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*Santa Barbara County*



**COLAB**

The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture & Business

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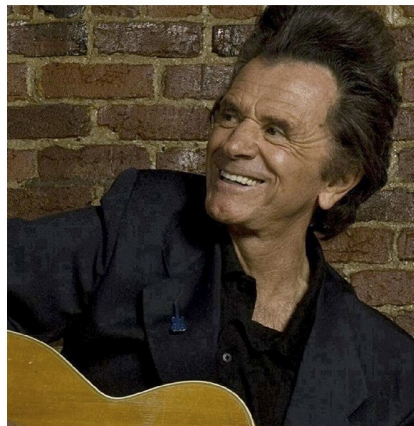
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# Fractured California Fairy Tales

By Andy Caldwell

**Ronald Reagan** hadn't seen anything yet when he said, "It isn't so much that liberals are ignorant. It's just that they know so many things that aren't so."

Where do we begin?

The *Washington Post* did a story on the efforts to re-start the oil pipeline that burst in 2015 near Refugio beach. Nearly 10 years later, the pipeline is still not back in operation albeit the new operator, Sable, is doing everything it can to resume oil production off our coast. The usual suspects, including the CA Coastal Commission, the Environmental Defense Center, and local politicians like County Supervisor **Joan Hartmann**, are doing their best to stop the restart to lead the way to a renewable energy nirvana by eliminating oil production and consumption in our state.

The reality of the situation?

While California (and the Biden administration) is doing its best to shut down production by eliminating drilling and curtailing consumption by basically outlawing vehicles and appliances that run on fossil fuels, they find themselves having to rely on totalitarian controls because the vast majority of people in CA are not buying what they are trying to sell. For all the mandates, subsidies, and prohibitions against the use of fossil fuels, all we did was kill local jobs while driving up the price of fuel. California still uses upwards of one billion gallons of fossil fuels per month. Hence, the only thing the regulators have accomplished is to increase foreign oil imports to make up for our lack of oil production here in CA and Alaska, the latter thanks to Obama and Biden. See this chart from [energy.ca.gov](http://energy.ca.gov)



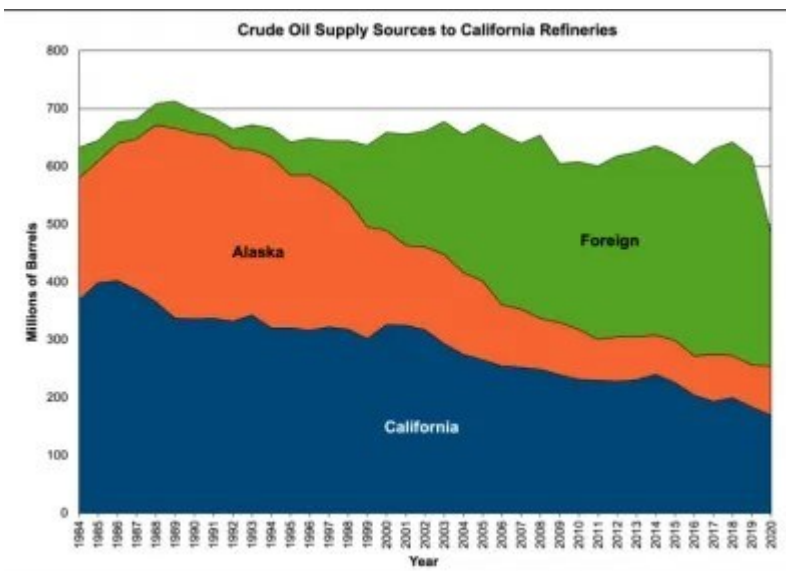
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What's worse is the phony claim that California is leading the way in going all-electric. As I have outlined in a previous column, California is producing too much solar during the day, which creates the ridiculous situation involving our having to pay other states to take it off our hands because otherwise the grid will overload. Conversely then, during the rest of the day we are importing more electricity from other states than any other state in the nation. Our virtue signaling about being a world leader is thereby just a mirage in what is becoming an energy desert.

Next up, the multi-billion-dollar effort to end homelessness. Governor Newsom can't account for over \$20 billion spent on the homeless because nobody bothered to track the abysmal results that have actually resulted in *more* homelessness. The truth is the policy that California embraced, known as "housing first," is a major reason our efforts are failing. Whereas a housing-first policy can work for some people who happened to simply run into some bad luck in their lives, it doesn't work for those people who are homeless because they are alcoholics, drug addicts and/or mentally ill. That is, throwing a house at people in the throes of severe dysfunction won't serve to address

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# Sen Wiener's Bill To Hold 'Big Oil' Responsible For Natural Disasters Includes 'Disinformation' Punishment

By Katy Grimes

*Senator Scott Wiener is trying to make reasonable skepticism a thought crime*

Sen Scott Wiener's new bill to hold "Big Oil" responsible for natural disasters has a Minority Report type of clause in it – punishment for speaking "misinformation or disinformation" about "the connection between its fossil fuel products and climate change and extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change."

Who judges what is "misinformation?" The "Precrime" chief?

As the Globe reported Monday, Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) announced a new bill, **Senate Bill 222**, "the Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act," which "will ensure that the fossil fuel industry and those harmed by climate change disasters" will be made whole by the oil and gas industry.

"No joke" the former president liked to say – usually when he was lying.

"The fossil fuel industry is fueling climate change," Sen. Wiener said. "They [fossil fuel industry] knew it was leading to disaster for decades, and have incapacitated lawmakers" to make money, he said.

Wiener's new bill will hold "Big Oil" responsible for natural disasters in California. And in doing so, will allow insurance companies and victims of fires, floods, rain and sleet, wind events, mudslides, and earthquakes to sue fossil fuel companies for damages.

