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COLAB

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Is America At A Crossroad Or Dead End?

By Andy Caldwell

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I refuse to let the DC riot become the defining moment and legacy of the Trump Administration. Instead, I am grateful that Donald Trump sought to Make America Great Again by bringing back jobs from China, reducing taxes and regulations to revive the American economy, making Europe pay its own way, investing in inner cities, enhancing border security, renegotiating international trade deals that were unfavorable to America, and bringing our troops home while negotiating historic peace accords in the Middle East. He was, for all intents and purposes, tremendously successful.

Conversely, the democratic party is hoping to consolidate control at the expense of our liberty by way of these major goals. First, abolish the electoral college to eliminate the political power of primarily rural red states in choosing the president. Second, add new states to pack the senate. Third, pack the Supreme Court to control this third branch of government. Fourth, open the floodgates of illegal immigrants guaranteeing a future electorate who will be dependent upon big government largess. Fifth, partner with big tech and the media to squelch debate and dissent among conservatives by controlling information, speech, and language. Sixth, win fealty by giving away so much money America will enter a fiscal death spiral of insurmountable debt and inflation. Seventh, destroy our manufacturing and energy sectors in the name of climate change. Read all that, America's "transformation" accomplished.

Meanwhile, China is in bed with both the republican and democrat establishment to further their globalist dreams. This partnership between foreign powers, international business conglomerates, and politicians has been in the making for decades. Their goal is a one world governance and economic world order made possible at our expense, i.e., the redistribution of our wealth, advantages, and prowess.

To historically appreciate the tumult in America, because there is nothing new under the sun, I recommend watching two classic movies based on real life legendary freedom fighters. The movies are Lawrence of Arabia and Braveheart.

In Lawrence of Arabia, the British and French defeat the Ottoman Empire by way of Lawrence's ability to win the allegiance of the Arabs who are willing to follow him into battle. Why was he so successful? Because, while Lawrence was fighting the Turks, he was also attempting to unite the Arabs and gain their independence.

Unfortunately, the British and the French had no intentions of giving the Arabs autonomy. They had lied to Lawrence and they made no apologies for it. France

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Case For A Newsom Recall Continues To Grow

By Jon Coupal

After some fits and starts, the recall effort against Gov. Gavin Newsom appears to be gaining traction. Proponents say they have collected over 1 million signatures.

Media reports of a half-million dollar donation to the effort plus rumors of even more forthcoming are getting the attention of California's political establishment. If the required 1.5 million valid signatures are submitted before the mid-March deadline and subsequently verified, a special election will be held and California voters will soon thereafter vote on the recall.

That is, unless the California Legislature pulls another fast one as it did in 2017, passing a last-minute change to the rules or the election calendar.

Any such attempt would be extremely unwise, with public confidence in government already low.

On the ballot, the recall question would be accompanied by a separate question of who would replace the incumbent if the recall passed. (In the October 2003 recall election of Gov. Gray Davis, a total of 135 candidates were on the ballot as replacement candidates, including pornographer Larry Flynt and former TV child star Gary Coleman).

Recalls are not easy and are fraught with many unknowns. They are expensive and the complicated politics of multiple replacement candidates, each seeking a plurality of votes, makes the state's "jungle" primaries seem simple by comparison.

Polling is unreliable in such an environment, and there's a Wild West atmosphere to the process. Nonetheless, recalls are a legitimate political remedy when the public loses confidence in an elected official. At least a million Californians have reached that point.

Irrespective of whether support for the recall is broad based or narrow among California voters, it is clear that the effort is being greatly assisted by Gov. Newsom himself.

Where to start? First, the gross mismanagement of the Employment Development Department has been breathtaking. While unemployed Californians have been given the run-around when they seek the benefits to which they are entitled, fraudsters have been allowed to rob the system of more than \$8 billion, ac-

cording to recent estimates.

