high above the camera, in an auditorium occupied only by his hand-picked Trustees, so no booing... . A moment of True Greatness, no doubt.

Video shows the President inaudibly conferring with aides shortly there after. Before he left the venue, looking somber, he made his surprise announcement.

The JFK document plan had long been in the works. Citing an all-night scramble by Justice Department lawyers to prepare the documents for actual release, James

Li, who reports for Breaking Point, suggests the last-minute panic was prompted by Israel’s pending attack on Gaza.

“Here, you enemies of the people—focus on this while we cut orders to send three aircraft carriers to the Middle East.”

It’s all a bit worrisome—or would be, were we not being Presidented by a Stable Genius.™ If only... .

In other news, Trump, incensed by a judge meddling with his mass deportations, disobeyed the judge’s order and posted: “This Radical Left Lunatic of a Judge [Ninety-two erratically CaPitalized words deleted for brevity. – The Ed.] should be IMPEACHED!!!”

From his bunker, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote, “impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision... .”

Trump’s inner four-year old, lightly dusted with cookie crumbs, shrugged, “[Roberts] didn’t mention my name.”



### Who Rules Claremont? Locals Citizens? Or Out-of-State Money?

A former Mayor of Claremont has asked us to consider covering an out-of-state corporation’s plan to build, on a one-acre site in that city, a processing facility that would handle 500 tons of construction and demolition debris daily.

We have neither the resources, nor the inclination, to comply with every such request, this case seems clear enough, and the underlying issues grave enough, that we could not resist. Besides, the former mayor’s email practically does the job for us:

“For years Acuity, an out-of-state business, has tried to get Claremont’s approval to expand its recycling operation into a transfer station for tons of construction and demolition material that would be trucked into the City daily. On multiple occasions Claremonters have said NO due to the inappropriateness of the site location and negative impact to the community. Despite this public outcry, Acuity sued the City and requested that N.H. DES [N.H. Department of Environmental Services] grant a major modification to its permit issued decades ago.

“On March 6th, N.H. DES held a hearing to gather public comment and the response was overwhelming. Over

400 people from Sullivan County attended with nearly 50 speaking in opposition, including two local teenagers who spoke eloquently against the proposal. Only Acuity representatives stood in support.

“This story has moved beyond the issue of local/regional interests versus out-of-state business interests. It is a story that is galvanizing all ages to act. Why? Because, young or old, the people of Sullivan County understand the threat that this proposed project poses to one’s quality of life. What that means may vary from person to person. What is evident among the young, is that they must act now if they are to protect their quality of life and the health of their community in the years to come.

“With a public hearing so well attended and nearly 500 individuals signing an on-line petition, interest in this from Granite Staters continues to grow.

“Additional information on this proposed project can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/say-no-to-acuity/home>.

“Thank you for considering my request.

“Charlene Lovett, Former Mayor of Claremont (2016–2021)”

According to the website referenced above,

“Acuity’s proposal would result in the daily arrival of 70 trucks, transporting hazardous materials such as lead, asbestos, mercury, and PFAS through our roads, past our schools, and through our neighborhoods. This poses a significant health risk, exposing our community to poisonous substances. The proposed site would handle over 3 million pounds of imported material, located close to 400 homes and the Maple Avenue Elementary School.”

Local land-use boards threw out Acuity’s proposal because it did not meet the community’s standards. With money at stake—and money to spare—the company has devised a stratagem to defy the community: It is asking N.H. DES to modify a permit, issued to a subsidiary 38 years ago, in a way that would effectively overrule the local boards.

If Acuity succeeds in Claremont, that would seem to set a precedent.

A petition in support of the town may be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/say-no-to-acuity/home>.

The site also has details for submitting written comments to N.H. DES, which are due March 27th.

### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

#### Pronounced a Fake

The despatch printed in Friday’s Boston *Herald* and purporting to come from this city in relation to the operatives of the Portsmouth shoe factory secretly joining the Knights of Labor, is pronounced a fake, and several prominent employees [sic, passim] of the company assert that there is not a word of truth in it, and that the only society which the members are joining to any extent is the United Order of American Mechanics, a friendly and beneficiary society which has no affiliation whatever with any labor organization... .

The largest cod fish ever taken in Ipswich bay was brought to this port Saturday by the schooner *Gardner W. Tarr*. The fish weighed one hundred and twenty pounds.

#### Put Asunder

Twelve divorces were decreed at the January term of the supreme court for Rockingham county, just ended at Exeter, as follows: [adultery, 2; abandonment, 6; drunkenness, 1; extreme cruelty, 2; habitual drunkenness, 1].

#### At It Again

We should advise our enterprising contemporary, the *Biddeford Journal*, when copying our York county

correspondence to keep the letters from different towns, separate, as a jumble of North Kittery and south Eliot items does not read exactly right.

The bill to abolish the scientific experiments upon living criminals, known as electrical executions, should become a law, says the *New York Press*. While the gallows has barbarous associations, it is merciful and decent compared with the experiments of which the public has had a glimpse at Sing Sing.

## Neo-Feudalism: the Enemy the Left Must Name to Defeat

by Vinnie Rotondaro

In 1776, America declared independence not just from a king, but from an entire feudal order. The promise was radical: no more lords and vassals, no more aristocratic monopolies, no more inherited rule. It was a vision of self-governance, economic freedom, and political democracy.

As we know, this promise was deeply flawed from the outset—built atop the brutal reality of chattel slavery, which entrenched a racial caste system even as the revolution sought to break from feudal hierarchy.

Still, the revolutionary spark—that governance should belong to the people, not an inherited elite—set a course for future struggles, from abolition to labor rights to civil rights. The unfinished promise of 1776 has always been to extend that right to everyone, dismantling old forms of domination wherever they persist.

Yet nearly 250 years later, we find ourselves under the shadow of a system that eerily resembles the one we once revolted against. Power is no longer held by monarchs but by corporate oligarchs and billionaire dynasties. The vast majority of Americans—trapped in cycles of debt, precarious labor, and diminishing rights—are not citizens in any meaningful sense.

We talk around this reality. We call it “money in politics,” “corporate influence,” and “economic inequality.” But these are symptoms, not the disease. The disease is neo-feudalism—a system in which power is entrenched, inherited, and designed

to be impossible to escape. And unless we call it by its true name, we will never build the movement needed to fight it.

Feudalism may have faded in name, but many of its structures remain. Today’s hierarchy mirrors the past in ways we can no longer ignore.