The bill, **SB 222**, was not yet published Monday, but it is now. The Globe had a chance to read it and honed in on this gem:

(f) "Responsible party" means a firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other entity or association that **engaged in misleading and deceptive practices, including intentional lies, or the provision of misinformation or disinformation** about the connection between its fossil fuel products and climate change and extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change. "Responsible party" does not include the federal government, tribal governments, the state, a political subdivision of the federal, tribal, or state government, or an employee of the federal, tribal, or state government on the

basis of acts or omissions in the course of official duties. [*emphasis The Globe*]

So anyone who misleads or uses deceptive practices, "including intentional lies," or provides "misinformation or disinformation about the connection between its fossil fuel products and climate change and extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change," can expect a knock on the front door in the middle of the night?

As a media friend asked, "That would include journalists or science professors? Anyone."

So Senator Scott Wiener just gets to proclaim that there is a definitive "connection between fossil fuel products and climate change and extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change?"

Remember last year when Democrats proposed a "media literacy" requirement into school curriculum so students could "recognize fake news?"

Who judges what is "misinformation?"

Senator Wiener wants those who give out "misinformation" about climate change to be responsible for fire damage caused by climate change. Such as daring to question the lack of science behind the climate change wealth redistribution scheme? Or acknowledging that "objective science on climate has been sacrificed to politics."

(Continued on page 19)



# California Chickens Come Home To Roast

By Andy Caldwell

**Q.** *What burns hotter than a disco inferno?*

**A.** Fire in a battery energy storage system designed to store electricity from intermittent sources such as wind and solar.

Both Goleta and Nipomo have these battery energy storage facilities and Lompoc may soon have one too; Morro Bay may have dodged the bomb, er bullet. What was once the largest battery energy storage facility in the world just went up in flames and toxic smoke at Moss Landing near Monterey, affecting upwards of 100,000 residents. This latest catastrophe is very important to the renewable energy scheme because solar farms produce too much electricity during mid-day and virtually nothing the rest of the day. If the mid-day surge can't be stored, the solar energy source must either be shut off or the electricity virtually given away to other states lest it destabilize the CA grid.

In a previous life, I was an industrial relations and safety manager at Union Sugar in Santa Maria. As a result of the passage of Prop. 65 in 1986, along with a series of other regulations, we were required to have extensive safety measures in place to prevent explosions and hazards from harming our employees, our neighbors, and first responders. These CA laws were passed after a horrific industrial-scale accident in Bhopal, India.

## Emergency Response Protocol Failure

The premise behind the laws is that protocols and safeguards should be in place to ensure surrounding communities are not endangered by the off-site consequences of industrial accidents. Yet, what was the emergency response protocol for the event that just happened at Moss Landing? Evacuate, shelter in place, and close all the schools in a 70-mile area surrounding the facility. In other words, the plan is to run for your life!

This, even though **Gavin Newsom**, on Oct 9, 2023, signed legislation to enhance battery storage safety standards after a series of similar mishaps in the state. SB38 requires battery storage facilities to develop an emergency response plan in coordination with local emergency response agencies. That begs the question, why weren't these facilities *already* required to have these plans because of the pertinent laws passed nearly 40 years ago? SB38 was only introduced in Sept. of 2022 after a previous fire broke out

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at the same battery storage facility at Moss Landing.

Then again, what did emergency personnel do to squash the inferno that erupted on Jan 16 at Moss Landing?

Nothing.

They waited for it to burn itself out. This has to do with the fact that these fires are chemical-reaction fires, and throwing water on them can make things worse, via a phenomenon known as thermal runaway. There is no technology known to man to put out these industrial-scale fires. Interstate 15 was closed for two days last summer when a truck carrying lithium batteries caught fire. Other fires, like the one in San Diego this past May, burned for about two weeks. Hence, there is no realistic requirement that these battery facilities have a cogent plan to prevent fires and to ensure there are no off-site consequences.

Yet, our fire departments are signing off on these facilities?

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# Fires, Floods, And Fools: Rhetoric vs. Disaster

By Andy Caldwell



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Back in the 1990s, I penned my first in a series of articles dealing with the subject of “Fires, Floods, and Fools,” a never-ending cycle in California. Having lived through the 1969 flood and countless fires, it was a painful but easy column to write. Now, after revisiting this subject again and again and again over the years, the pain of watching tens of thousands of people lose everything they own is too much to bear. Nonetheless, will our government recognize this never-ending cycle of fires and floods, including the horrific Montecito debris flow, and begin to address the real problem that has absolutely nothing to do with climate change and everything to do with managing natural resources in a prudent and competent manner?

I am going to digress here a little and demonstrate that the rhetoric of climate change is just that: rhetoric. The fact is the doomsayers themselves claim that climate change will result in greater catastrophes in the future, meaning we will experience worse droughts, floods, and fires, than ever before. Yet, what have they done to prepare for the same? Have they built more dams and reservoirs to alleviate floods and help us through droughts?

No.

Have they built fuel breaks throughout the “wildlands?”

No.

Have they conducted regularly scheduled controlled

burns?

No.

Have they thinned the trees and brush and created a significantly wider buffer zone between the urban/rural interface?

No.