Second, the state's distribution of COVID-19 vaccines has been a disaster. Despite months of advanced notice, the lack of a coherent plan on distribution has put California near or at the bottom relative to other states in the percentage of vaccines that have been delivered to the Californians who are waiting for them.

Third, the ever shifting and arbitrary metrics that have prohibited the safe reopening of businesses and schools have caused unnecessary confusion in both the private and public sectors.

Fourth, property owners were profoundly and rightfully disappointed that the governor refused to consider suspension of costly penalties for delayed payments of property taxes, even as job losses mounted, housing providers struggled to pay their bills without rental income, and commercial property owners saw their tenants shut down by state orders.

Fifth, Newsom refused to consider a deferment of the scheduled minimum-wage increase while so many service and hospitality businesses were desperately trying to keep their employees working in compliance with the state's limitations on their ability to operate.

Sixth, property owners were stunned to see his endorsement of Proposition 15, the most significant

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CA Labor Secretary Julie Su Is ‘Failing Up’ After Massive EDD Fraud And Failures

By Katy Grimes

Su suspended eligibility requirements for EDD claimants

California Globe has been reporting for months on the horrific fraud in California’s unemployment agency, the Orwellian-named “Employment Development Department.”

In July, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the formation of a “strike team” to solve numerous issues plaguing the Employment Development Department, including resolving the backlog of millions of unfulfilled unemployment claims, and fraudulent unemployment claims since the coronavirus pandemic lockdown was first ordered by Gov. Newsom in March.

We now know that upwards of \$31 billion dollars in unemployment claims has been sent to prison inmates in California’s county jails, and state and federal prisons, out of state, and even out of the country, while legitimate claimants have been stiffed for months, or received late payments.

Overseeing the EDD is California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Julie Su, who confirmed Monday that, in 2020, fraudsters stole at least \$11.4 billion in unemployment benefits from California, the Globe reported. And 800,000 unemployment claims were paid late, along with 12.7 million delayed eligibility determinations.

The State Auditor just completed an audit of the EDD. They explain:

“The economic shutdowns in early 2020 led to historically high numbers of UI claims in a very short time (claim surge), and further shutdowns began in December 2020, raising the potential for additional spikes in unemployment. This audit reviewed EDD’s response to the claim surge, its handling of the resulting backlog of unpaid claims, and the assistance it has provided to individuals through its call center.”

The Auditor says the EDD has been aware of internal problems for more than 10 years, while failing to prepare for inevitable economic downturns in the state,

throughout the Gov. Jerry Brown administration and now into Gov. Gavin Newsom’s. “EDD had no comprehensive plan for how it would respond if California experienced a recession and UI claims increased correspondingly,” the audit reported.

Secretary Su said another \$20 billion may have also been stolen by identity thieves and foreign criminals, possibly making as much as 27% of all EDD unemployment benefits being sent to fraudsters last year, the Globe reported.

The current confirmed number, \$11.4 billion, or around 10% of all unemployment funds given out, dwarfs the previous released amount, which was at \$2 billion in early January. While there were some concerns that it could go as high as \$8 billion, no estimate had even come close to \$11.4 billion until Su’s announcement Monday.

“There is no sugarcoating the reality,” Secretary Su said. “California did not have sufficient security measures in place to prevent this level of fraud, and criminals took advantage of the situation.”

For her efforts, California Labor Secretary Julie Su is “failing up,” and is being considered for a prominent position in President Joe Biden’s administration as Deputy Secretary of Labor. California often promotes terrible state employees, up and out to other agencies. This “promotion” would take Su out of the state entirely.

Assemblyman Jim Patterson (R-Fresno) held a Zoom press conference Tuesday to discuss the EDD audit.

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A Fate Worse Than Covid

By Andy Caldwell

I don't want to die from covid, but neither do I want to live for it! What say you?

Benjamin Franklin gave two prescient warnings to his fellow and future countrymen. When asked what type of government the founding fathers decided on, he said "a republic, if you can keep it." Another time, he warned, "those who give up liberty for security deserve neither and will lose both." Let us discuss these precepts and covid.

