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Nefarious Purposes and Stupid Ideas

By Andy Caldwell

Thanks to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), we know the Biden administration, as well as previous administrations, were spending billions via the USAID program for nefarious purposes and stupid ideas. Then, there was the EPA employee caught on camera comparing the funding that was spent at the last minute for various dubious climate change initiatives which the staffer referred to as “throwing gold bars off the Titanic.” Finally, millions were spent on woke mad-scientist experiments at various university research labs throughout the country that amounted to nothing less than cruelty to animals.

Here is a very short list from the White House detailing a smidgen of our wasted tax dollars:

\$1.5 million to “advance diversity equity and inclusion in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities”

\$70,000 for production of a “DEI musical” in Ireland

\$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam

\$47,000 for a “transgender opera” in Colombia

\$32,000 for a “transgender comic book” in Peru

\$2 million for sex changes and “LGBT activism” in Guatemala

\$6 million to fund tourism in Egypt

Hundreds of thousands of dollars for a non-profit linked to designated terrorist organizations — even after an inspector general launched an investigation

Millions to EcoHealth Alliance — which was involved in research at the Wuhan lab

Hundreds of thousands of meals that went to al Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria

Hundreds of millions of dollars to fund “irrigation canals, farming equipment, and even fertilizer used to support the unprecedented poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan,” benefitting the Taliban

“Charity” Not Condoned by U.S. Constitution

I was reminded of two things when I read about this wasteful spending of tens of billions of tax dollars. The first was that this level of wasteful spending is not limited to the federal government, albeit the federal government has a greater capacity, aptitude, and history of wasting more dollars because they can print and borrow money at will. Nevertheless, Santa Barbara County has given upwards of \$1 million to various “charities,” to fund such activities as “anti-racism

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A Molotov Cocktail Toast To The Environment And Democracy

By Andy Caldwell

Tesla is the only electric vehicle manufacturer that is, or was, making money on electric cars. Most all other manufacturers lose thousands if not tens of thousands, per vehicle, on their electric vehicle fleets. Moreover, despite being an electric vehicle, Tesla model Y has become the best-selling car in the world! Hence, if the left is successful in taking down Tesla, their green dreams of forcing all motorists to drive an EV will be reduced to ashes because, apart from Tesla, the economics don't pencil out for any other manufacturer.

The progressive left has been telling us for years that we have to go all-electric to save the planet. Now, they are telling us we must destroy **Elon Musk** and his efforts via DOGE to save our democracy. Somehow, a few eco-terrorists have decided the best way to go after Musk is to attack Tesla. This reminds me of an unattributable quote that states that "An evil man will burn his own nation to the ground to rule over the ashes."

The quote perfectly describes the eco-terrorists who have been firebombing Tesla showrooms with Molotov cocktails no less, while others were caught on video damaging individual cars. There have also been countless other types of protests, mostly peaceful, including in Santa Barbara, where hundreds gathered to protest Elon Musk and President Trump.

It must be hard to live with yourself when you want to save the environment and democracy and the best idea you can come up with is either outright attacking or protesting the most successful electric car manufacturer in the world.

As CNN reports, California has the most Tesla owners in America, and that Democrats by a 2:1 margin own more Teslas than Republicans. Hence, it is safe to say the green revolution is eating its own.

The quote about those who would rather rule over ashes also describes many of the protesters who are complaining that the DOGE effort is resulting in too many firings and layoffs. Albeit many of the people who are no longer working for the federal government took an early buyout or were new employees still on probation. Thus far, however, the Trump administration hasn't come close to the 400,000 federal workers fired by President Clinton in the early 1990s.

Lost on these people is how perilously close America is to bankruptcy. That is, Trump's simultaneous attempts to reduce our foreign trade deficit, revitalize



American manufacturing and industry, unleash our energy sector, reduce fraud and frivolous spending, and reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy couldn't come a moment too soon.

In the Annual Financial Report of the United States Government signed by **Janet Yellen** in January, 2025 for the fiscal year 2024, she outlines the fact that comparing total government assets of \$5.7 trillion (including \$1.8 trillion of loans receivable, net and \$1.3 trillion of Property, Plant, and Equipment (PP&E)) to total liabilities of \$45.5 trillion (including \$28.3 trillion in federal debt and interest payable, and \$15.0 trillion of federal employee and veteran benefits payable) yields a negative net position of \$39.9 trillion.

Furthermore, the report indicates that the debt-to-GDP ratio was approximately 98 percent at the end of FY 2024. Under current policy and based on this report's assumptions, it is projected to reach 535 percent by 2099. The projected continuous rise of the debt-to-GDP ratio indicates that current policy is "unsustainable."

Hence, the United States government brings in some \$5 trillion per year in tax revenue and spends nearly \$8 trillion for a deficit-spending budget of negative \$3 trillion. We owe some \$45 trillion, so at the current deficit spending annually of negative \$3 trillion, our government debt would grow to over \$50 trillion in just two years... and that doesn't include the trillions owed for Social Security and Medicare commitments. And yet, people are protesting Trump's effort to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse?

Is California Governor Gavin Newsom An Economic Illiterate Or Just Deceitful?

By Katy Grimes

The California median home price is \$909,400

California Governor Gavin Newsom is showing the breadth of his economic illiteracy – or just plain old political deceit.

Last week, Gov. Newsom and State Attorney General Rob Bonta sued President Donald Trump over his tariff's – the first state in the country to do so.

"According to the suit, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, they argue that the tariffs are illegal because, under the U.S. Constitution, only Congress has the power to put tariffs into place."