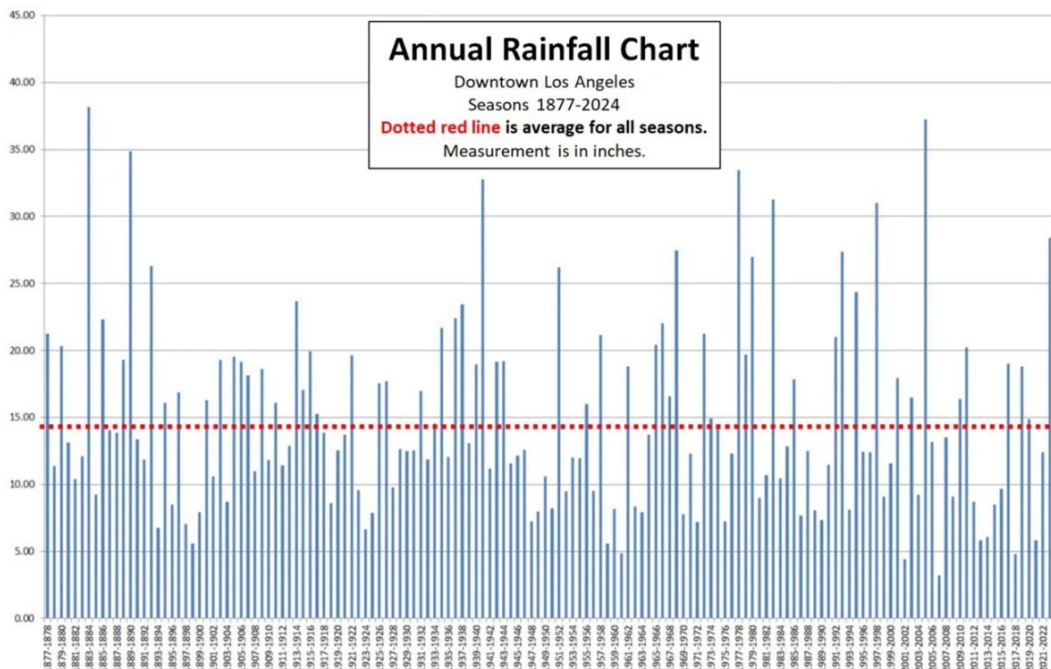
Have they deployed thousands of goats and cows into our foothills to help manage the fuels?

No.

Moreover, have they compared the ghg emissions from wildfires to that of the transportation sector to affirm they are focusing on the biggest emission source?

Resoundingly No!

**Check out this chart that indicates our rainfall amounts haven’t varied in 150 years:**



(Continued on page 17)



## Trump: Look At The Slow-Moving FDA

By Steven Greenhut

*The Food and Drug Administration's approval of low-risk tobacco pouches is welcome, but why did it delay for more than four years?*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of a product known as Zyn is a leap forward for the cause of tobacco harm reduction, which encourages smokers to switch from dangerous combustible cigarettes to less dangerous products. However, the agency's inexplicable delay in doing so raises serious questions about the FDA's bureaucratic and unaccountable approval process.

The delay of life-saving products has for decades been a theme at the FDA. The new administration has been busy with its shock-and-awe approach to immigration and other federal issues. Although it would be less attention-grabbing, a targeted effort to streamline approvals at this agency could really improve public health. The Zyn case provides a good excuse for the administration to put the FDA on its radar.

It's beyond debate that smoking cigarettes is a terribly dangerous habit. Public health nannies, including those in California, have responded with a Prohibitionist approach that bans many vaping and alternative nicotine products. It's perverse. Under state law, smokers can walk into a convenience stores and buy the most dangerous tobacco products available, but are forbidden from buying many of those (with flavors) that are 95 percent less harmful than cigarettes.

At the federal level, the FDA has put through the wringer companies that want to market these lower-risk nicotine products. Zyn — and similar products from various manufacturers — are small pouches that contain pharmaceutical-grade nicotine of the type found in nicotine gum. Users place them between their lip and gum and get the nicotine that they're dependent upon — without inhaling the toxic chemicals found in combustible cigarettes.

Obviously, it's best for people to abstain from any tobacco-related products (although nicotine is a somewhat different issue), but the government shouldn't take on the role of nanny for private decisions and dependencies. But from a public health standpoint, it can at least assure that less dangerous products are available rather than trying to limit them on store shelves in an apparent effort to keep them out of the hands of teens, who aren't legally allowed to buy them



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The FDA's approval of 20 types of Zyn pouches includes some encouraging findings. The FDA concluded that "due to substantially lower amounts of harmful constituents than cigarettes and most smokeless tobacco products ... the authorized products pose lower risk of cancer and other serious health conditions than such products." The agency agreed with evidence that "a substantial proportion of adults who use cigarette and/or smokeless tobacco products completely switched to the newly authorized nicotine pouch products."

So the FDA agreed with the core argument that harm-reduction advocates make: that these products are safer (not totally safe, of course) than the alternatives and many smokers who switch make a permanent

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## Enough With The Special Sessions In Sacramento

*By Jon Coupal*

**G**ov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed yet another special session last November to “safeguard California values and fundamental rights in the face of an incoming Trump administration.”

The Legislature is proposing \$25 million to the California Department of Justice to “Trump-proof” California and another \$25 million for illegal immigration legal and support services. But what purpose does a special session even serve?

Well, their purpose is made abundantly clear by their official term. It’s officially an “extraordinary” session. The dictionary tells me that means “going beyond what is usual, regular, or customary.”

Let’s say, hypothetically, a natural disaster like a wildfire, destroys a portion of Los Angeles while the legislature isn’t in session. It would make perfect sense for the governor to call the legislature back to address recovery efforts.

But, for better or worse, our state Legislature is a full-time legislature so they are in regular session for most of the year. The session convenes in December and doesn’t end until September (with a month off for Summer). They don’t need to be called back. They’re already here.

Well, you might be saying, the governor called them into special session in November. You said they aren’t in session in November, so they needed a special session. But they didn’t come back in November. When Newsom declared a special session, he gave it a starting date of “December 2, when the Legislature convenes.”

Even then, they didn’t really get going on it until January – when the regular session is already fully underway. So, what is calling a special session, especially one about fighting Trump, about? Well, you could say it’s about emphasizing priorities. But really it is nothing more than political theater.

Sure, the governor and legislative leaders could just tackle conflicts with the Trump administration in the normal course of their jobs, but that doesn’t generate national headlines. With Newsom’s national aspirations back on track after Kamala Harris’s defeat at the polls, garnering good press is a high priority for the administration.

But how is that working out? When the wildfires erupt-



ed in L.A. County, the political posturing was seen for what it was; an empty exercise that was tone deaf and in poor taste. Fiddling about Trump while the Pacific Palisades and Altadena burned.

Media scrutiny was growing, and more responsible legislative leaders were justifiably questioning the wisdom of continuing the Trump-related special session, especially relative to legitimate public business.