Our republican form of government posits that we are a nation of laws and the only legitimate purpose of government is to serve and protect the individual liberty of each citizen. That is, our laws come by way of our consent with respect to our unalienable rights, based on self-evident truths, both of which emanate from God.

The main reason America is sliding into perdition is that too many people and our institutions have abandoned these precepts. Instead, the new goal is globalization, that is, the political and economic control of our lives, via an unholy alliance between big government and big business. Accordingly, covid was just what the doctor ordered!

Nonetheless, there is no covid exemption in the Constitution abridging our rights to freedom, of assembly, religion and commerce, to name just a few. Yet, we find ourselves losing our freedoms while being forced to defer to experts whose opinions contradict those of other qualified experts. Meanwhile, the common man and common sense suffer.

For example, every year people get ill and some even die from the flu. Yet, when asked to explain the complete and total absence of the flu this year, the experts say the flu has been stymied by the covid protocols such as hand washing, social distancing, and the wearing of masks. Yet, when you ask these same experts why there is a resurgence of covid illnesses,

hospitalizations and deaths, they say it is because we aren't hand washing, social distancing and wearing masks. So, which is it?

Moreover, the separation and balance of powers designed to serve as a bulwark against tyranny is breaking down. For example, Governor Newsom has usurped the power of the legislature, as he announces laws he has no authority to make, and neither the legislature nor the judiciary are scarcely willing to do anything about it.

Governor Newsom said that California would not go back to normal until we had a therapeutic to treat covid or a vaccine to prevent infection. Yet, when vaccines arrived, the infectious disease specialist at Cottage Hospital said that though she was relieved the vaccines arrived, that "this changes nothing"? Huh? She explained that though the vaccine may keep some people from getting infected, it would not guarantee that a vaccinated person can't still carry and transmit the virus to others! Along these same lines, why was Congressman Salud Carbajal one of the first people in the country to get the covid vaccine, when he had just recently recovered from the virus?

Our government's false claims of being able to make us safe and secure must not come at the expense of our rights, liberties, and livelihoods, or common sense. That is, our government cannot genuinely guarantee our safety because it has no power to stop a virus. Neither can it guarantee our security by forcing people to give up their jobs and close their businesses because it lacks the resources to make us whole.

It is truly an ominous sign that so many people want to believe otherwise. Accordingly, I am more afraid of our government than I am of covid, along with the many Americans who fail to appreciate a distortion of Patrick Henry's famous "take my liberty, just don't give me covid".



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The Unenviable Price Of Liberty

By Andy Caldwell

Last May, an attack on the White House forced President Trump to retreat to a bunker. Meanwhile, scores of Secret Service agents were injured, including when the rioters threw Molotov cocktails. Was this assault any less egregious than what happened on Capitol Hill last week?

When Black Lives Matters, and Antifa foment riots, mayhem and murder throughout America, lefties will either legitimize their actions, such as when Chris Cuomo argued, "Who said protests have to be peaceful?" Or, they will deny anything wrong happened at all. For example, the mayor of Seattle (and Congress) glossed over the attacks on a federal court building and the attempt to burn police officers alive when they were forcibly trapped in their station. Nothing to see here folks; it is just a summer of love.

Of course, I don't raise these questions to suggest that two wrongs make a right. That is, I unequivocally condemn violence. Mobs are not an extension of freedom; they are antithetical to freedom. Hearts and minds are not won by way of intimidation or violence, nor is liberty the child of force and coercion. As France learned the hard way, "revolutions eat their children." Moreover, the reality is, the attack on the capitol obfuscated the efforts by the GOP to launch an inquiry into election integrity.