"President Trump's unlawful tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families, businesses, and our economy — driving up prices and threatening jobs," Newsom said in a statement. "We're standing up for American families who can't afford to let the chaos continue. No state is poised to lose more than the state of California."

Then Gavin Newsom whined that his own 4 kids have lots of cheap toys from China under the Christmas Tree, so the U.S. needs to keep the cheap crap from China rolling in: "I've got four kids, 80% of their toys under the Christmas tree come from China. I've got family members that live paycheck to paycheck, many family members."

Let's analyze Gov. Newsom's statement:

"President Trump's unlawful tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families, businesses, and our economy — driving up prices and threatening jobs," Newsom said in a statement. "We're standing up for American families who can't afford to let the chaos continue."

Newsom claimed that "tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families."

What is "wreaking chaos on California families?"

Let's start with the fact that a tariff is not a tax on the American people. More on that below.

Next, the California median home price in 2024 was \$869,500, forecasted to rise 4.6 percent to \$909,400 in 2025. That's nearly \$1 Million for a basic home. How does a teacher, office worker, court clerk,



grocery worker, truck driver, press operator, drywall contractor, warehouse worker, landscaper or house-keeper buy a \$1 million home?

These average Californians don't buy California homes. They can't and never will at \$909,400. Instead they move out of California, taking California's strength and backbone to other states.

Gavin Newsom has never bought into American trade agreements – he's been a China hustler for years.

Remember Gavin Newsom's campaign trip to China in 2023? Newsom's vanity trip complete with a glamour photo shoot at the Great Wall of China, "exposed what an unserious but ambitious politician he really is – governing a big state just isn't fun, after all. Working to be a statesman isn't as rewarding as being a high-level office holder for Gavin. The timing of his trip was obviously designed to meet with China General Secretary Xi Jinping ahead of President Joe Biden's scheduled meeting in San Francisco at the APEC Summit next month."

As the Globe reported, for Newsom, who doth protested he wasn't running for President in 2024, was sure making a lot of moves which served only to elevate his profile but had no benefit at all for his home state of California.

Fortunately for everyone paying attention, Gavin Newsom showed what Big-Hat-No-Cattle he really is.

As for Newsom's China connections, think back recently to fall of 2024 when Gov. Newsom's trip to China was sold to the media as a "climate-focused tour," centered on electric vehicles providing a greener environment free from fossil fuels. However, what Newsom failed to address with China General Secretary Xi Jinping is that China produces more global emissions

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70% Poverty Rate? Mission Accomplished!

By Andy Caldwell

County supervisors have a very bad habit of looking through the wrong end of a telescope. Or, as Groucho Marx would have put it, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies." In no situation has this been truer than in government's approach to so-called "affordable housing."

The tag team of the City of Santa Barbara, County Supervisors, and our State Legislature are in the process of destroying the once sacred ambience of Santa Barbara. The one thing I have heard constantly since I was a kid growing up in this region is that the last thing Santa Barbara wanted to become is another Orange County or San Fernando Valley. That is, they didn't want tall buildings, urban sprawl, high density or beach-side development, or the elimination of open spaces. Now they are getting all those things and more because of state mandates demanding that each community build its "fair share" of housing along with the quest for affordable work-force housing.

The sinister aspect of this no-growth mentality, which also applies to the Santa Ynez Valley, is evident in a quote I heard some 35 years ago which explains our local land-use policies heretofore: "The cost of preserving the high quality of life in Santa Barbara County includes limiting opportunities for others. It limits economic mobility, but that is a legitimate choice!" That statement embodied the marching orders for Santa Barbara County's Planning and Development Department as confessed by a former department director.

So, what is it? Preserve Santa Barbara or change it forever by high density and high-rise developments that create traffic nightmares, water shortages, and other problems associated with shoe-horning tens of thousands of units (the former Macy's and Sear's stores anybody?) that will overburden the resources to serve the same?

I, for one, don't believe you can make living in Santa Barbara or the valley affordable without some urban sprawl because too many people who don't need a job (the independently wealthy and the homeless!) want to live here and they are competing with the people who can't afford to live here, because their job pays too little compared to the cost of housing.

This brings us to a hearing which would have served to humiliate our county supervisors (past and present)

and their staff had they not forgotten how to blush many years ago. Supervisor **Laura Capps** thinks she can make some housing affordable by taking county land and developing it, thereby eliminating the land cost associated with development. In other words, she wants to sacrifice county resources to put a band-aid on our hemorrhaging wound having to do with housing affordability.

What was lost on everybody at the hearing on this subject were some very disturbing details having to do with poverty rates in our county. That is, the main reason housing isn't affordable is not so much because of the price of housing (outside of Santa Barbara and the SY Valley), as much as it is that the city, county, and state have completely annihilated all the best-paying jobs we once enjoyed. Simply put, the report indicated that a whopping 70% of the workers in this county are either poor or very poor. Moreover, the situation is getting worse; in the past five years, 40% of the workforce has become poorer than they were five years ago. Yet, nobody on the staff or the board mentioned this part of the report.

Here is Finding #1 from Harris and Associates who produced the report indicating that Santa Barbara County experienced a whopping 1% job growth in the last five years along with the following poverty indicators: The full report here.

Hence, the real problem is that government at every

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Trump's Electric Vehicle Rollback Helps Consumers, Won't Hurt Climate

By Steven Greenhut

Policymakers need to let the market work.