Moreover, existing legislative rules allow important bills to move quickly without a special session. The only thing stopping lawmakers from addressing the fires, or Trump for that matter, in the regular session was that they are simultaneously in a special session. But rather than go back to their regularly scheduled business and deal with all the issues facing California, including the wildfires, they doubled down.

Newsom announced he was expanding the special session to fight both Trump and the fires. Democrats also planned to lump it all together in one big bill. Tying funding for victims of a natural disaster to opposing Trump? That didn’t go well.

Legislative Republicans immediately objected to holding wildfire funding hostage and legislative leaders backed down after further public scrutiny. The Legislature has since approved a \$2.5 billion proposal to respond to the fires while the Senate considers the \$50 million to fight Trump.

Excessive spending had already stretched the budget to the point that the governor called for pulling billions out of the state’s rainy-day reserves. Now, thanks to two sessions at once, the legislature can spend your money twice as fast. Enough is enough.

*Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.*

# Santa Barbara County Receives An “F” On DOGE Report Card

By Andy Caldwell

Today, I would like to share with you a glimpse into the waste and virtue-signaling in an echo chamber that passes as government service. This piece details three components of failure.

First, unsustainable salary and benefit packages for county employees that is absorbing more than half the county’s \$1.6 billion budget.

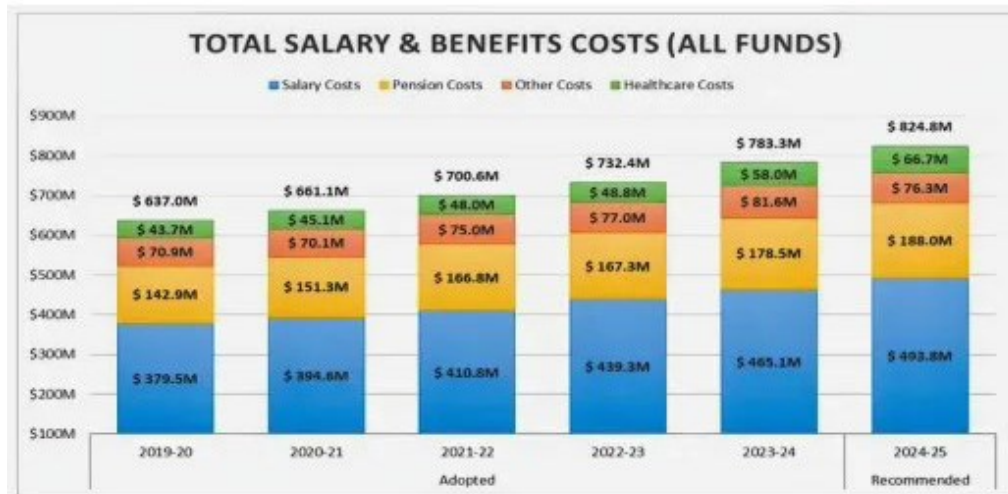
Second, fees charged to new development that impair the revenue growth necessary to sustain a healthy economy.

Then finally, the economic doom loop representing a preposterous assertion that stems from all the above. Namely, that the resulting poverty from our stagnant economy is somehow deemed to be a form of *economic stimulus!*

First, consider the obscene salaries of county managers who received a raise just in time for Christmas. The following amounts are what these executives make every two weeks:

Behavioral Wellness Director \$10,674.05; Social Services Director \$10,715.38; Public Health Director \$11,686.21 (the winner! \$300k per year not including benefits and pension costs!); First Five Director \$6,785.17; Planning & Development Director \$9,149.24; Fire Chief \$10,758.88; Chief Probation Officer \$8,694.86; Child Support Services Director \$7,918.95; Information Technology Director \$10,061.55; County Counsel \$11,191.14; Public Defender \$11,257.99; Community Services Director \$8,898.51.

Unfortunately, the salaries of the department heads are only the tip of the iceberg. Here is a chart representing the total salaries and benefits for all employees that was approved in the 2024/25 budget:



The cost per full-time employee, with benefits and pension, now averages \$170,000 per year. Contextually, the county is dependent upon property taxes, sales taxes, and bed taxes to fund many of its operations (known as general fund departments and services), the rest of their budget is paid by state and federal tax dollars. Therein, you would think they would become business friendly to balance their budget. But because of their never-ending appetite for higher salaries, county supervisors instead end up raising fees for services, not to mention exorbitant fees on new development and existing business operations that hinder the private sector from bringing in additional revenues to the county by growing the economy.

The absolute worst of these fees are so-called traffic mitigation fees. The lame theory behind the fees posits that any new development must mitigate the traffic generated by their project, as if the traffic wasn’t already in the community. The worst of these fees include the area known as “Noleta,” the county-controlled area between the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Goleta.



## Sanctuary Cities Were Always Anti-American

By Daniel Greenfield

**T**he real origins of our open borders nightmare.

New York City, Chicago and Boston are among the sanctuary cities collapsing after waves of migrants stormed across the open borders. Even cities that once boasted of providing sanctuary to illegal aliens from federal immigration enforcement are now running away from the name.

Sanctuary cities were always intended to be destructive. They were not, as many Democrats now wrongly claim, about providing safe harbor to refugees, but about bringing down America.

The sanctuary cities did not emerge in response to the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide or any actual genocide, but to provide support and sanctuary for Marxists fleeing the civil wars they had started in Latin America, and then later for Islamic terrorists after September 11.

Sanctuary cities were not about helping refugees, but about harboring America's enemies.

The sanctuary city movement emerged in the first years of the Reagan administration as Quakers, Catholic Liberation Theology and other leftist churches allied with the Soviet bloc intervened to protect leftist radicals fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua from deportation. That's why the original announcement of the sanctuary movement was timed to the anniversary of the killing of Archbishop Oscar Romero, an El Salvadoran leftist activist whose death was used to campaign against U.S. aid to the country's anti-Communist government.