I also denounce the rhetoric to portray what happened as an attempted coup. The reason the vast majority of the law-abiding people descended on our nation's capital was to save, not overthrow, our republic by entirely peaceful means. Nevertheless, a minority of those present, wrongly resorted to violence and mayhem. Some of those who stormed the building did so because they believe an election was stolen and that neither party truly gives a damn. Others, namely Antifa, were there as part of a false flag operation in order to stoke and provoke mayhem and carnage.

Not to be deterred, Pelosi and company are throwing more fuel on the fire as they seek to impeach Trump for the sole purpose of preventing him from running for office again. Moreover, radical Dems want to rid Congress of GOP stalwarts ostensibly for exercising their constitutional duty to investigate the election results.

The most ominous sign of all? Upwards of 30% of

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democrats believe the election was wrought with fraud, but they are neither protesting nor demanding inquiry. The left and the global elite have assumed Trump is their problem and whatever it takes to rid the nation of him, the ends justifies the means. Or, so they think.

Thomas Jefferson spiked the Declaration of Independence with a prophetic warning, specifically, "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

Several years later, he elaborated further, "And what country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure."

Warned from time to time. That is what I believe we witnessed last week, a warning. The left in America believes it can foment intimidation, violence and destruction to destabilize America while pursuing the Great Reset, without remonstrance, while it counts on conservatives to be passive. But, to the degree the left keeps trampling upon the rights, patriotism, and interests of 75 million Americans and their representatives, not to mention the 18 states that joined Texas in challenging the election results, we could, unfortunately, find ourselves in the throes of a very uncivil war.

It's All About (Political) 'Science'

By Steven Greenhut

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has always claimed that he has based his coronavirus-related stay-at-home orders solely on the “science,” yet suddenly — without any dramatic changes in scientific breakthroughs, albeit following some hopeful decreases in hospitalizations — he announced a wide-ranging reopening that lifts stay-at-home orders and gives county officials the final authority on such matters.

“As cases surged after Thanksgiving, Newsom tore up his playbook,” AP’s Don Thompson reported last week. “Rather than a county-by-county approach, he created five regions and established a single measurement — ICU capacity — as the determination for whether a region was placed under a stay-at-home order.”

That regional approach was particularly frustrating for county officials. For instance, after Newsom lumped the Central Coast with Los Angeles and Southern California, there was nothing officials in, say, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties could do to safely reopen. Those counties have a combined population of less than 800,000 people. No matter how well they contained the pandemic, their numbers are dwarfed by 10-million-population Los Angeles County.

As it appeared that there would be no reopenings based on the administration’s stringent ICU-capacity criteria, Newsom lifted the order for the 13-county Sacramento region, as Thompson added. “Suddenly, outdoor dining and worship services were OK again, hair and nail salons and other businesses could reopen, and retailers were allowed more shoppers inside,” he wrote. “Local officials and businesses were caught off guard.”

The key takeaway from this AP report: The governor had always vowed to maintain transparency regarding all his COVID-19-related decisions, yet “his administration won’t disclose key information that will help determine when his latest stay-at-home order is lifted.” The state finally released the information this week, but only after being embarrassed by officials’ claims that the public wouldn’t understand the information.

It’s hard not to agree with California Republican Party officials, who suggest that the long-awaited rule loosening is driven more by political expediency than anything that health authorities have determined. We’re all relieved by a rollback in these restrictions, but who

doesn’t suspect that Newsom’s change of heart is driven by news that a recall campaign is approaching the 1.5-million-signature threshold needed to place it on the ballot?

Suddenly, this long-shot idea has legs, and Newsom is beginning to take notice. The signature-gathering is going well, and some Silicon Valley donors recently announced their support. That means that recall supporters will probably have enough money run a serious campaign — if or when the measure qualifies for the ballot. San Diego’s well-respected former mayor, Republican Kevin Faulconer, is sending out trial balloons to run as a replacement candidate, so for the first time in ages the GOP might have a serious gubernatorial candidate.