**Then:** Lords owned the land, and peasants worked under their control.

**Now:** A handful of corporations and investment firms own vast swaths of housing, farmland, and industry.

**Then:** Aristocracies passed power down through hereditary privilege.

**Now:** Dynastic billionaires and corporate monopolies ensure that wealth remains concentrated in a ruling class.

**Then:** The peasantry was bound to their lords by custom, debt, and necessity.

**Now:** Student debt, medical bills, and stagnant wages trap entire generations in perpetual economic dependence.

**Then:** Political power was controlled by a small elite who ruled by divine right.

**Now:** The illusion of democracy masks the fact that billionaires fund both parties, controlling policy no matter who is elected.

This is not the free society America was supposed to be. It is a highly stratified system in which the many serve the interests of the few, with no meaningful path to real power. And worse, the establishment left—rather than challenging this order—has come to represent it.

The Democratic Party was once the party of the working class. Today, it has become the party of the professional-managerial elite—the

bureaucrats, consultants, and media figures who believe that governing is their birthright.

The establishment left has in many ways absorbed the role of the aristocracy—not just in terms of wealth but in the way it positions itself as the enlightened ruling class. They claim to stand for “equity” and “democracy,” yet do nothing to challenge the real structures of power.

Instead, they manage decline while maintaining their own privilege—careful not to upset the donor class that sustains them.

As newly elected Democratic National Committee Chair Ken Martin put it, “There are a lot of good billionaires out there that have been with Democrats, who share our values, and we will take their money. But we’re not taking money from those bad billionaires.”

Pronouncements from global elites certainly don’t help either. The now-infamous slogan “You’ll own nothing and be happy”—popularized by the World Economic Forum and widely interpreted as a blueprint for a hyper-managed future—only fuels growing resentment toward an emerging system where ownership, autonomy, and mobility are increasingly out of reach for the average person.

This is why figures like Steve Bannon and reactionary populists have hijacked the narrative of neo-feudalism. Despite his own ties to oligarchs, Bannon has correctly identified that America is no longer

a capitalist democracy but a feudal order where power is locked away from ordinary people.

He explicitly frames this crisis as a return to feudal hierarchy: “The ‘hate America’ crowd... they believe in some sort of techno-feudal situation, like was in Italy, back in the 14th and 15th century... where they are like a city-state, and there are a bunch of serfs that work for them. Not American citizens, but serfs, indentured servants.”



He has also drawn direct comparisons between modern economic conditions and serfdom: “Here’s the thing with millennials, they’re like 19th-century Russian serfs. They’re in better shape, they have more information, they’re better dressed. But they don’t own anything.”

However, Bannon’s solution—a nationalist strongman government—represents just another form of vassalage.

Reactionary populists like Bannon, President Donald Trump, and Tucker Carlson exploit real economic grievances and redirect them into a revenge narrative. Instead of seeing neo-feudalism as a system that transcends party or nationality—one that has evolved from medieval serfdom to corporate vassalage—they reframe it as a nationalist grievance.

Bannon likens “globalists” (an ambiguous term) to feudal overlords, but insists that nationalism can break their grip. Trump labels the deep state and liberal elites as

the enemy, but assumes the role of a strongman to restore justice. Carlson says the working class is being crushed, but blames cultural elites rather than the billionaire class as a whole.

This misdirection is key. Rather than exposing the true architects of neo-feudalism—corporate monopolists, financial barons, and entrenched dynasties—these reactionaries redirect public anger toward an amorphous “cultural aristocracy” of media figures, academics, and bureaucrats. The real oligarchs escape scrutiny, while the working class is fed a narrative that pits them against cultural elites rather than the economic structures that keep them in servitude.

The only way forward is to complete the unfinished revolution against feudalism—not through reactionary nationalism, but through systemic transformation. The fight against neo-feudalism must be reclaimed by a left willing to challenge entrenched power at its roots, not merely manage decline.

The question is no longer whether neo-feudalism exists. The question is whether the left will finally recognize it—and act before it’s too late. If it fails, the fight will be lost to those who see the problem but offer only deeper subjugation as the solution.

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Vinnie Rotondaro is a doctoral student at the California Institute of Integral Studies. His work has appeared in Vox, Vice, and Narratively. This work was published at CommonDreams, and is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

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Our Wandering Photographer recently caught this glimpse of a grizzled old sea captain casting a weather eye over Portsmouth Harbor. [Muttering from the next desk over.] Ahem... apparently the dark vertical object at center right of this photo is not a retired seafarer, but a potted plant.

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### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

The infliction of cruelty promotes a taste for cruelty without exercising any deterrent effect, so far as criminal statistics afford any indication. The electrical execution law should follow other forms of torture into oblivion.

#### Kittery

There is not much news around our village but if there is anything happens [sic] that will make an item of news, it is sure to be *Chronicle*, *Posted*, and *Timed*.

*New Hampshire Gazette*  
 March 24, 1892

#### A Libel

Portsmouth never had any great love for water but we did not anticipate the extent of her antipathy thereto. Having given up her best fountains to be used in making beer, to supplant water on the inside, she is now

to have a factory for the production of macintoshes and waterproofs to keep the water from the outside. — *Manchester Press*.

#### Plaistow Happenings

Plaistow has been cursed for a long time with a number of road houses, and a determined effort was made some time ago to break them up and for a time this effort seemed to prove successful, but the men who control them are powerful in their influence with the lowest and degraded sort of voters and they have determined to have things their own way, so at the last town meeting they made a grand rally and by the aid of a number of French Canadians and other unnaturalized foreigners, came very near carrying the town. They were defeated, however, by a close vote, and since the election the illegal voting of these foreigners has formed the general topic of conversation,

and evidence of perjury and illegal voting has been procured in half a dozen or more cases, and a long petition has been signed by the leading residents asking Attorney General Eastman to assist in the prosecution of the offenders. The appeal is made to Mr. Eastman inasmuch as the petitioners have no confidence in the county solicitor’s prosecution of political offenders where the offenders are voters of the democratic ticket.

Chief of Police Watkins, with Officers Seavers and Georges raided one of the road houses in this town, Saturday night, March 19th, and seized some wine and other liquors and also the proprietor of the house, one French, who offered resistance to the officers. Several men were sitting at a table drinking as

Better Old News

to next page

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*'Dark Day for American Democracy'*

# Alarm Over Trump DOJ Speech

by Jessica Corbett

**U.S.** President Donald Trump's campaign-like speech at the Department of Justice on Friday sparked a fresh wave of alarm over the Republican's attacks on his critics, disrespect for the rule of law, and plans for his second term.

Trump—who was convicted of 34 felonies in New York before returning to the White House—slammed his perceived opponents as “scum” and “thugs,” called efforts to hold him accountable for alleged criminal activity “bullshit,” and declared: “We will expel the rogue actors and corrupt forces from our government. We will expose... their egregious crimes and severe misconduct.”