Before we let Democratic legislators get on their high horses about the Trump administration's obliteration of California's climate goals via its elimination of the federal electric vehicle mandate, let's look at one statistic that should put matters in perspective.

Between 2003 and 2019, California reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 13 percent thanks to billions of dollars in spending and myriad mandates designed to shift energy use to electric generation. Yet 2020's wildfires "caused twice the amount of greenhouse gas emissions" that were saved over those sixteen years, according to a University of Chicago report. Fires are obliterating any savings from our state's high-profile move away from fossil fuels.

If man-made climate change is for real, then it's imperative that we adopt the right policies rather than spend all our time fighting about the wrong ones. And it's about time that we start questioning the value of ongoing federal electric vehicle credits, which are designed to prop up sales of vehicles that most Americans don't want to buy, at least not yet.

As usual, Trump often explains matters in the most divisive manner possible. He once said electric vehicle policies are a "transition to hell." But Trump also said "that electric vehicles were suitable for a 'small slice' of the population and that 'you want every type of car imaginable' to be available," as reported by the *Guardian* in August. That's the critical point.

Since the election, Trump signed an executive order, "Unleashing American Energy," which set forth the following goal:

To eliminate the 'electric vehicle (EV) mandate' and promote true consumer choice ... by removing regulatory barriers to motor vehicle access; by ensuring a level regulatory playing field for consumer choice in vehicles; by terminating, where appropriate, state emissions waivers that function to limit sales of gasoline-powered automobiles; and by considering the elimination of unfair subsidies and other ill-conceived government-imposed market distortions that favor EVs over other technologies and effectively mandate their purchase by individuals, private businesses, and government entities alike by rendering other types of



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vehicles unaffordable.

As the Associated Press reported, electric vehicle sales nationwide account for only 8 percent of new vehicle sales — and automakers "have pulled back ambitious plans to go electric" following declining sales and falling prices. The Trump policy has particular impact in California, as the administration "seeks to terminate a federal exemption that allows California to phase out the sale of gas-powered cars by 2035." Electric vehicle sales in California are much higher than the national average, at 25 percent of vehicle purchases. But even those sales have stalled and fall well short of the state's goals.

California's goals are of national importance given that, as the *San Diego Union-Tribune* summarized, "[D]ue to the sheer size of California's automotive market, carmakers end up complying with the Golden State's stricter standards, thus resulting in a de facto policy for the entire country." I'm a big fan of federalism, even when our state typically pursues the wrong course, but this does seem like a legitimate national issue — especially given that it's dependent on a federal waiver.

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Oh, Happy Day

By Andy Caldwell

Taking a Wrong Turn in the Pursuit of Happiness

Most Americans don't correctly understand the phrase in the Declaration of Independence having to do with "the pursuit of happiness." The best interpretation of the meaning of the phrase in that era comes from the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 which notes that "the happiness of a people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, essentially depend upon piety, religion, and morality."

This Easter Sunday, would you please consider the many deleterious impacts to our collective happiness having to do with nihilism, hedonism, narcissism, and materialism? This is extremely important because these views and beliefs dominate our society today to our collective demise.

Nihilism is defined by Merriam Webster's dictionary as a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded, and that existence is senseless and useless. Further, nihilism is a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths. It can also be described as a doctrine or belief that conditions in the social organization are so bad as to make destruction desirable for its own sake independent of any constructive program or possibility. The dictionary quotes **Ronald Nash** describing nihilism as "a condition in which all ultimate values lose their value."

The same dictionary defines **hedonism** as the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life, with the modern-day connotation that if someone is described as living a life of hedonism, the implication is that he or she derives happiness from debauchery. The only thing in life that matters to a hedonistic person is what can and will satisfy their personal desires. As **Joseph Kupfer**, a Professor of Philosophy, puts it, hedonists focus on pleasure as their primary interest, but pursuit of it leaves them without "the self-control provided by reason to pause in their reaching for pleasure to ponder what might give them the most pleasure overall or in the long run."

Narcissism is defined as excessive interest in oneself. According to a science news site, narcissism is a personality trait marked by grandiosity, an inflated sense of self-importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, and a lack of empathy for others. The Mayo Clinic adds the following: "Narcissists have an unreasonably high sense of self-

importance and require constant, excessive admiration. They feel that they deserve privileges and special treatment. They expect to be recognized as superior even without achievements. They make achievements and talents seem bigger than they are. They are preoccupied with fantasies about success, power, brilliance, beauty, or the perfect mate."

Materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values. It is the belief that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life. **Randy Alcorn**, in an excerpt from his book, "Money, Possessions and Eternity," writes that God created us to love people and use things, but materialists love things and use people. He tells us that **John Steinbeck** wrote a letter to **Adlai Stevenson**, which was recorded in the January 28, 1960, edition of *The Washington Post*. Steinbeck says, "If I wanted to destroy a nation, I would give it too much, and I would have it on its knees, miserable, greedy, sick." As Alcorn explains, most people chase their mirages with money, but they run out of money before they run out of mirages.

Hence, after defining the problem, this Easter Sunday, I would like to share with you why I believe the one and only solution to these ills of society is the cross of Jesus Christ and his empty grave. That is, it is very easy to get into a habit of cursing the darkness, when the only thing that will help is to hold up the light of the world.

All the "isms" have to do with living for self and this world, and the resultant futility of the same. Living for God is the only means to escape the "isms," which God describes as sin, and the fruit thereof of futility, emptiness, and bitter disappointment.

Do you remember the song "Oh Happy Day"?