The COVID-19 restrictions have fomented widespread anger — and not just among conservatives. So have the ongoing electricity blackouts and other scandals. There’s a sense — even among some Democrats — that Newsom doesn’t have his head in the game. His well-publicized attendance at a

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Newsom's Recall Apocalypse

By Andy Caldwell

Years ago, when the Smother's Brothers were the entertainment at a COLAB dinner, Tom Smothers pulled out a yo-yo and dazzled the crowd with his mastery of this child's toy. Well, as it turns out, Gavin Newsom could teach Tommy a thing or two about yo-yo tricks, as he deftly dangled our personal freedoms and economic liberties on a string for the past year.

If you recall, we were subject to a temporary, near total lock down that was supposed to last 15 days last March. That morphed into an extended lock down that was eventually attenuated by a series of reopening stages based upon the number of "cases" per 100,000 persons and the county's testing/contract tracing capacity. Next up, more businesses were allowed to reopen, albeit with severe restrictions, as Newsom moved the goal posts to reopen based on testing positivity rates and the emergence of new cases. Then, Newsom changed virtually everything when he no longer allowed a county to progress through his four stages based upon their own covid numbers, instead, he unilaterally forced counties to become part of a larger geographical region that fixed their combined destinies on hospitalization and ICU bed avails. And, to note, none of Newsom's stages ever allowed us to return to normal!

Then, last Monday, Newsom dropped the regional approach and the hospitalization/ICU criteria saying that "the numbers were projected to get better", despite the fact, according to the AP, the San Joaquin Valley agricultural region increased its ICU capacity to a mere 1.3%, its first time above zero in recent weeks, and the Southern California region, the most populous in the state, was still at zero ICU capacity.

Meanwhile, California ranks nearly dead last in getting people vaccinated. One of the problems? The obsession with testing! That is, why is CA still spending so much time, energy and money testing people when we could be vaccinating them?

I believe there are four reasons for Newsom's latest about face, including the Biden win, lawsuits filed against him, the covid vaccine rollout debacle, all of which point to number four, the recall.

With respect to the effect of the Biden win, many conservative pundits, including yours truly, were shamed as conspiracy theorists when we suggested that democrats wanted to tank the economy while blaming Trump for the spread of covid and the deaths that en-

sued. Moreover, tanking the economy would position a Biden administration for a bailout of the states that would go far beyond the fiscal impacts of covid. True

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Our Presidential Election Wasn't Too Different From Third World Uganda's

By Rachel Alexander

The MSM breathlessly reported that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni shut down social media prior to the January 14th presidential election, comparing the move to President Trump's criticisms of social media here. But the reality is Museveni's actions are more comparable to what the left is doing to conservatives and Trump. Museveni is just more bold about it. The left here finds ways to undermine our republic and elections that appear to be legal and constitutional, as long as you believe their claims. If you don't believe them, you are labeled a conspiracy theorist and risk being doxed.


Museveni said he shut down social media because it was being used to organize unrest. He took it a step further, completely shutting down the internet a day before the election. Similarly, big tech is kicking conservatives here off of social media and other platforms claiming they are using them to organize violent election protests. The left here gets away with banning conservatives because big tech, which is owned by the left, is ostensibly private companies. But the reality is almost all speech now takes place there, hence the nickname "big tech oligarchs."


Museveni's government is using facial recognition technology to crack down on dissent. The left here used invasive ways to figure out who was at the Capitol protest and prosecute or dox them — including mere attendees, not just those who entered the building — such as by hacking Parler and using the facial recognition site Pimeyes.


Museveni has been in office since 1986, having convinced — some say bribed — the Ugandan parliament to remove presidential term limits and amend the constitution to remove the age limit. His opponents over the years have accused him of voter fraud, including ballot stuffing and beating their campaign workers. Museveni's main opponent Bobi Wine was in the lead at first, but that changed hours later after the military got involved according to Wine. Wine says he has video evidence of the military adding ballots and chasing people away from polling stations. The U.S. canceled its observation of the Ugandan election, saying the vote would lack accountability and transparency due to the denial of more than 75% of its accreditations.