Trump's appearance with U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi and props promoting drug enforcement displayed his intent to remake the federal judiciary and fueled speculation that he will appoint Florida-based District Judge Aileen Cannon, who dismissed the classified documents case against him, to the nation's Supreme Court.

“Some of the most hallowed halls of justice in America were disgraced by the president of the United States, who has inappropriately installed his personal lawyers and

other loyalists into leadership roles at the Department of Justice,” said Lena Zwarenstejn, senior director of the fair courts program and an adviser at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

“This reinforces what we knew: The independence of the department has been compromised. During his remarks, the president sought to undermine faith in our judicial system, attacked lawyers who support due process and the rule of law, and made it clear that he expects the attorney general and other leaders to use the full force and resources of the Justice Department to roll back our civil and human rights, target his enemies, and operationalize a worldview that perpetuates white supremacy,” she said. “The anti-immigrant rhetoric that both he and the attorney general used was reprehensible and unacceptable.”

Zwarenstejn stressed that “in our democracy, Justice Department lawyers—including the attorney general—are the people's lawyers, not the president's lawyers, and they have a sacred duty to enforce our nation's laws without prejudice and with an eye toward justice. The DOJ must be seen by the public—every member, from every community—as fair and independent arbiters of our legal



system. Today's appearance at the DOJ by the president, during which he thanked and called out his appointees and personal lawyers, will further tarnish the public's trust of the department and undermine our democracy.”

“This cannot be the way that the DOJ—the nation's signature agency for the enforcement of our federal civil rights laws—functions moving forward. We need a DOJ that is working for the people, not the president, and we demand better of our federal government and its leaders,” she concluded, calling on the Senate to reject his nomination of Harmeet Dhillon to a key department post.

One of Trump's targets during the speech was Norm Eisen, who was involved with the president's first impeachment and previously served as White House special counsel for ethics and government reform, U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic,

and board chair of the watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).

Eisen responded with a video on social media, highlighting his work with State Democracy Defenders Action, which he co-founded.

ACLU executive director Anthony Romero said in a statement that “Ambassador Norman Eisen is a great American patriot, with an extraordinary career in public service. He has served the American people for decades inside and outside of government. He has worked to defend democracy at home and abroad.”

“It is a sad day when the president of the United States personally attacks an individual of such character,” Romero continued. “When charitable organizations like CREW, the ACLU, and others sue the federal government to uphold the law, we are playing a vital role in

upholding American values.”

The ACLU leader also warned that “it's increasingly clear that we're entering a modern McCarthy moment. When the government is targeting a former ambassador, a legal permanent resident, law firms, and even universities and treating them like enemies of the state, it is a dark day for American democracy.”

Since Trump returned to power in January, his administration has not only empowered billionaire Elon Musk to dismantle the federal government but also targeted news outlets, student protesters, and education institutions while signaling a willingness to ignore court orders—fueling calls for Congress to hit him with a historic third impeachment.

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*Jessica Corbett is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).*



Officer Murph of the Flag Police alleges that the above is a true and accurate depiction of the flag at the Kittery Point town dock. While we have not corroborated that assertion, we have no reason to doubt it.

**Old News**

*from previous page*

Chief Watkins entered and walked over to the table to take possession of the bottle, when French came from behind and struck Watkins a severe blow in the face. A struggle ensued and it took the exertion of the three officers to arrest him and

take him to the police station. Much credit is due to the chief and his men for making the arrest, as French is a large and powerful man, and one of the worst characters the officers have to deal with.

The town of Plaistow has the best police force this year is has had for a number of years and they are determined to close the houses of ill fame

and will stop the sale of intoxicating liquors within the limits of the town.

A dramatic entertainment entitled “Ruined By Drink,” was given in the Town hall, Saturday, under the auspices of the recently organized Hunkins Cornet band, and was followed by a dance...

*New Hampshire Gazette*  
 March 31, 1892

**Beware of Cruise Ships**  
 - a Bar Harbor reader

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
 “Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?”  
 - Joseph Welch, (1890-1960) chief counsel, U.S. Army, during McCarthy hearings

“Such is the pinnacle of civilization, the end point of centuries of increasing affluence: lonely people in boxes, living in a world of strangers, dependent on money, enslaved in debt—and incinerating the planet's natural and social capital to stay that way.”  
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 - Charles Eisenstein, *Sacred Economics*

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**Trump's Dangerous Attacks on Veterans**  
Dear Editor:

This week, a memo from the Veterans Administration (VA) indicated that it plans to cut 83,000 employees to comply with Mr. Trump's orders to slash the federal government. (*Military.com*) These cuts are on top of the few thousand VA jobs already cut, along with hundreds of contracts that support veterans' health care.

These cuts will have devastating effects on thousands of New Hampshire veterans who rely on the VA for their health care, including members of the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. In addition, about 25 percent of the VA workforce are veterans, many who have already lost their jobs. These cuts could impact the VA Hospital in Manchester as well as the VA Outpatient Clinics at Pease, Conway, Keene, Littleton, Somersworth and Tilton. The cuts will result in the inability to receive needed care, long wait times for care that is still available, patients getting sicker while they wait for care, increased costs to treat more advanced disease, and serious mental health consequences due to the inability to obtain mental health care or access the VA crisis hotline. Lives will be lost, and families will be devastated as a result of these heartless cuts.

There is a great deal of irony involved here. Many of the veterans who will be affected are disabled, many as a result of combat related injuries. How ironic that the man calling for these cuts avoided military service during Vietnam by getting a doctor who rented office space from his father to diagnose him with bone spurs granting him a questionable medical deferment. And what is even more ironic is that the same man, who called fallen heroes "losers and suckers," now can obtain the best medical care that the military has to offer.