The leftist churches did not offer to defy the law for all refugees, but focused specifically on the Reagan administration's policy of deporting refugees from "El Salvador and Guatemala" as "illegal and immoral". Their real complaint was that the Reagan administration was taking in the 'wrong sort' of refugees from Communist countries, instead of those from south of the border who were fleeing government crackdowns on Marxist revolutionary movements.

The sanctuary city movement described Reagan's policy of deporting Latin American Marxist revolutionaries as "illegal" because the administration continued to favor refugees from Communist countries. Carter's 1980 Refugee Act, which opened the door to the current border crisis, had been meant to shift



the flow of refugees away from Communist countries by putting the UN in charge of defining who a refugee was. And that definition would favor leftists.

The larger agenda had less to do with refugees and more to do with aiding Marxist revolutions.

"I am looking for a confrontation," Jack Elder, the activist who headed up Casa Oscar Romero, named after the archbishop, admitted. "There's a moral force behind what we're doing that has the potential to focus some light on foreign policy... There are bombing raids financed by the U.S. government."

The sanctuary movement was smuggling migrants and then publicly announcing it to undermine the Reagan administration's foreign policy and challenge American opposition to Communism.

At the Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, one of the founding places of the sanctuary movement, Rev. John Fife, who would later be arrested and convicted, had put up a sign reading "This is a sanctuary for the oppressed from Central America". Key figures in the sanctuary city movement did not just harbor illegal aliens, they helped them cross the border, leading to deliberate confrontations with the government that allowed them to play martyrs.

Even though the sanctuary movement had been initially cloaked in the religious guise of misplaced scripture and radical churches, the next stage depended on recruiting radical and not especially religious cities to create zones where immigration law would not apply. And radicals and migrants from south of the border then headed to those cities to overrun America.

(Continued on page 12)

# Unpardonable: Biden Grants Mass Clemency to Death Row Inmates in Last Gasp of Failed Presidency

By Jarrett Stepman

**I**n the waning days of a crumbling presidency that never really was, President Joe Biden—or whatever Biden-like facsimile is signing official documents these days—decided to finish out his term with one final blast of outrageous, yet cynical, wokery.

Biden wasn't content just to pardon his deadbeat son, Hunter, or hand out executive clemencies to more than 1,500 other criminals. No, he had to give mass commutations to inmates on federal death row: 37 to be exact.

That represents another bit of whiplash from Democrats over the past four years. They've gone from the party of "defund the police" to the party of "the rule of law" (supposedly) to the party the party of mass jail-breaking and bailouts for murderers.

It seems like the only people those on the Left want incarcerated are their political opponents. That's only principled if your principles are those of Josef Stalin's head of his secret police, Lavrentiy Beria.

The White House tried to portray Biden's mass nullification of death row as an act of conscience, a fulfillment of Biden's deep opposition to injustice or something. But a close reading of the carefully chosen language of the White House statement about his decision reveals the fact that this is less about Biden's commitment to life or justice than it is a payoff to the Left's activist class.

"President Biden has dedicated his career to reducing violent crime and ensuring a fair and effective justice system," Biden's statement reads. "He believes that America must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level, except in cases of terrorism and hate-motivated mass murder—which is why today's actions apply to all but those cases."

It's that last bit, everything after the "except" that stands out here. The three who didn't have their death sentences commuted were Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev; Dylann Roof, who killed nine in a mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina; and Robert Bowers, the man who committed the mass murder of 11 at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

What sets these men apart isn't really the heinousness of their crimes, but the fact that their crimes made national headlines.

They certainly didn't seem to care much about the victims' families.

"I was angry. I'm still angry. I am upset that this is even happening, that one man can make this decision without even talking to the victims, without any regard for what we've been through, what we're going through, and completely hurt, frustrated, and angry," said the daughter of Donna Major in an interview on TV's "Fox & Friends." Brandon Council, who was on Biden's list of commutations, gunned Major down during a robbery in 2017.

There were other upset families, too.

"While this is truly distressing news on a personal level for my family, it also feels like a complete dismissal and undermining of the federal justice system," said Marissa Gibson, the widow of police Officer Bryan Hurst who was murdered by now-former death row inmate Daryl Lawrence. "Lawrence's sentence was imposed by a jury, and it should be upheld as such."

President-elect Donald Trump rightly slammed Biden's decision with a Christmas post on Truth Social.

*(Continued on page 11)*



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*established in 1978*

# Unpardonable: Biden Grants Mass Clemency to Death Row Inmates in Last Gasp of Failed Presidency *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 10)*

He said merry Christmas to everyone but the “37 most violent criminals, who killed, raped, and plundered like virtually no one before them, but were just given, incredibly, a pardon by Sleepy Joe Biden.”

As more than a few commentators have noted already, what “Biden” did was a grave act of injustice. If he really was opposed to the death penalty, then the appropriate place to start was with Congress. At least make some kind of larger appeal to the American people.

But Biden has never actually been one to care about process or justice. His career has been defined by empty rhetoric and raw political calculations. Now, at the end, he’s cemented his hollow legacy with one last act of egregious coalition nursing with no regard for right and wrong.

It’s a fitting, shameful end to a presidency that will surely rank among the most dismal in our country’s history.

, at least 20 coal-fired power plants nationwide are being resurrected or extended past their closing dates to ensure Germany has enough energy to get through the winter.

Additionally, as the AP reports, Germany risks “deindustrialization” as high energy costs and govern-

ment inaction on other chronic problems threaten to send new factories and high-paying jobs elsewhere. For instance, Volkswagen is projected to close three factories and lay off 10,000 workers due to electricity costs, EV mandates, and the inability to compete with Chinese EV imports.