Oh, happy day (oh, happy day)

Oh, happy day (oh, happy day)

When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)

Oh, when He washed (when Jesus washed)

When Jesus washed (when Jesus washed)

He washed my sins away (oh, happy day)

Oh, happy day (oh, happy day)

Happy Easter Sunday.

What Exactly Have NIH Grants Got Us?

By Steve Milloy

The US is by far the world's leading funder of biomedical research. But the Trump administration reportedly plans to ask Congress to cut the budget of the National Institutes of Health from \$47 billion to \$27 billion as part of its effort to rein in out-of-control federal spending.

Not unexpectedly, grant recipients and their support communities are up in arms. They claim that the proposed cuts would deprive researchers of the funding they need to find cures. They say the US will lose its global dominance in the field, along with enormous profits.

But the critical questions are: "What does NIH-funded research actually accomplish?" and "Are the accomplishments worth the money?" The answers, at least according to NIH itself, seem to be shockingly little for the vast sums spent.

On its website, NIH divides its accomplishments for 2024 under three headings: (1) "Human Health Advances"; (2) "Promising Medical Findings" and (3) "Basic Research Insights." Under each heading are five NIH-touted accomplishments.

The first item listed under "Human Health Advances," a category that represents the latest and greatest from NIH research, is "Accurate blood test for Alzheimer's disease." After listening to a leftist talking head attack President Trump and Elon Musk for "setting back Alzheimer's research 20 years" with funding cuts, I looked into the Alzheimer's advance that NIH had touted at the top of its list of accomplishments.

The advance referred to a July 2024 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reporting on a new blood test that had, with 90 percent accuracy, correctly diagnosed Alzheimer's

among 1,213 Swedish Alzheimer's patients.

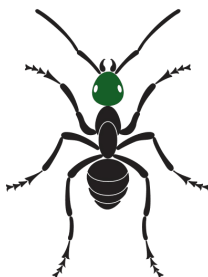
While that may sound impressive, the study authors qualified their results with two key caveats: (1) More testing was needed in other cohorts of patients to confirm their results; and (2) "Future studies should evaluate how the use of blood tests for these biomarkers influences clinical care." Far from being a "Human Health Advance", the researchers admitted that they still needed confirmation of their results and that they're not sure the blood test will have any usefulness even if the results are confirmed.

As to NIH taking credit for the "advance," such as it is, NIH was just one of 20 different funders of the research. It awarded a total of \$993,478 to two Swedish researchers. The other 14 Swedish researchers on the study were apparently funded by the other 19 or so Swedish funders.

The study is really only noteworthy because NIH anointed it as the top "advance" for 2024. But what does that say about the other \$36.8 billion NIH spent on 60,000 other grants? A not-ready-for-prime-time Alzheimer's blood test is its pride and joy among all that funding?

A recent *Washington Post* op-ed entitled "Science needs more shrimp on treadmills" opined that "the National Institutes of Health isn't funding too much silly science. It's not funding enough." The author tried to credit NIH with the development of weight loss drugs like Ozempic. In 1984, an itinerant NIH researcher published a study on Gila monster venom. After four decades of research elsewhere, others used the finding to develop the now blockbuster GLP-1 drugs. In some ways, that's an amazing story. On the other hand, it's not evidence that NIH's huge spending is producing results for taxpayers.

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Why DC Remains One Of The Nation's Most Dangerous Cities

By Cully Stimson

Once in a blue moon, you run across a statistic or record that is mind-boggling. Some are amazing, like Alex Ovechkin's 895 goals or Serena Williams' 23 Grand Slam singles titles. But others are disturbing, like the fact that in Washington, D.C., between 2018 and 2022, only 1.7% of people arrested for carrying a pistol without a license were sentenced to prison.

This dismal record comes from the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission, which analyzed arrest and sentencing trends in the District's Superior Court for carrying a pistol without a license.

Before unpacking how and why only 97 of the 5,558 adult arrests that contained at least one charge for carrying a firearm without a license ended up in prison, let's step back and look at the bigger picture in the nation's capital—the astronomical homicide rate—and connect the dots between that rate and guns.

According to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, firearms are used in approximately 77% of all homicides in Washington, D.C. Knives come in a distant second place at 14%.

National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform figures show that 95.8% of homicide suspects in the District are male, and 96.8% of those are black. Over 70% of suspects are between 18 and 34 years old. To look at the victim numbers, 89% are male, of whom 94.1% are black. Over 62% of homicide victims are between 18 and 34 years old.

More than half of homicides in D.C. are the result of personal disputes, group-related conflicts, instant disputes, or drug-related disputes, according to the institute.

In her letter to the Trump "D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force," Mayor Muriel Bowser touts a 35% drop in violent crime in 2024 compared to 2023, including a 32% drop in homicides. She acknowledges that "the District still has work to do" in "making DC the safest city in the country." Talk about an understatement!

She must believe that President Donald Trump, Attorney General Pam Bondi, and others are oblivious to how much higher crime rates are in D.C. compared to other cities, and how broken the system is from the inside out. Perhaps she doesn't realize just how bad it is here in D.C.



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In 2023, D.C. had a homicide rate of 40.9 homicides per 100,000 residents and ranked fourth-worst in the nation behind only New Orleans (53.8), St. Louis (53.7), and Detroit (40.9). The homicide rates in the District per 100,000 residents in years past were 30 in 2022, 34 in 2021, and 29 in 2020. It was 25 or less in all the previous eight years and was as low as 14 as recently as 2012.