This is nothing less than a national disgrace and every American should be ashamed of how our government has betrayed those who sacrificed so much for the gain of those who have sacrificed nothing. And our Governor, Kelly Ayotte, who supported Trump, remains silent as thousands of her citi-

zens have their lives put at risk.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*Disgraceful treatment of veterans is one of mankind's most ancient traditions. Our U.S. Revolutionary soldiers were paid in scrip which, after the war, was nearly worthless. Broke veterans sold their scrip for pennies on the dollar to survive. Speculators bought it up by the bale and made fortunes when Hamilton redeemed it at face value.*

*VA hospitals in the early 1970s were filthy and rat-infested. Since then—largely because a new era of veterans would not stand for that kind of treatment—conditions improved greatly.*

*Republicans, once expert at giving lip service to vets, began to drop their façade in 2004. Remember the Purple Heart band-aids at the GOP convention?*

*Today's assault on veterans signals the completion of the Republican project to de-democratize the U.S. government. Those who hold the power are acting as if they no longer need to fear mere citizens.*

*Shut out of power thanks to bought elections, gerrymandering, bad court decisions, and a neutered press, citizens have a choice: knuckle under, or show the politicians they have miscalculated.*

The Editor

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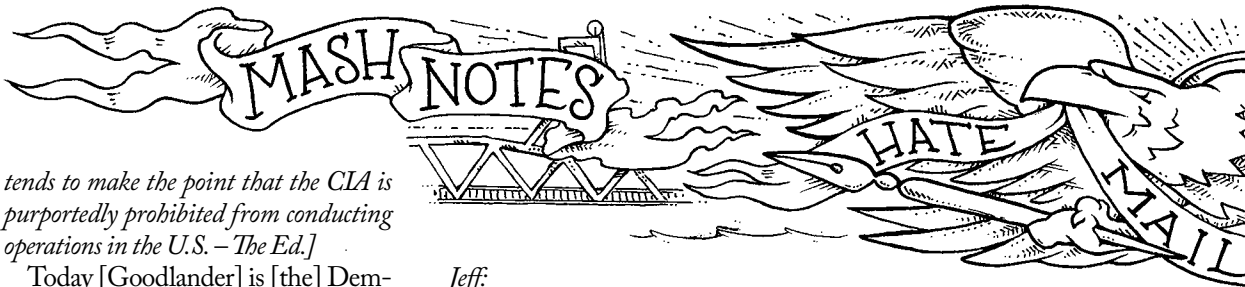
**Is Rep. Goodlander Ex-CIA?**

To the Editor:

Maggie Goodlander's resume has all the signs of a CIA intel officer. If that is true, she must disclose it today:

As a Yale grad, a recruiting university for the CIA, Goodlander has all the pedigree signs of the CIA. Remember George Bush Senior, a Yale grad, was the former Director of the CIA.

"Goodlander served as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve and worked as a foreign policy advisor in the United States Senate. After law school, she was a law clerk for Chief Judge Merrick Garland and Justice Stephen Breyer. She served as counsel on the House Judiciary Committee during the first impeachment of Donald Trump." [*Here Frost quotes Wikipedia. —The Ed.*] CIA can only deal with foreign intelligence operations legally. [*Frost apparently in-*



tends to make the point that the CIA is purportedly prohibited from conducting operations in the U.S. — The Ed.]

Today [Goodlander] is [the] Democrats' pick for the Arms [Armed] Services Committee. Yes, this is just my opinion, but it follows the "TDS" [Trump Derangement Syndrome] and hate the Deep State backed by shadow sources embedded in our federal government that are used to go after people like Trump that get in the way of control. [*With this sentence, our ability to make sense of Frost's text fails us. — The Ed.*]

The constitution [sic] prohibits dual jobs for elected officials. If my suspicions have substance, the public would still need to know their representative's complete background. "Former CIA Officers" had no problems deceiving the public before the 2020 election regarding Hunter Biden's laptop; I doubt they changed their character when they were active.

What do we know about Maggie Goodlander? She has, and will most likely be, an attack person against Trump given her willingness to impeach him for doing his duty under the Foreign Aid Act not to support corrupt countries like Ukraine. Or, at the very least, get a president's, Zelenskyy at the time, commitment to investigating known problems no matter where they exist, even if a high-ranking U.S. politician is involved. Goodlander, a trained lawyer, volunteered to go after someone on evidence no criminal court would recognize—hearsay second-hand opinions of a call—accusations. It tells her political bent and tactics to create and support a coup d'état of a sitting elected President.

I think it appears obvious Goodlander will vote 'only' the party leaders'—Pelosi's—obstructing agenda against our interests in reforming our government back to our Bill of Rights.

Jeff Frost  
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeff:

*Thanks for dialing down the verbosity and taking a stab at coherency, thereby making it possible for us to address this mix of facts, fantasy, and paranoia.*

*You have successfully established that a Venn diagram of Goodlander's career overlaps in places with the profile of a generic officer in a U.S. clandestine service—which proves nothing.*

*The rest of your letter does establish that you believe Trump's canon of lies about Ukraine. We can't help you with that.*

*Also: It's time to update your Villains List—Pelosi turned the party over to Hakeem Jeffries on January 3rd.*

The Editor

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**U.S. Foreign Policy Flip-Flops**

To the Editor:

For nearly a century, the United States has sided with democracies around the world. Recently, we watched the president and vice president of the United States switch sides on an ally, Ukraine, in the middle of a war. They adopted Russia's talking points, even claiming that Ukraine started the war with its invader. If Putin wished to destroy NATO, separate the U.S. from its allies and oust the U.S. from its position as leader of the free world, he could do no better.

This development marks the end of the United States as the leader of the free world, a place we have held since WWII. It is in line with recent decisions of the administration to end USAID, to cut off all aid to Ukraine, including aid to keep its power grid operational, to levy tariffs on imports from our allies, and to fire those JAG officers who advise as to international and military law.

The result is that our allies will no longer trust us, and our enemies have learned they can manipulate us. This makes the world less safe, especially for the U.S. We will be isolated and

weakened for decades to come. The American people must come together and demand better.

Lorriane L. Hansen  
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorriane:

*Anyone who predicted in, say, 2016, that Trump would take U.S. foreign policy in this direction would have been buried under a mountain of mockery. And yet, here we are.*

*This situation defies explanation—and therefore engenders speculation. Do the answers lie in the Epstein Files?*

The Editor

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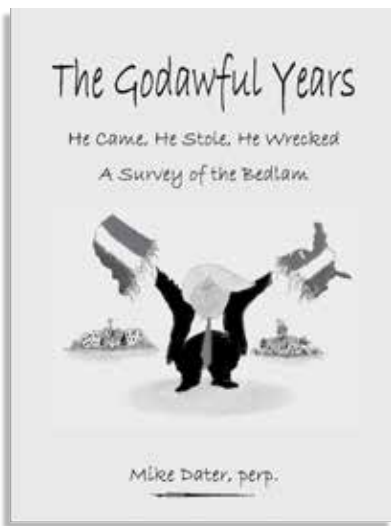
**Trump's Goal: An Imperial Presidency**

To the Editor:

Strategies may be formulated in two modes: deliberate and emergent. Deliberate strategy is a rational process of crafting long-term goals, developing plans designed to achieve those goals and allocating resources to implement the plans. It is how most people think of "planning." Emergent strategies are found in environments characterized by uncertainty or rapid change where the traditional planning model is ineffective. It is not determined by a formal process of planning; instead, it searches for opportunities that may appear in fluid and unpredictable contexts. Successful emergent strategies rely on principles and values to guide decisions under conditions of uncertainty. These strategies are usually driven from the bottom up and often rely on a strong organizational culture to provide direction rather than top-down commands. Emergent strategy that is guided by a stable culture in touch with its external context can be effective and innovative but when it becomes reactive, driven by a rigid ideology or the idiosyncratic whims of an autocratic leader, it usually fails, leaving the organization adrift without

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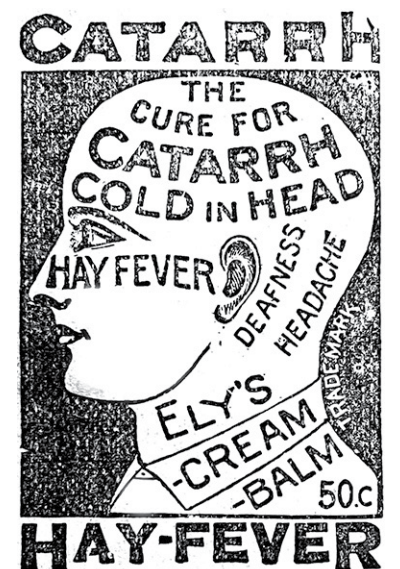
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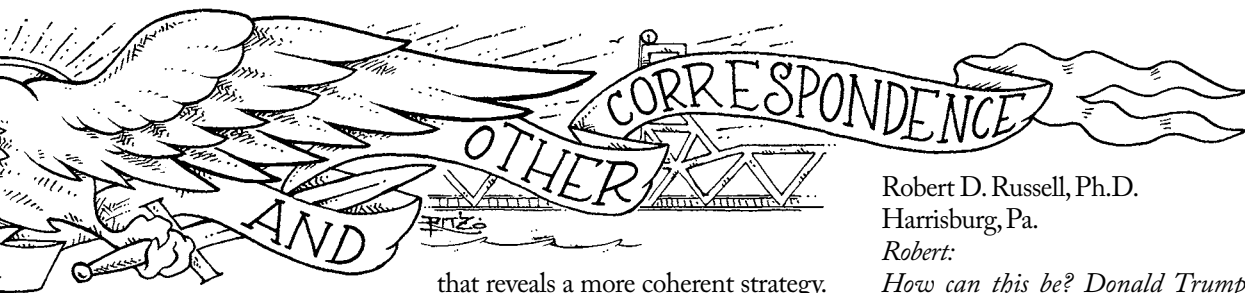
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Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

*How can this be? Donald Trump assured us that he knew nothing about Project 2025! Of course, his denial only came after people began learning what was in it. Now that it's being enacted, that lying denial can be filed alongside his other falsehoods.*

*Paul Dans directed Project 2025 from its founding until his firing last July. The Heritage Foundation said at the time he was fired for "repeated incidents of professional misconduct and mistreatment of colleagues." Months later the right wing propaganda mill called stories based on its own statements "false and misleading."*

*As the late, great Paul Krassner said, "The truth is Silly Putty."*

The Editor

====

**Let Us Consider the Source**

To the Editor:

"The consolidation of power at the federal level in the guise of public safety is a national trend and should be guarded against at all costs. This erosion of rights, however incremental, is the slow death of freedom. We have reached a point where the power of the federal government is such that they can essentially target anyone of their choosing. Recent allegations that government agencies may have targeted political opponents should alarm all Americans, regardless of party affiliation. Revisionist views of the Constitution by opportunistic politicians and unelected judges with agendas that re-interpret the Bill of Rights to take power away from the people and consolidate it at the federal level threaten the core principles of the republic. As a free people, keeping power in check is something that should be of concern to us all. The fundamental value of freedom is what sets us apart from the rest of the world. We are citizens, not subjects, and we must stay ever vigilant that we remain so."

Jack Carr, 8/6/17, Park City, Utah

The above narrative is from the preface of U.S. Navy SEAL, Ret. author Jack Carr's novel, *The Terminal List*. It struck me as a clear and concise statement of current events worthy of sharing with you and all rational Americans.

George Patnaude  
Merrimack, N.H.

George:

*Carr assumes the pose of an alert patriot, concerned that others may not be aware of clear and present dangers. Note, though, that he uses nothing but abstract language.*

*Who is doing the government's targeting? Who are the targets? We can attest that since FDR died, the government's targets have mostly been on the left.*

*We recently watched two episodes of Amazon's adaptation of Carr's "The Terminal List." Surprise, surprise: its purported hero, betrayed by his superiors, is forced to "do his own research," which causes him to conclude that, if justice is going to be served, it's up to him to dish it out.*

*Carr's code sounds to us like an excuse for brownshirts to, as Trump has said, "do whatever the hell they like."*

The Editor

====

**Which Side Is He On?**

To the Editor:

Soon after Pete Hegseth became Secretary of Defense, he fired the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff because he was African American and the head of the Navy because she was a woman. By law, the Chairman must be a four-star general or admiral. President Trump's pick to replace the Chairman is a retired three-star general. This is a clear case of firing a highly qualified person of color to promote a white male who does not even meet the minimum standards. In short, the three-star general is a DEI hire in reverse.

These actions send a message to women and minorities that they can expect less qualified white males to be promoted over them. Women and minorities make up 40 percent of the military. Telling them they have to be much more qualified than white men to advance is a bad message to send.

It makes our country less safe as well. Maybe that is the point. If you look at the people Trump has appointed with the goal of destroying the departments they head, one has to conclude this is not about making America great, but weak. Given how often Trump talks to Vladimir Putin, one should ask, is his goal to help Russia instead of us?

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth, N.H.

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**Kennedy—So, So Wrong on Measles**

Dear Editor:

As the disastrous measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico continues to spread, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. continues to spout misinformation about measles, relating it to diet and exercise. He continues to downplay this outbreak, claiming that there were 16 outbreaks last year and only two this year. That is true but very misleading. The 16 outbreaks last year were very small, some as few as three cases. The current outbreak in Texas and New Mexico already has many more cases than last year's 16 outbreaks, and it is still far from being under control. As of March 8th, there were 198 confirmed cases in Texas, with 23 hospitalizations and one death. In New Mexico there have been 30 documented cases, with one death. There are reports of MMR vaccine shortages in Texas, hindering control measures.

The major cause of this outbreak is the large increase in the number of parents who decline to have their children immunized. This is directly related to the anti-vaccine movement, for which Mr. Kennedy was a major spokesman. For years, Mr. Kennedy has promoted mis- and dis-information regarding vaccines, especially the MMR vaccine. He has promoted the bogus and discredited claims that the MMR vaccine causes autism. Now, many children and their families are paying the price for his ignorance.