Museveni said he tried to stop Wine from campaigning because Wine violated COVID-19 health measures, such as by holding rallies. However, Museveni held campaign events himself. Museveni regularly sent the police after Wine using that ruse. Wine said he was beaten and pepper sprayed multiple times on the campaign trail. The police forcibly removed him from his car while gunshots were fired. Another opposition candidate, Patrick Oboi Amuriat, was also arrested for violating COVID-19

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Our Presidential Election Wasn't Too Different From Third World Uganda's *cont.*

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Twitter had the nerve to issue a statement denouncing Uganda for blocking social media. This is incredibly hypocritical considering Twitter just banned the president of the United States and continues to ban tens of thousands of Trump supporters. Twitter said in part, "We strongly condemn internet shutdowns – they are hugely harmful, violate basic human rights and the principles of the #OpenInternet." Another tweet stated, "Access to information and freedom of expression, including the public conversation on Twitter, is never more important than during democratic processes, particularly elections." This was also hypocritical considering how many prominent conservative accounts Twitter suspended before our presidential election.

Predictably, Musevani won reelection by a large margin. Wine denounced the election fraud, "I can call on all Ugandans to reject the announcement that has been made by the electoral commission ... to reject



them with the contempt with which it deserves." Sure enough, the government retaliated by sending the military to his home to place him under house arrest. The government denies it, however, claiming the soldiers are merely providing him with security.

So why does everyone see through the sleazy actions in Uganda but not here? It may be because the MSM here controls much of the narrative, and they hide, mischaracterize and minimize the wrongdoing. Musevani is more blatant about directly using the government to conduct abuse. The left here is sneakier. They work behind the scenes and through large powerful corporations. They don't murder their opponents, although Antifa beats Trump supporters. They've figured out how to undermine the Constitution without making it look like they are violating it. The similarities to Third World elections are disturbing and growing.

Rachel Alexander is a political consultant (and editor and founder of Intellectual Conservative



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Is America At A Crossroad Or Dead End? *Cont.*

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and England subsequently carved up the Middle East by simply drawing new border lines on a map with a ruler. Lines in the sand which served to demarcate the boundaries of countries and people groups they wantonly, woefully, and carelessly divvied up among themselves.

In Braveheart, William Wallace seeks to unite Scotland against the King of England to win their freedom. One of the most telling scenes was when Wallace "went to pick a fight" between the Scottish Lords and the King's army. That is, Wallace also faced two enemies. The King and those same Scottish Lords who were living large and comfortable lives in servitude to the King. William Wallace ends up dying for the cause of freedom but not without inspiring a revolution that gains Scotland's independence.

Trump was the globalist/socialist movement's death knell, hence, he had to be removed. That is, as was the case with Lawrence and Wallace, Trump sought to protect and promote the well-being and independence of the commoner from overlords seeking power and control at the expense of liberty, economic and otherwise. To the degree the American people pine for safety, security, and a false sense of unity over liberty, we too will end up living like serfs.

Case For A Newsom Recall Continues To Grow *Cont.*

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attack on Proposition 13 in its 42-year history. The \$12-billion "split roll" initiative was defeated in November, notwithstanding his support.

Finally, Gov. Gavin Newsom's personal behavior has revealed little sensitivity to the struggles of Californians who have been asked to make extraordinary sacrifices. The infamous dinner at the French Laundry restaurant is but one example of his perceived hypocrisy.

Citizens bristle when politicians say "do as I say, not as I do."

It would be foolish to venture a prediction about the recall effort's success or failure.

But the outcome may well be determined by the governor's own actions if they continue to raise legitimate questions about his competence.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

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Newsom's Recall Apocalypse *Cont.*

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to form, Biden's covid \$1.9 trillion recovery plan includes \$350 billion to bailout local and state governments, not to mention another \$350 billion federal supplement for state unemployment payments. Don't be surprised if Newsom asks for another \$30 billion to recover the illicit payments his administration lost from giving monies to Mexico drug cartels, Russian thieves, along with numerous people in prisons and jails!