The homicide rate in 2024 was 27.3, according to the Center for Public Safety Initiatives at Rochester Institute of Technology. While a big drop from the 2023 spike, it still ranked fourth-worst in the country. If D.C. were a state, it would have the highest homicide rate of any state in the United States, and would be retaining that dubious title year after year.

With that background in mind, let's unpack the commission's gun arrest and sentencing data from 2018 to 2022.

Of the 5,558 total arrests for carrying a pistol without a license, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia—essentially the local DA—refused to file a charge in 1,933 (34.2%) of those cases.

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Judges Usurping Presidential Authority Should Face Impeachment

By James Hirsen

In a recent blatantly illegal ruling, an Obama-appointed federal judge interfered with the legitimate powers of the president.

In his ruling, District Court Judge James Boasberg ordered the Trump administration *not* to deport a group of Venezuelan nationals who pose a danger to our country.

In an apparent attempt to thwart President Donald Trump's agenda, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit seeking judicial intervention in halting the removal of terrorist gang members from the United States.

Within a few hours of the filing, Judge Boasberg issued a ruling complying with the left's request. He granted a motion for injunction which sought to prevent the administration's implementation of the president's proclamation for a 14-day time period.

In a further overreach, the judge ordered an aircraft that was *en route* to deport the illegal immigrants to return back to the U.S.

"Any plane containing these folks that is going to take off or is in the air needs to be returned to the United States however that is accomplished," Judge Boasberg wrote.

U.S. Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi declared that the judge's order "disregards well-established authority regarding President Trump's power, and it puts the public and law enforcement at risk."

In an emergency filing, the Trump administration appealed the order with the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals so that Judge Boasberg's order would be placed on hold.

The appeal noted that if the order were allowed to stand "district courts would have license to enjoin virtually any urgent national-security action just up-



on receipt of a complaint."

Interestingly, the president hadn't yet signed a proclamation on the matter at the time the lawsuit was filed by the ACLU and other left-wing groups.

The Trump administration was correct to point out the fact that halting a presidential act *before* it has been announced would neutralize the executive branch.

The Venezuelan nationals in question happen to be members of *Tren de Aragua* (TdA), an international gang that has officially been declared by the Trump administration to be a terrorist organization.

The gang became part of a national news story following last year's armed takeover by TdA of apartment complexes in Aurora, Colorado.

It continues to victimize numerous other cities across the country.

TdA is linked to a narco-terrorism enterprise based in Venezuela and sponsored by the Nicolás Maduro regime.

Members continually exhibit unspeakably brutal behavior and are additionally involved in the facilitation

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On Pope Francis And The Cross Roads Ahead For The Catholic Church

By Tom Del Beccaro

The passing of any Pope is momentous. May God rest his soul.

As we pray for him, the World is about to witness an immense outpouring of concern and wonder about the future of the Church. No selection of any politician or president can compare. Hundreds of thousands will descend upon Rome for this worldwide phenomenon.

You undoubtedly will hear great things about Pope Francis' desire that all be received into the hands of a welcoming Church. There is little doubt that that desire is at the center of the teachings of Christ, who spent so much of his time on Earth with the least of among us.

May we always be generous and caring in that way.

For his part, Pope Francis was not pretentious – but he was momentous.

Thus, there are other aspects of his Papacy of great concern to so many – especially as we look ahead and to the direction of Church.

Pope Francis yielded to China's installation of a Bishop by Chinese authorities. His decision to yield to their demands reminds us of the Investiture Controversy of the 11th and 12th Century that divided Europe for centuries when Monarchs imposed their choices of bishops, priests, and even monastic officials (for political reasons) instead of the Popes.

Eventually, the Papacy reclaimed that sole right from ambitious monarchs, but not before serious consequences played out, religious and geo-political.

I cannot overestimate the danger of that surrender by Pope Francis to the communists of China, whose legacy includes the murder of as many as 70 million of those who disagreed with communist leaders. God willing, that cannot be the way of the future.

Beyond that, Pope Francis' statement that "All Religions are pathways to reach God" is of great concern.

We are reminded that Jesus stated that "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6.

So, what then are we to make of that statement by Pope Francis?

That statement is no small departure from Church teachings – teachings that have been refined and honored for centuries upon centuries. Please consider some of the "religions" out there today. With all due respect, no, not all religions are a pathway.

There are many other concerns to be raised but I shall leave it there.

Instead, I shall liken the Church to a lighthouse. However pretty it may be on a summer day as breakers bathe its shores, the lighthouse is never so needed as in a storm.

The World today is in a storm of many natures. The Light emanating from the Church, which serves Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Father, must be a timeless beacon of clarity for their values to help calm our current storms.

It is my hope that whoever is the 266th Successor of Saint Peter, is that beacon.

For that too, we should pray, as we pray for the soul of Pope Francis and his good works.

Tom Del Beccaro, Host of Politics in Prospective, author of the new Amazon Best Selling book "The Lessons of the American Civilization: Its Confident Rise and the Warning Signs of Its Decline", speaker, FOX Business Contributor and the former Chairman of the California Republican Party



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Judges Usurping Presidential Authority Should Face Impeachment *Cont.*

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of human trafficking, drug peddling, kidnapping, extortion, and other heinous activities.

To protect the public from the Venezuelan gang, President Trump did what other presidents before him have done: he invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

Within his capacity as the nation's chief executive, Trump possesses the explicit power, designated in Article II of the Constitution, to identify threats to the country and act accordingly to protect the American people.