## Energy Death Spiral Looms

Unfortunately, here in the echo chamber we call home, our green virtue-signaling leaders believe that we can never have enough solar and wind, making us consumers gluttons for high electricity bills. The real problem, they believe, is the remaining few sources of dispatchable energy, e.g., natural gas, which they are trying to eliminate. The elimination of this vital dispatchable and ubiquitous clean energy source comes by way of prohibiting both production and consumption. Yet, natural gas is one of the only things propping up the green energy facade, while giving consumers an affordable alternative to wind and solar generated electricity. And don’t get me started about CA’s shutdown of oil production that is leading to the closure of our gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel refineries, which is going to cause a similar energy death spiral with respect to our transportation sector.

*Jarrett Stepman, contributor to The Daily Signal and co-host of The Right Side of History podcast. and author of the book "The War on History: The Conspiracy to Rewrite America's Past"*



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## Sanctuary Cities Were Always Anti-American *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

When San Francisco announced that it would become the first sanctuary city, it did not open itself to all the refugees in the world, but focused on those coming from Central America.

The sanctuary city movement was meant to create a crisis that would force the Reagan administration to stop supporting anti-Communist movements south of the border by bringing the chaos and violence to the United States. This was in keeping with what had become the larger leftist mission to “bring the war home” in order to forcibly alter American foreign policy.

Much as the ‘Weathermen’ and their radical successors had carried out bombings to bring the Vietnam War home to Americans, the sanctuary city movement sought to bring the civil war in El Salvador to this country in order to dissuade Americans from fighting against Communism.

A year after the sanctuary city movement was announced, the number of illegal aliens rose 40% and hit 1.4 million by the end of 1983. Crime rates rose alongside the migrant invasion.

The sanctuary city movement led to the first manufactured border crisis. By acting as ‘magnets’ for migrants, sanctuary cities attracted large numbers of illegal aliens leading to the 1986 amnesty and eventually to the demographic shift of California to a Democrat majority state.

The number of illegals rose from 3 million before amnesty into the tens of millions.

The second wave of the sanctuary city movement occurred after 9/11. The end of the Reagan administration and some of the Central American civil wars had dampened interest in the movement, but the impetus for the second sanctuary wave, just as it had been for the original movement, was protecting an anti-American terrorist force by abrogating U.S. law.

The sanctuary city movement had been born as a protest movement against the Reagan administration and

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the second wave arose in response to a new popular Republican White House. The Bush administration’s crackdown on Islamic terrorism radicalized leftists in the early oughts the way that Reagan’s war against Marxist guerrillas had their radical forebears.

In *Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left*, David Horowitz’s crucial expose of the red-green alliance, he described how the passage of the Patriot Act ushered in the next wave of the anti-American movement to cripple the country’s response to Islamic terrorism.

“As of June 2004, 320 cities, towns, and counties, as well as four states had adopted resolutions condemning the Patriot Act, many refusing to cooperate with Homeland Security officials in the enforcement of its security measures,” Horowitz wrote.

Horowitz described how the model for the second wave of sanctuary city resolutions came from radical leftists at the “ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, and People for the American Way” who had been set up to protect Communist organizations

(Continued on page 13)

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## Sanctuary Cities Were Always Anti-American *Cont.*

(Continued from page 12)

under the guise of defending civil rights.

Veterans of the leftist domestic terrorist movements rushed to equate Marxist terrorists with the emerging Jihadists. Bernardine Dohrn of the Weathermen argued that "Prosecutions are underway that are reminiscent of the indictments of the early-fifties McCarthy period and the conspiracy indictments of the early seventies preWatergate Mitchell Department of Justice, the two most recent periods of overtly political repression. For example, John Ashcroft has orchestrated a series of high profile indictments against Islamic charities, including the Holy Land Foundation in Texas." The Holy Land Foundation had been fundraising for Hamas.

Dohrn's argument prefigured the formal leftist embrace of Hamas after October 7.

The sanctuary city movement was then revived with a third wave in the first Trump administration to protect illegal aliens and arrivals from Islamic terrorist states. The infrastructure that had been put into place during the original sanctuary city movement was mobilized to unite cities, states, universities and religious groups around lawsuits challenging the Muslim travel ban. And the third wave also brought together the two previous waves: protecting illegal migration from Central America and defending the activities of Islamic terrorist groups.

President Trump's second term will be the ultimate test of the sanctuary city movement. Its defenders claim that they are only protecting refugees, women and children, but the real story is that it is a movement at war with America that came into existence to aid our enemies.

The sanctuary city movement was always anti-American. Its core motivations were countering America's defense against Communism and Islamism. It rejected U.S. law, not just because it thought any one part of it was wrong, but because it rejected the existence of America.

*Daniel Greenfield, blogger (SULTAN KNISH), columnist and a reporter at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, investigative journalist at FrontPageMag.com and author of the new book, "Domestic Enemies: The Founding Fathers' Fight Against the Left"*

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# Santa Barbara County Receives An “F” On DOGE Report Card *Cont.*

(Continued from page 8)

To build a 7-11 24-hour convenience store slightly larger than 2,000 square feet, the county would charge the developer \$1 million for traffic fees! Gas stations are \$139,392 per pump. A bank with a drive-through is \$819,278 per 1,000 square feet (on average \$2.5 million). Meanwhile, the county continues to fall behind on maintaining the infrastructure it has in the form of roads, buildings, and parks to the tune of over \$400 million. Again, a large part of this deficit has to do with exorbitant payouts to employees and stifling the growth that would increase base county revenues were it not for these ridiculously expensive charges to the private sector.

Making things worse, the County of Santa Barbara enacted a selfish and short-sighted policy known as 100% cost recovery that posits that all fee-based programs must provide 100% of the cost of administering the same including overhead costs. For instance, while the county may pay a county planner \$40-\$60 per hour in personal compensation, it charges applicants a base rate of \$292 per hour for services. The difference between what the planner is paid vs what the county charges per hour is the cost of overhead. This policy has caused all the fees the county charges to become ridiculously expensive while at the same time it means the supervisors have no skin in the game when it comes to controlling the costs of the departments that charge fees. That is, the supervisors don't care how much these departments charge as long as they don't have to contribute to the programs from the county general fund.