With respect to lawsuits against Newsom, they were many fold. These included suits by members of the State legislature, counties such as San Bernardino, various business associations, and churches.

With respect to the vaccine rollout, we are near last place in our ability to get people vaccinated. And, there is little to no talk about administering second doses, without which the vaccine is only 50% effective, and a one dose regimen could cause a major mutation of the virus.

Finally, speaking of the governor's credibility and his future electability, there is the recall. Newsom refused to acknowledge there was a recall until the 1.25 million signature milestone was reached and large donations began pouring in. Most likely, he opened back up portions of the economy after failing to convince the populace that the recall effort was an attempted coup, which I might add, was probably Aunt Nancy's idea!



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The COLAB FOUNDATION

Dear COLAB Members,

Did you know that lessening the burden of government is a bonafide and legitimate function of a charitable endeavor, i.e. a 501c3 tax exempt foundation? Is that not a cause you can believe in and support? Well, thankfully, COLAB now has its own foundation!!!

COLAB can now raise funds from other foundations, as well as, individuals who don't own their own business! That means that everyone who contributes to the COLAB Foundation can write off their contributions.

The COLAB Foundation is a public charity formed to procure funding for the Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and other select non-profit entities to advance education and science, combat community deterioration and lessen the burden of government.

Of course, the donations to the COLAB Foundation can only be used to educate the public about the work that COLAB and others are doing in our community, but we have been educating people all along!

The COLAB Foundation!

Donations are tax-deductible as a charitable contribution!

Please send your contribution to:

The COLAB Foundation

PO Box 7523

Santa Maria, CA 93456

Or online at:

<http://www.colabsbc.org/COLAB-foundation-form.php>

Donations to the COLAB Foundation are deductible IRC 170 as the foundation is an IRS approver 501 C3 charity.

Our EIN is 81-1088586

CA Labor Secretary Julie Su Is ‘Failing Up’ After Massive EDD Fraud And Failures *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

“It was the pandemic that blew up the EDD,” Patterson said. He explained that because the EDD knew of these internal issues for more than a decade, they also knew they could not withstand an inevitable economic downturn or recession.

The audit found that the EDD call center is essentially worthless, Patterson said. “They weren’t even answering their calls,” he explained, saying EDD employees were not equipped to handle the calls, so they just didn’t answer the phones at the call center.

But what led to the \$31 billion in fraudulent claims was when Secretary Julie Su made the decision to suspend most EDD eligibility requirements, according to the audit. It was only federal oversight which caught this and notified the EDD that they could not suspend eligibility requirements.

The Audit found:

“In March 2020, the secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (agency secretary) directed EDD to pay claimants UI benefits before determining whether they met key program eligibility requirements, and EDD expanded this directive to include most program eligibility determinations. In April 2020, the agency secretary further directed EDD to temporarily stop collecting the certifications claimants must regularly submit that assert they remain eligible for benefits.”

Consequently, the fraudulent payments that have been paid are gone. It will be legitimate claimants who will be contacted by the EDD to repay overpayments because of the suspension of eligibility requirements. “They will be held to a higher standard and forced to repay,” Patterson said.

“The real come-away for me was the eligibility suspensions, and now those legitimate claimants will be part of a claw-back when they can least afford it,” Patterson added.

“EDD suspended the work necessary to make most eligibility determinations in order to better manage its workload,” the audit reported, ostensibly to make

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It's All About (Political) 'Science' *cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

mask-less birthday dinner for a lobbyist friend at a tony Napa eatery (Google “French Laundry”) resonated widely with the public — and has served as a rallying cry for recall supporters.