In the proclamation, President Trump asserted that the regime of Venezuelan President Maduro "is a hybrid criminal state that is perpetrating an invasion of and predatory incursion into the United States, and which poses a substantial danger to the United States."

Judge Boasberg has ordered members of the TdA gang to be brought back into our country.

Of great significance, this is the same judge who was in charge of the FISA Court, when that court was used to illegally spy on President Trump.

Judge Boasberg's March 15 order was issued after Venezuelan gang members were already in transport via plane to the country of El Salvador.

"Today, the first 238 members of the Venezuelan criminal organization, Tren de Aragua, arrived in our country," El Salvador President Nayib Bukele posted on X.

He added, "They were immediately transferred

to CECOT, the Terrorism Confinement Center, for a period of one year (renewable)."

In response to Judge Boasberg's order, President Bukele posted the following, "Oopsie . . . Too late."

Congress is the branch that has within its power the ability to impeach federal judges who abuse their authority. It has done so in the past.

To this end, Rep. Brandon Gill, R-Texas, indicated in a post on X that he will be filing the necessary paperwork to impeach Judge Boasberg.

Elon Musk reposted the tweet and wrote that the impeachment is "necessary."

In this writer's legal opinion, if ever there were a case in which a judge was deserving of impeachment, this is it.

Unfortunately, activist judges have increasingly been intruding upon executive authority.

Judge Boasberg's ruling is one of the most egregious examples of the violation of the fundamental constitutional principle of separation of powers --- that crucial system of checks and balances between the three branches of the federal government.

Judge Boasberg, you've earned it.

And for the good of the country, hopefully you will soon own it.

James Hirsén, J.D., M.A. in Media Psychology, is a *New York Times* best-selling author, international business attorney, news analyst, cultural commentator, and social media scholar



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Why DC Remains One Of The Nation's Most Dangerous Cities *Cont.*

(Continued from page 8)

Why the massive drop-off from arrest to charging? Are cops making bad arrests? If so, why? Did they violate the suspect's Fourth Amendment rights? Are the prosecutors not able to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt?

You would think that a 34% drop-off between arrest and charging would deeply concern the prosecutor's office. Most big city prosecutors' offices work closely with police departments and engage in weekly or monthly trainings. But not the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office. Why not?

It's not like these are hard cases to prove. The elements are straightforward: You can't carry, either openly or concealed, any deadly or dangerous weapon or a pistol that is not licensed by the District. First-time offenders can be sentenced up to five years in prison. Recidivists face up to 10 years' imprisonment.

Worse, another 1,213 (32.7%) of the original 5,558 arrests were closed without a conviction. Poof. Just gone. Why?

One clue may be the fact that the D.C. U.S. Attorney's Office is woefully understaffed when it comes to in-house investigators. District attorney's offices typically employ investigators who are assigned to line prosecutors and continue investigating cases to develop additional evidence once the police make an arrest and charges are filed against an individual.

The San Diego DA's office, for example, has 330 prosecutors and 120 investigators, or one for every 2.3 prosecutors. The Riverside County DA's office has 126 investigators, or one for every 1.6 prosecutors. The Los Angeles County DA's office has 900 prosecutors and 300 investigators, but it is authorized to have up to 400.

In contrast, D.C. has 330 prosecutors and only three investigators. That's right, three! This helps explain why cases fall apart in the District even after charges are filed.

As if that's not frustrating enough, only 2,218 cases (39.9%) of the 5,558 arrests resulted in a conviction for any criminal offense, although 279 cases (7.5%) are still pending. Of those 2,218 convictions, 654 (29.5%) were for misdemeanors and 1,564 (70.5%) for felonies. Out of the 1,564 felony convictions, 85



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defendants have yet to be sentenced. Out of the 1,479 cases in which a sentence has been imposed, only 819 contained a conviction for carrying a pistol without a license (CPWL) or its equivalent—although, in fairness, some of the defendants in the remaining 660 cases were convicted of more severe offenses.

Of those 819 CPWL felony convictions, 57.7% got sentenced to probation and 30.5% got a "split sentence," meaning they got sentenced within the local sentencing guidelines that included a jail sentence of six months or less.

In sum, then, out of the original 5,558 individuals arrested for CPWL over a five-year period, only 97 (1.7%) were given a prison sentence for carrying a pistol without a license. Even if one assumes (although I don't know why one would) that the 279 pending cases and 85 cases in which a sentence has not been imposed will all result in a conviction and prison sentence for a CPWL offense, the percentage would still be pitifully low.

These mind-boggling and shameful statistics expose a sclerotic criminal justice system that doesn't take gun crimes seriously. Unless and until that happens, D.C. will remain a long way off from being the safest city in the country.

Charles 'Cully' Stimson, Deputy Director, Meese Center, Manager, National Security Law Program, Senior Legal Fellow, Senior Advisor to the President, The Heritage Foundation



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What Exactly Have NIH Grants Got Us? *Cont.*



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(Continued from page 7)

President Nixon launched the “War on Cancer” in 1971, Every President since has tried to make his mark in that effort, but breakthroughs have limited. In 1986, all-star biostatistician John Bailar observed that cancer remained undefeated. In 2018, cancer researchers reported in the *British Medical Journal* that the expensive drugs recommended by US cancer treatment guidelines were based on “weak evidence.” President Biden’s “Cancer Moonshot” has produced essentially zero.

NIH mentioned no cancer progress under “Human Health Advances” or “Promising Medical Findings” for 2024. The sole mention of cancer comes in “Basic Research Insights” under “Mapping how cancers form and spread.” Fifty-four years after the War on Cancer was launched, that is where we are.