You would think the board of supervisors would become more business-friendly to pay their bills and see people prosper.

But you would be wrong.

Instead, they are overseeing a massive rise in poverty exemplified by the explosive growth in the county's departments which administers various public health and social welfare programs. These departments employ nearly 2,000 employees with a budget of \$588 million per year and that doesn't include the cost of benefits paid out to "clients" (some \$76 million *per month*). For the breakdown of the benefits, consider the following.

COUNTY STATISTICAL PROFILE				
Individuals and Families in need also have access to local, state and federal programs, as administered by the County Department of Social Services. These programs help members of the community maintain their health, improve their economic security, and protect their safety. These benefits also have a <b>stimulating impact</b> on the local economy.				
Monthly Public Assistance Estimates (FY2023-24)				
Program	Monthly Households Receiving Public Assistance	Average Monthly Benefits per Household <sup>1</sup>	Average Monthly Benefits Total	Projected Monthly (Multiplier) Economic Impact <sup>4</sup>
CalWORKs	2,855	\$919	\$2,623,880	\$4,040,775
General Relief <sup>2</sup>	282	\$79	\$22,281	\$34,313
CalFresh	32,676	\$307	\$10,020,047	\$15,430,872
Medi-Cal Benefits <sup>3</sup>	77,757	\$813	\$63,251,297	\$83,491,713
(1) Actual benefits are based on multiple factors including family size. (2) General Relief offers small short-term loans to help people without children who need help to meet their most basic shelter and personal needs (3) Medi-Cal Benefit estimates are based on Published Actuals of Medical Expenses for Santa Barbara County for 11 Months as of December 2023. (4) The multipliers used to calculate economic stimulus impact are from estimates by the <a href="#">USDA</a> (\$1.54 per \$1 in Public Assistance) and Beacon Economics (\$1.32 per \$1 in Medi-Cal provider payments) Source: Department of Social Services, County of Santa Barbara				

The insult to injury about the payouts to clients? The county had the nerve to claim that welfare payments have a *multiplier effect* on the economy.

I could add to this narrative several multi-million-dollar debacles including the county's furtive attempt to steal the ambulance contract from AMR, which has resulted in a costly lawsuit, or the \$250 million boondoggle in the form of the failed waste-to-energy conversion facility, which is also in litigation.

But I think you get the picture as to why our board of supervisors deserve an “F” on managing Santa Barbara County into economic oblivion.





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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!

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## Trump: Look At The Slow-Moving FDA *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 6)*

switch away from the really bad stuff. And given that California lawmakers banned the flavored versions of these products as a means to combat underage use, the state's lawmakers ought to pay attention to this part of the federal statement: "The FDA reviewed data regarding youth risk and found that youth use of nicotine pouches remains low."

As my R Street colleague and harm-reduction expert Jeffrey Smith noted in his opposition to a proposed Denver ordinance: "In California, a state that has applied the most stringent flavor prohibitions, the impact on access to flavored products was hindered very little, and smoking rates actually increased. This phenomenon was validated by a recent study where investigators showed that following flavor bans, the number of cigarettes used increased by 12 for every flavored pod not sold."

So good for the FDA for its decision and its clear-headed rationale. But the process that arrived here leaves observers scratching their heads. Under its premarket tobacco application (PMTA) process for determining whether a company is legally allowed to market a new tobacco product, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has 180 days from the filing to make its determination. In this case, the agency took 1,750 days — nearly five years — to get there.

And it hasn't explained why. At the R Street Institute, we do significant work on harm reduction, so we're pleased that it did get there — and that Zyn products remained on the shelves through the duration. But the agency hasn't explained its slow-walking. Had, say, a tobacco, pharmaceutical, or medical-device company missed its FDA-imposed deadlines by more than four years, I'd imagine the agency would not have looked kindly on that. Why does FDA get to violate its own deadlines?

Here's a specific reform idea. The FDA streamlines the approval process for products that are substantially equivalent, but it generally doesn't do so for similar products from other companies. That means other companies will have to go through the tortuous process to get federal approval, which only limits the public's access to potentially life-saving products. Allow them to do so. Many new products are popping up, and these companies may not have gone through the process or even submitted an application yet.

Then let's break the FDA logjam for other items and finally do something about its foot dragging.

Steven Greenhut is Western region director for the R Street Institute and a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board. Write to him at [sgreenhut@rstreet.org](mailto:sgreenhut@rstreet.org)

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## Fires, Floods, And Fools: Rhetoric vs. Disaster *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

### Many Lost Homes with Little To No Insurance

Meanwhile, what has our government done? Besides spending billions on high-speed rail, tens of billions on the homeless (ironically at least two homeless people in L.A. were detained by law enforcement as arson suspects), and millions on charging stations and the like, they set up an impossible scenario for the public at large via what they have done to our utilities and insurance carriers.

They have prevented our utilities from clear cutting the areas through which our power lines run and then sued the bejesus out of them for the ensuing fire storms. This leaves the utilities with little choice but to turn off power in the middle of a windstorm or face the threat of bankruptcy from the ensuing lawsuits. And what good are charging stations that won't work when people need them most, as when their power is cut off during an emergency?

Moreover, the state would not allow insurance companies to raise rates in a timely manner to cover the never-ending stream of claims from natural disasters, so they were forced to cancel coverage. So now, a significant number of the people who lost their homes have no insurance coverage to cover their losses or begin the rebuilding process as you normally can't get loans to construct without fire insurance.

Of course, since the 1990s when I first wrote on this subject matter, our government's failure to adequately safeguard our communities from fires and floods has gotten progressively worse, pun intended. That is,

progressives in city and county governments and our state government have placed undue emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion in their hiring and promotional practices as competence is lower on the list of priorities than ever before.