If the state based its toughest-in-the-nation coronavirus restrictions purely on scientific considerations, then why was the governor so reluctant to provide the public with the data that has undergirded state pandemic decisions? This “trust us, we know what’s best” attitude combined with the arbitrary nature of Newsom’s edicts are the real source of growing disdain. Most Californians have complied with coronavirus restrictions, but they have no realistic way to plan — or even understand — the basis for Newsom’s seesawing edicts.

It’s easy to conclude that — big surprise here — California’s progressive leadership isn’t particularly concerned about the plight of small businesses and average private-sector Californians, whose lives have been disrupted and incomes obliterated. After all, the state budget is awash in surplus, which is the result of our highly progressive income-tax system. Wealthy investors are doing quite well despite the pandemic, so the budget is awash in cash.

Some of Newsom’s biggest supporters — the state’s highly paid and politically powerful public employees — are doing quite well, also. The governor is looking at restoring the modest pay cuts for public employees that the state imposed in the thick of the pandemic. Check out Transparent California to see the literally unbelievable levels of compensation earned by California public employees.

“Pay raises for most of San Francisco’s municipal workforce just kicked in — they add about \$2,340 a year to the annual base pay of an experienced Muni driver, about \$3,633 more for a registered nurse, and a whopping \$10,000 to \$14,000 for the city’s top executives,” according to a recent San Francisco Chronicle report. Maybe we’re not really all in this together.

Meanwhile, the teachers’ unions are resisting the governor’s latest reopening framework. As the Orange County Register Editorial Board noted, the governor’s new “Safe Schools for All” plan requires schools to come to terms with local unions: “As a result, mostly poor union-controlled schools will face delays — and unions will use these requirements to exact salary concessions.” Why reopen when you receive full pay to stay at home?

Between the reopening fiasco, a stepped-up exodus of businesses out of state, and a disability fraud scandal that has thus far cost \$11 billion, the governor has gone from plotting his presidential run to trying not to turn into the second coming of Gray Davis. It’s not particularly cynical to suspect that these political considerations — rather than any scientific understanding — are driving the state’s reopening.

Steven Greenhut, Resident Senior Fellow and Western Region Director, State Affairs, R Street Institute



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CA Labor Secretary Julie Su Is 'Failing Up' After Massive EDD Fraud And Failures *cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

claims processing go more quickly.

Assemblyman Patterson has long advocated for private sector involvement from Silicon Valley experts, whether it is within the EDD or the DMV and their long histories of gross IT mismanagement and failures.

"The way you get out of the catastrophe is to not make the same mistakes and not appoint the same people," Patterson said. He said the state needs to "ask qualified people from the private sector to get this thing fixed."

Most notably, Assemblyman Patterson said the EDD is an executive branch agency, with oversight done by the Governor.

The Globe contacted the Governor's Press Office and asked, "With the latest scathing State Audit of the EDD, what can and will the Gov. Newsom administration do about this? The EDD is an executive branch agency, with oversight done by the Governor." We heard back from the governor's press office representative quickly, who said she was including the EDD in the email for their response on behalf of the Newsom administration.

The Globe received this response from the EDD:

"As mentioned in the audit response letter from Director Rita Saenz (attached), EDD appreciates the auditor's review and acknowledgement of the immensity of the challenges EDD has faced in this COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the work that lies ahead and are committed to implementing all of the auditor's recommendations.

The EDD did not have the current UI Online system in the last recession 10 years ago. We're very grateful that it was implemented since then which has allowed us to automatically process a large majority of the avalanche of claims that came at California and every other state at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This way EDD was able process more claims in the first 8 weeks of the pandemic than we did in the entire worst year of the recession in 2010. (4.1 million claims processed in first 8 weeks of pandemic versus 3.8 million claims in all of 2010.)

In the midst of the Great Recession and scarce State funds, the EDD was only authorized to replace the Continued Claims functionality, roughly 25% of Unemployment Insurance (UI) program functionality. But EDD looks forward to tackling the rest of the system needs in a holistic way with the support of the administration and our IT partners."

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?



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