Measles is a very serious disease. One in five unvaccinated children need to be hospitalized, and almost 20

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

effective direction.

Experience shows that Trump has little ability for deliberate strategy-making. This was illustrated during the presidential debates when he could not describe his plan to improve healthcare (although he claimed to have "concepts" for a plan). Most of his decisions have been disconnected from reality, driven by narcissism, ignorance and vengeance seeking. His tariff policy is inconsistent and based on falsehoods. He has claimed that tariffs will make America "rich" through payments from foreign governments or producers, ignoring the fact that tariffs are paid by U.S. importers and the added cost is almost always passed on to the American consumer through price increases. Moreover, his broad-based tariffs will affect U.S. producers that import raw materials or components, further increasing costs and prices. Trump also claims that tariffs will re-build U.S. manufacturing capacity. Although targeted tariffs can be effective in temporarily protecting critical industries, they need to be predictable and part of a broader strategy that facilitates investment and stimulates competition in the protected industry. The haphazard, on again, off again application of tariffs as a bargaining tool against Canada and Mexico simply does not make sense. It adds uncertainty to an already confused situation, alienating two of our closest trading partners and making it more likely that businesses on both sides of the border will withhold rather than provide investment.

Trump's incoherence distracts attention from a more organized danger. Strategies reveal themselves in the pattern of decisions and outcomes. Despite the fog of lies and incoherence generated by the Trump administration, an underlying pattern emerges

that reveals a more coherent strategy. It is exemplified in the wrecking ball approach taken by Musk to the federal bureaucracy. Despite Musk's claims, only the most gullible of MAGA Republicans believes that he will uncover fraud or inefficiencies in an amount that will significantly reduce the deficit. No intelligent observer believes that the willy-nilly smashing of the civil service will improve bureaucratic efficiency. Rather, mindless large-scale reductions in force as enacted by DOGE will hamstring agencies that are tasked with delivering essential services (e.g. Social Security, Medicaid, the IRS). The firings of critical workers who maintained nuclear weapons and scientists who tracked bird flu are canaries in the coal mine and we will not know what other capabilities have been eliminated until we experience the decline of essential services. Musk and Trump's minions are surely aware of this. Their goal is not to improve efficiency, it is to eviscerate the administrative state and establish an imperial presidency. They are far-right zealots, enacting a strategy published in the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. The driving force behind the document, Russell Vought, is the head of Trump's OMB and several other fellow travelers are ensconced in the White House staff. The Heritage agenda includes not only the destruction of the administrative state but also drastically decreasing government spending and re-invigorating an ultra-conservative social agenda. These goals are revealed in the efforts of the Trump administration to eliminate DEI programs and to illegally defund agencies without the consent of Congress. This is a strategy driven by a rigid ideology and implemented by true believers who will ruthlessly enact their beliefs. They are a danger to a democratic system and must be resisted.

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# Cutting Taxes, Republican-Style

by Mark Fernald

New Hampshire Republicans spend a lot of time talking about tax cuts, but they conveniently fail to mention that the tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefitted the wealthiest people and the largest corporations.

To understand this, we have to look at the tax structure in New Hampshire.

Our state government has many narrow-based sales taxes on restaurant meals, hotels, rental cars, telephone bills, beer, insurance, gasoline, tobacco and real estate transfers.

The state also has two narrow-based income taxes—the Business Profits Tax, and the Interest and Dividends Tax.

The Business Profits Tax was enacted in 1970, and became the State's largest revenue source. Before 1970, New Hampshire businesses paid property tax on business assets, even if a businesses was losing money. The business property tax was replaced with the Business Profits Tax, which is a tax on the income (profits) of the business—in other words, on their ability to pay.

Small businesses in New Hampshire pay little or no Business Profits Tax because most of their profits are paid out as salary to the busi-

ness owners. About 75 percent of the Business Profits Tax is paid by approximately 700 large companies.

The Interest and Dividends Tax was enacted in 1923 to tax the people most able to pay: wealthy people with investment portfolios that generate significant unearned income. In 2022, 91 percent of this tax was paid by taxpayers reporting more than \$20,000 of unearned income.

New Hampshire also has one very broad-based tax: the property tax. Every homeowner pays that tax directly, while renters pay it indirectly through their rent. The only people who avoid the property tax are the homeless.

Since 2015, New Hampshire Republicans have cut taxes several times. Each time, they had to decide who would enjoy the tax cut—everyone, through a property tax cut, or some chosen few.

The taxes Republicans chose to cut—the Business Profits Tax and the Interest and Dividends Tax—says volumes about Republican values.

In 2017, they cut the Business Profits Tax, reducing revenues by \$15 million. Big corporations were ecstatic. That year, property taxes increased \$116 million.

In 2019, they cut the Business

Profits Tax again, reducing revenues by an additional \$18 million. Meanwhile, property taxes increased by \$117 million.

In 2020, they cut the Business Profits Tax again, reducing revenues by an additional \$12 million. Property taxes increased by \$107 million.

In 2023, they cut the Business Profits Tax again, reducing revenues by an additional \$12 million. Property taxes increased by \$222 million.

Finally, in 2024, they cut the Business Profits Tax once more, reducing revenue by an additional \$12 million. Property taxes increased by \$314 million.

The cumulative amount of the business tax cuts from 2017 through 2023 was at least \$496 million, with most of the benefit going to big businesses.

Meanwhile, the total annual tax bill for New Hampshire increased by \$1.2 billion, from \$3.6 billion in 2017 to \$4.8 billion in 2024.

On top of that, Republicans have repealed the interest and dividends tax, a \$180 million annual tax cut, almost all of which flows to the top 10 percent of households.

So, yes, the Republicans have cut taxes, but time and again they chose to cut the taxes of their wealthy donors.

The tired old response from Republicans is that their tax cuts have paid for themselves by increasing economic growth, leading to more tax revenue.

Our experience shows this is untrue. Adjusted for inflation, New Hampshire's general fund revenue is lower than it was in 2007. Our state population has grown by over 7 percent since 2024, increasing the need for government services. Our State's economy has grown 30 percent since 2007, so we have the means to provide government services for a growing population. But with State revenue just barely keeping pace with inflation, painful cuts have already been made. For example, the University System is receiving less state support, in real terms, than it did in 1988. When the repeal of the interest and dividends tax is felt next year, there will be a significant decline in state tax revenues, and we will be behind by at least \$500 million.