None of this is to say that NIH shouldn’t fund medical research. But if NIH continues spending taxpayer money, there must be some auditing of expenditures and reconciling of accomplishments. We are \$36 trillion in debt and cannot afford to spent never-ending billions of dollars on non-productive research in hopes that something will eventually turn up.

And no, there is no need to worry about foreign competition. We spend about 18 times more than the UK, our nearest competitor with respect to medical research. It may be that the rest of the world is free-riding on the backs of US taxpayers. It may also be that the rest of world has realized that there are more productive ways to spend their taxpayer dollars.

Steve Milloy is a biostatistician and lawyer, publishes JunkScience.com and is on X @JunkScience

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Trump's Electric Vehicle Rollback Helps Consumers, Won't Hurt Climate *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

That's the fatal flaw in this electric vehicle revolution — it's led by policymakers and ideologues rather than consumers.

This order has set up a battle between California and the feds. California Governor Gavin Newsom in November vowed that the state will step up if the \$7,500 federal tax credit evaporates, which appears likely. But the real issue doesn't revolve around tax credits and mandates, but consumer demand. Electric vehicles certainly offer some advantages, although the cost savings aren't nearly as great as promised given the relatively high price of using public fast chargers.

"The Trump administration is not the biggest problem," Pacific Research Institute economist Wayne Winegarden told the *Union-Tribune*. "It's the price tag, the lack of [charging] infrastructure ... People still have fears taking them on long drives. They're still a niche product, more of a second car for wealthy people." Indeed, that's the fatal flaw in this electric vehicle revolution — it's led by policymakers and ideologues rather than consumers.

For instance, California banned the sale of new gas-powered lawn equipment beginning last year, which mainly caused people to nurse along aging gas-powered equipment. I recently was at a home improvement store and, yes, manufacturers have developed electric lawn tractors. From what I saw, they cost at least two times what similar gas-powered ones cost. As I explained on these pages previously, electric lawn mowers are great tools for small lots — but adoption should be driven by consumer needs, not policy dictates.

Regarding electric vehicles, like many Americans, I

often take longer trips. I'm spontaneous in my driving, so I don't like to plan ahead to keep the vehicle charged. A couple hundred miles of range won't work for me — but I'm open-minded enough to reconsider once those battery ranges hit the 500-mile mark. I'm not being unreasonable here; it's just that electric vehicles don't work for my needs. Why can't California policymakers at least consider that in their equation?

It's mainly a market problem that can only be papered over by subsidies and rebates. As the Competitive Enterprise Institute argued: "Our lawmakers would do well to heed this wake-up call. Rather than push Americans into vehicles they don't want and can't afford, they should focus on policies that allow greater consumer freedom and foster true innovation. The road to a prosperous future isn't paved with government mandates — it's built on the bedrock of options and innovation."

And consumers aren't stupid, nor unconcerned about climate issues. Note that the sales of gas-electric hybrids soared by 44 percent last year, given that they provide fabulous gas mileage, reduce greenhouse gases, and eliminate the charging and range-anxiety concerns endemic in all-electric vehicles. One can buy a high-quality non-subsidized hybrid in the \$30,000 range, which is another plus. Policymakers need to let the market work — and hybrids might simply be the market coming up with a transitional product.

In California, our lawmakers are committed to the idea of technology forcing — the use of unachievable regulations that force the industry into meeting the government-developed standards. As I noted previously for *The American Spectator*, this process creates unintended consequences and distorts economic

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Trump's Electric Vehicle Rollback Helps Consumers, Won't Hurt Climate *Cont.*

(Continued from page 15)

incentives, thus making the government rather than the consumer the king. Now, consumers seem to be rebelling against California's aggressive use of it, and Trump's approach promises to reset the calculation in a consumer-oriented direction.

All this effort to arm-twist consumers isn't getting anywhere. California's emissions account for less than 1 percent of global emissions, so even if we somehow eliminated all emissions, it wouldn't make a dent in what's spewing from Chinese and Indian factories. The state isn't doing a great job meeting its own goals. "California is poised to fail to meet its ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals by the end of the decade unless it can triple its efforts to reduce carbon emissions statewide, according to a critical new report," per a *Los Angeles Times* article from last March.

Meanwhile, you might have noticed California had one of the worst wildfires in decades — made worse by the state's incompetent wildfire-battling strategies. Whatever the federal administration does on the electric vehicle front won't make any noticeable difference in the fight against climate change unless other California policies change. That's just reality.

Steven Greenhut, Resident Senior Fellow and Western Region Director, State Affairs, R Street Institute, a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board and the director of the Pacific Research Institute's 'Free Cities Center'

70% Poverty Rate? Mission Accomplished! *Cont.*

(Continued from page 4)

level in CA has banned the very jobs that historically paid enough money to enable people to purchase a home. We are talking about manufacturing and industry jobs, including the oil industry. When the consultant's report outlined major job sectors in the community, these sectors weren't even mentioned. That is because, in the name of climate change, our state, county, and city have done everything they can to run these jobs out. What that means, of course, for those who were willing to sacrifice the economic mobility of others to preserve their high quality of life is, mission accomplished!

In conclusion, the road to affordable housing is a dead end unless government removes the impediments to high-paying job creation. Moreover, unless you want to live in an urban jungle, we must consider carefully annexing and developing more land in the county to create new communities. After all, less than 10% of the county is developed.