### Using Gay Men's Chorus to Fight Fires

Specifically, as LA County spent more than a billion dollars on the homeless, millions on electric vehicles, including an electric fire truck and EV charging stations, and hundreds of thousands on various DEI programs, they cut the fire department budget some \$17 million this past year. One expenditure stands out to me: \$14,010 to the "Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. Maybe **Nero** should have thought of hiring a choir while Rome burned.

Our government needs to come to grips with reality, but that won't happen until we start electing people with real world experience that breeds competence in managing priorities versus the ability to virtue signal. There are myriad local, state, and federal laws, that prevent us from thwarting out-of-control wildfires by reducing fuel loading. Nobody should have to get a permit to thin trees and brush on their property, or maximize flood control capacities in rivers, streams, and ditches; the government should be required to do the same on an ongoing basis on the property under its control. California also needs to quit wasting billions of gallons of water on fish and make it a priority that every community in this state has more water than it needs including by constructing multiple desal plants along the coast, along with a significant number of new dams and reservoirs.

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## Trump Charts A New Climate Course *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 4)*

### Elevated Toxicity Levels in “Green” Energy

The smoke from these fires is extremely toxic. Hence, to “save” the planet from increased levels of CO2, which is an oxymoron considering the real threat to the planet is when CO2 levels get *too low*, we are classifying these batteries as *green* energy. Heck, I remember when increased CO2 levels – greening the planet – was settled science, and greening the planet was a good thing.

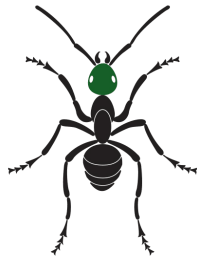
Nonetheless, according to a global catastrophic risk analysis we are now threatening neighborhoods with a ticking time bomb that can feature high percentages of hydrogen, and compounds of hydrogen, including hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen chloride, and hydrogen cyanide, as well as carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, and methane, among other dangerous chemicals. On exposure to skin or by inhaling, hydrogen fluoride can result in skin burns and lung damage that can take time (hours to weeks) to develop following exposure. Hydrogen fluoride can be quickly absorbed by the body via skin and lungs, depleting vital calcium and magnesium levels in tissues, which can result in severe and possibly fatal systemic effects.

As I indicated in a previous column, these industrial-scale battery energy storage systems are not the only problem having to do with our effort to “go green.” Specifically, in addition to using batteries to store energy, the major efforts to replace the use of fossil fuels relies on the use of lithium batteries in cars, trucks, and bicycles. There are myriad problems associated with the use of these batteries.

Additional hazards arise charging the vehicles, not to mention that dead batteries constitute a toxic waste stream. Regarding battery production plants, there have been several explosions at these plants including in South Korea where 22 workers were killed after a single lithium battery set off a series of explosions.

*Western Journal* reporter **Jack Davis** writes that Seneca Insurance company, citing data from across the U.S., reports “there have been 445 lithium-ion battery fires, 214 injuries, and 38 deaths. In New York City, E-bikes were responsible for 267 fires in 2023, 18 deaths, and 150 injuries, citing data from the Fire Department of New York. Over the past three years, lithium-ion battery fires have been the top cause of fatal fires in New York City.”

*As Kermit the Frog used to say, “It’s not easy being green.”*



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# Sen Wiener’s Bill To Hold ‘Big Oil’ Responsible For Natural Disasters Includes ‘Disinformation’ Punishment *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

This isn’t the first or second attempt to make spreading misinformation a crime.

In 2018 there were bills in the California Legislature seeking to teach students about “fake news.” Law-makers were pushing for new laws to root out “fake news” and teach “media literacy” in public schools.

Several of the proposed “fake news” bills claimed, “There is evidence to suggest that the dissemination of ‘fake news’ through social media influenced the outcome of the 2016 U.S. Presidential election,” as justification for attempting to create a government control of the media, I reported. The ultimate plan is to expand beyond this unelected “advisory council” to create actual legislation authorizing state government to make this determination.

While only one of the 2018 bills passed in a slightly watered down version, it should give everyone pause. **AB 873** was signed into law by then-Gov. Jerry Brown. Republicans also voted for this dangerous bill.

Meanwhile, Senator Scott Wiener is trying to make reasonable skepticism a thought crime.

*Be sure to read **Senator Wiener Proposes Oil And Gas Industry Pay For ‘Climate Driven Disasters’** and*

***Naturally, CA Dems Blame Fire Damage On Climate Change, Blame Oil Companies***

*Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief 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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## Andy Caldwell Thanks You!



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## Fractured California Fairy Tales *Cont.*

*(Continued from page 2)*

the underlying problems that are keeping them down and out. There is only one jurisdiction in America that has a stellar record in ending homelessness and that is San Antonio, Texas, which has up to an 80% success rate in successfully reintegrating the homeless back into society and that has to do with the fact that they focus their efforts 100% on treatment and recovery.

### More Righteous Indignation

My final umbrage of the week has to do with all the insanely infuriating things the Biden administration is doing in the last days of his *failed* presidency. Two of these acts, which speak for themselves, are a literal insult to injury to the families of the victims of the 37 people who had their death sentence commuted despite having perpetrated heinous crimes, and the associated granting of clemency for 1500 criminals, the most ever by a president in U.S. history.

The third action was his awarding **Hillary Clinton** and **George Soros** the Medal of Freedom Award which (according to Wikipedia) was created to recognize people who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors, was also a moral outrage. Hillary certainly did not promote our security or national interests when she brokered a deal to sell uranium to Russia, let alone for abandoning our people in Benghazi. Soros is, according to *The Economic Times*, "the 94-year-old billionaire hedge fund tycoon and philanthropist disliked by many critics for *impoverishing* countries by attacking their currencies and attempting regime changes in various parts of the world to install governments of his liking." Here in the United States, Soros is infamous for having helped elect District Attorneys throughout the nation that refused to prosecute violent crimes.

The last thing these two people deserved was to be honored by our country.

Please *share* these columns in the sbcurrent.com! For, as **Samuel Adams** once said, "It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brush fires of freedom in the minds of men."



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