Governor Ayotte says New Hampshire has to "tighten its belt" just like a family, but the analogy is false. If a family is struggling financially, they don't reduce income—say, by working less. Instead, they try to increase income and reduce expenses. Repealing the Interest and Dividends Tax is like cutting back your

hours to part time, and then telling the family they can no longer afford winter coats.

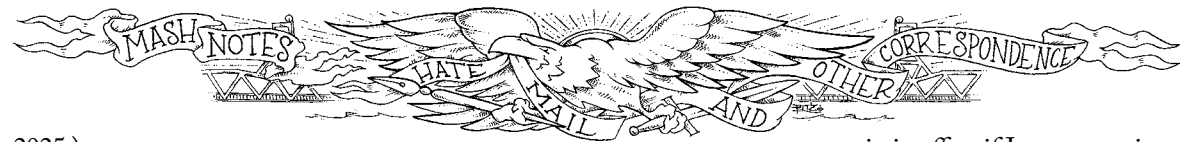
Republicans don't want you to know that the painful budget cuts they are about to enact are the result of the tax cuts they have handed to the wealthy, because that would undermine their tax cut ideology. But it's the truth, and every stressed property taxpayer should be asking why.

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<https://nhfpi.org/resource/state-business-tax-rate-reductions-led-to-between-496-million-and-729-million-less-for-public-services/>  
<https://nhfpi.org/assets/2024/12/Funding-Public-Services-and-Investing-in-NHs-Future-12.6.24.pdf#page=25> see page 15: 1152 filers pay 76.7 percent of BPT. And page 26: 19,541 households with unearned income over \$20,000 paid 91 percent of I&D tax.; and see page 25, showing 91 percent of I&D tax was paid by taxpayers reporting more than \$20,000 of unearned income.

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

from page five

percent of children develop pneumonia. One in 600 babies, who are too young to be vaccinated but contract measles from those who contract measles from older unimmunized children, suffer from fatal neurological complications. About one in 1,000 children develop encephalitis which can lead to seizures, loss of hearing and intellectual disabilities. Measles can also cause immune amnesia, where patients' immune systems "forget" previous infection and vaccinations putting them at risk of contracting those diseases again. (ProMed, March 8,



2025.)  
 Unfortunately, the problem of the anti-vaccine movement is not limited to Texas and New Mexico, it is a global problem. And right here in New Hampshire, the Legislature is moving forward on a number of anti-vaccine bills that will result in more disease, higher medical costs and social disruption. All of which could and should be prevented by using the safe and effective proven public health tools that are available.  
 Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH

Portsmouth, N.H.  
 Rich:  
 Thanks for concisely covering the hazards to which the Trump/Musk administration is exposing us in regards to measles. Would that that were the only contagion facing us. Until there's a change in leadership, we'll also be contending with rampant bird flu, tuberculosis, and who knows what else.  
 The Editor  
 =====  
**Tariffs – Good or Bad?**  
 To the editors:  
 Are tariffs good or bad for our country? Consider the following.  
 For example, imagine I sell a manufactured item that I purchase overseas for \$100 per unit. But when a 25 percent tariff is imposed, the cost goes up to \$125 per unit. At that amount I realize I can manufacture those units stateside, so I set up a factory to make the units myself. However, making them myself, they cost me \$125, so I raise the selling price by \$25. While the tariff may have allowed me to create a few jobs, it also means that my cost per unit can never fall below \$125 per unit—that the higher selling price must

remain in effect if I am to continue to make a profit. How does that help inflation? It doesn't!  
 The move to manufacture the units stateside—at a \$125 cost—limits selling my units only to markets that are protected by tariffs, and only as long as tariffs are in place. How does that help my ability to grow my business? It doesn't!  
 Worse, once the tariff is lifted, I am left with a manufacturing facility that cannot profitably produce units for less than \$125, so I have to close the doors and lay off the few workers I hired. How does that help unemployment? It doesn't!  
 In order to divest myself of my vacant factory, I have to sell it for much less than it cost me to build. This forces me to declare bankruptcy, and the community to lose tax dollars. How does that help the economy? It doesn't!  
 And as the government collects tariff dollars, where do they go? Into the federal treasury, of course, where they are then available for the administration to use as they see fit—possibly to fund tax cuts, and we know who benefits most from those.  
 Using this simplistic example,

it is clear that tariffs help foreign manufacturers sell anywhere protective tariffs are not in effect; tariffs raise inflation; tariffs stifle domestic growth; tariffs provide a mechanism for increasing economic disparity; and if the protections tariffs provide are removed, tariffs may cause unemployment and even bankruptcies.  
 These are just a few of the ill effects of tariffs. Tariffs don't make America great again; tariffs harm our economy and our country.  
 Paul Cully  
 Dover, N.H.  
 Paul:  
 Big business moguls stumble on a firebrand who can agitate the rubes. They decided to back him because, amid all the uproar, they can finally ram profitable but unpopular policies down the public's throat. They're rich, they figure, so we'll be alright. And that lunatic? It'll be OK, we can control him.  
 Hey, it worked, sort of, from 1933 to, oh, about 1939...  
 Yeah, and it worked from 2016 to 2025, too.  
 The Editor  
 =====

**Is the Rule of Law Now Obsolete?**  
 Dear Editor,  
 Let's talk about opposition tactics. Should Lauren Boebert be cen-

to next page

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# The Limits of Sympathy

by W.D. Ehrhart

I recently received an e-mail from a Japanese friend of mine who wrote, "I have no idea what Trump is trying to do. He is making the world to be his enemy." An Indian friend opined that #45/47 equals Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in bigotry, intolerance, and mean-spiritedness. When an English friend asked me what Trump is trying to do, I had no answer for him. And when a friend from France observed that the United States seems to have gone off the rails, I could only agree with him.

How can one even begin to catalogue the outrages this vile disgrace for a human being continues to spew forth at a rate one cannot even keep up with? From pardoning war criminals and violent insurrectionists to appointing incompetent sycophants to federal cabinet posts, from climbing into bed with Vladimir Putin to advocating the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. There simply isn't enough time or paper or ink to detail it all, which is—I suppose—part of the strategy: keep the outrages coming so fast and furiously that there is simply no opportunity to process it all, let alone react in any effective way.

And the amazing and truly heart-breaking truth is that we have done this to ourselves. At least some of us have. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote in 2016, and only the slavery-biased electoral college gave the MAGAMonster the election. Joe Biden won the popular vote in 2020,

and managed to win the electoral college, too, in spite of its pro-slavery origins. But in 2024, the American electorate actually delivered victory in both the popular election and the electoral college to this narcissistic, lying, dishonest, greedy, unprincipled huckster.