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Is California Governor Gavin Newsom An Economic Illiterate Or Just Deceitful? *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

than any other country on earth. When Newsom declared that “foundational and fundamental issues” are climate change, it’s curious that he did not inquire about China’s expansion of approximately two new coal plants a week.

Newsom is no newcomer to China’s economic influences.

In “Fool’s Gold: The Radicals, Con Artists, and Traitors Who Killed the California Dream and Now Threaten Us All,” authors Jedd McFatter and Susan Crabtree expose then-Mayor Gavin Newsom’s cozy relationship with the Chinese community in tSan Francisco and his ties to Chinese Communist Party-related businesses.

Crabtree and McFatter expose that “Newsom came into office as San Francisco’s mayor in 2004 after receiving strong support from Chinese voters, enough so that he celebrated his victory in Chinatown and the authors write that from an early point in his tenure he was ready to “go full steam ahead with Chinatown’s interests,” Fox reported.

“One of those interests, according to Chapter 3 of the book, was a nonprofit organization initiative started by Newsom called ChinaSF that the book argues served as a gateway for CCP officials and Chinese criminals to exploit California.”

“The U.S. imposes only an average 2% tariff on imported industrial goods, while many other countries have both high tariffs and nontariff trade barriers. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the merchandise trade deficit has exploded under President Biden, reaching a yearly record \$1.2 trillion in 2022 and hitting a July record of \$103 billion in 2024.”

“Despite promises that free trade can benefit every-

(Continued on page 18)

Andy Caldwell Thanks You!



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Is California Governor Gavin Newsom An Economic Illiterate Or Just Deceitful? *Cont.*

(Continued from page 17)

one and that the gains offset any losses, the average American has experienced stagnating income and wide-spread job losses in manufacturing hours while the top earners have seen disproportionate income gains," ProsperousAmerica.org reports. "The top 10% benefit do not experience the job losses from import competition that the working class suffers from. And those at the top of the corporate ladders benefit from the lower wages needed to pay workers in developing countries compared to what they would have to pay Americans."

This imbalance has been devastating for U.S. industry. Since the North American trade agreement (NAFTA) was passed by the Clinton Administration in 1993, millions of manufacturing jobs have been lost, a huge trade deficit emerged and American manufacturing wages declined.

Gavin Newsom was silent on NAFTA – other than to burnish his globalist chops.

As President Trump lowers marginal tax rates, unleashes the many sources of abundant U.S. energy, and cuts regulations, the cost of everything will decrease, while his tariffs will increase costs on overseas manufacturing. Jobs will be created and manufacturing will come back to the U.S., and those are high-paying jobs with benefits.

Gavin Newsom is silent on that global trade – the trade that benefits America and American workers – other than to demand California's ability to trade freely globally – outside of the federal government.

"Free trade should apply first and foremost to

domestic trade because we should be focused on benefiting our own citizens before we worry about those overseas. We don't hate foreigners—we just love Americans more," Heritage Foundation Economist E.J. Antoni explains.

Batya Ungar-Sargon explained beautifully the Trump economy and tariffs:

"You know, the thing that your viewers have to understand is, we were all there in 2018, in 2019, when President Trump put 25% tariffs on Chinese imports of steel and aluminum, and every economist said a toaster is going to cost \$300. And guess what? The price of steel and aluminum went up for three months and it came right back down because this is a glorious country full of free market competition within the United States.

Remember, California Governor Gavin Newsom is also creating energy poverty with 3,200 -foot setbacks around oil and gas wells, the Globe reported. With Phillips 66 pulling out of Los Angeles, and Valero closing its Benicia refinery, Chevron leaving the state, California is about to experience fuel shortages – serious shortages.

Is Governor Gavin Newsom economically illiterate, or is he using deceit to destroy California? Either way, Newsom is creating in a dangerous, unstable California.

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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Nefarious Purposes and Stupid Ideas *Cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

rallies,” over the last few years to assuage the woke community’s collective guilt for the death of **George Floyd**, even though local taxpayers had nothing to do with the death of Mr. Floyd.

The second thing this wasteful spending reminded me of was a story taken from the book “The Life of Colonel David Crockett”, written in 1884 by Edward S. Ellis. The story has to do with the time when Davy Crockett served as a member of Congress. As the story goes, Crockett had once voted in Congress to give a charitable donation of \$20,000 to a community that had been ravaged by fire. Upon return to his district, he was upbraided by a constituent, a farmer no less, who understood the limits of the Constitution better than does any member of Congress today.

The constituent, Mr. **Horatio Bunce**, had this to say, “... an understanding of the Constitution different from mine I cannot overlook, because the Constitution, to be worth anything, must be held sacred, and rigidly observed in all its provisions. It is not the amount that I complain of; it is the principle. In the first place, the government ought to have in the Treasury no more than enough for its legitimate purposes. The power of collecting and disbursing money at pleasure is the most dangerous power that can be entrusted to man, particularly under our system of collecting revenue by a tariff, which reaches every man in the country, no matter how poor he may be, and the poorer he is the more he pays in proportion to his means.”

Mr. Bunce rightly warned, “You will very easily perceive what a wide door this would open for fraud, corruption, and favoritism, on the one hand, and for robbing the people on the other. Congress has no right to give charity. Individual members may give as much of their own money as they please, but they have no right to touch a dollar of the public money for that purpose. Congress only has the power to do certain things for which it is authorized to collect and pay moneys, and for nothing else. Everything beyond this is usurpation, and a violation of the Constitution.”

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