And the slaughter is now well underway. At the hands of the chainsaw-wielding richest man in the world, the unemployment lines are about to go out the door and around the corner and far out of sight. The Federal Aviation Authority has so far sacked 400 employees. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has fired 800 more. The General Services Administration has put out to pasture over 100 people while the Office of Community Planning and Development has axed 786 so far. And the National Nuclear Security Administration has lost another 300.

But all of this is nothing compared to the 2,000 people fired or about to be fired from the various health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health. How about the 5,400 Defense Department employees? Or the 3,400 former employees of the Forest Service? Or the 11,700 who used to work for the Environmental Protection Agency? Or the 5,600 people who used to work for the U.S. Agency for International Development, an agency that has fostered good will toward the U.S. all over the world, but has now all-but-ceased to exist?

But even all of this is nothing

compared to the 2,400 employees of the Veterans Administration who are already newly unemployed and the proposed further sacking of 70,000 to 80,000 additional VA workers. So much for honoring and caring for our veterans. (But what would a draft-dodging coward like our president care about those suckers and losers?)

And here's my favorite of all: 7,000 people have so far been let go by the Internal Revenue Service, with the chopping block scheduled to receive another 50,000 soon-to-be ex-employees. No need for all those Trumplican billionaires to worry about being audited ever again. There will henceforth be only enough auditors to check up on the small potatoes and the amateur tax cheats, not the ones who hide their billions in dummy corporations in the Cayman Islands.

The carnage is likely to be even worse by the time this is published, and my dearest hope is that a significant number of the newly unemployed are people who voted for the man who is responsible for their present situation.

Meanwhile, another target of the grotesquely misnamed Department of Government Efficiency is scientific research with Elon Musk Ox and his Orange Cheeto sidekick working hard to cancel funding for work on everything from Alzheimer's, muscular dystrophy, and corneal disease to cardiac arrest and cancer. And there apparently will be no new flu vaccine this coming year, though flu kills a minimum of 6,000

Americans every year.

And that brings me back to the fact that a large portion of the American people have brought this disaster upon themselves. The rest of us don't deserve what we're getting, but the people who voted for this disgusting grifter certainly do. And I hope to live long enough to see everyone who voted for him—imagining him to be a man of the people instead of the servant of the super-rich, imagining that he would save them from murderous immigrants and transgender activists, or restore order to the universe by putting white men back in charge and women back in their place—die in airplane crashes or wildfires or because they can no longer get decent care at VA hospitals or because they contract flu or have a heart attack or a cancer that could have been prevented if research had been allowed to continue.

I deeply regret the suffering that so many of my fellow citizens are going to have to endure because of the loathsome people who are now in charge of the government of the United States. But I don't and won't feel sorry for the trials and tribulations that befall the cretins who put those people back in power. They richly deserve whatever misery befalls them, and I hope it befalls them hard and soon.

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*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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# Hey Musk—How About an Honest Reform of the Department of Agriculture?

by Jim Hightower

Harry Truman once proclaimed: "No man should be president who doesn't understand hogs."

That might explain the calamitous mess that President Trump-Musk is making of our government today. Clearly, Don and Elon know nothing about four-legged farm animals, but they certainly know how to squeeze government to fatten their own two-legged breed of corporate swine. Thus, the billionaire hucksters are bulldozing agencies that serve people's real needs, while preserving those that subsidize corporate greed.

For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Once a proud agency created by Abraham Lincoln to serve tillers of the soil, the USDA has become a bottomless feeding trough for agribusiness giants and other financial powers that "till" taxpayers.

Our country's Farm Program, meant to be a safety net for hands-on dirt farmers, is now a \$20-billion-a-year subsidy that pays zero to the vast majority of farm families. Instead, 75 percent of our money goes to the biggest and richest 10 percent of corporate fiefdoms, including billionaire speculators who never get any dirt under their fingernails.

Actually, the Trump-Musk chainsaw crew is whacking some USDA programs—such as food stamps for poor families, helping school districts buy from local farmers and ranchers, and other efforts providing modest help to grassroots people and communities. But not a peep from the duo about the bales of taxpayer cash hauled every year to their own class of rich elites.

A Department of Agriculture is as needed today as in Lincoln's time. But an honest overhaul is necessary to return it to its democratic roots of serving the workaday people of rural America, freeing it from the corporate interests now running roughshod over those same people. For more information, go to Environmental Working Group at [ewg.org](http://ewg.org).

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from previous page

sured like Al Green was for disrespecting the rules of the House in her recent media rant? Many Democrats say maybe no, because we want to show how much we respect free speech.

But others say the time has come for the loyal opposition to stop playing patty cake and start playing grown-up politics.

Republicans have clearly thrown the rule of law playbook out the window and are now using naked force in everything they do, leaving ethics/niceness in the dust.

Democrats must remember that they know how to subvert the rule of law too. Their President Harry Truman overthrew perhaps the most important rule-of-law principle the history of democracy has

ever known—the legislative department declares war not the executive department. Check out Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Truman declared war in Korea on his own. Republicans were too nice to say anything about it. That turned out to be a big mistake because every president since Truman has followed suit.

Democrats need to grow a pair (testicles, or ovaries) or else their party is going to be buried six feet under by MAGA.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Kimball:

*To what degree do you suppose Harry was motivated by the fear of what Republicans would do if he let Korea fall to the commies without putting up a fight?*

The Editor

## Inadvertent Neglect, Remedied

To the Editor:

I am the cartoon perpetrator for this august publication, but before a cartoon sees the light of day, I submit a rough before the Board of Sages to consider its fitness for publication.

Several editions ago the cartoon I submitted to the board was the Hansel and Gretel cartoon with the iconic Brothers Grimm "cottage of cakes," the familiar gingerbread house. But my rough submission did not include the proverbial witch who eats the children. The board felt the cartoon was acceptable, but one board member, Rose Eppard, suggested it could be improved maybe if I add the witch and label her "ICE". All of a sudden the cartoon jumped up from, I dunno, a C to a B+.

Normally, I would have added

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Rose's name as a co-conspirator to the cartoon in the bottom corner of we call the Scribbulation, but I inadvertently neglected to do so. Therefore, to remedy my ineptitude, know all men by these presents that R. Eppard is co-conspirator of the drawing dated 21 Feb., '25.

M. Dater, Starving Artist  
Portsmouth, N.H.

M.:

*We suspect that Rose Eppard [Official title: "Business (Such As It Is) Manager"], if she even noticed this omission, was not unduly troubled by it. After all, she does embody the principle, "It's amazing what you can get done if you don't care who gets the credit." Who are we, though, to stand in the way, if you care to enter this into the Permanent Record?*

The Editor

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