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Of Telescopes, Mirrors, And The Government We Deserve

By Andy Caldwell

Last week, I wrote about the phenomenon of county supervisors looking through the wrong end of the telescope in their attempt to create affordable housing in the county. Their two-fold problem has to do with the fact that the affordability of housing can't be addressed without regard to the fact that 70% of the county is living in poverty as indicated in a consultant's report to the supervisors. That is, it is not only the price of housing that makes housing unaffordable in CA; it is also the lack of good-paying jobs which have been destroyed by government fiat, regulation, and selfishness.

Hence, to solve the problem of affordable housing in this state, our electeds need to toss the telescope and look in a mirror to solve the problem. One of the weekly regulars on my radio show is Steve Greenhut, the Western Regional Director of the R Street Institute and director of the Pacific Research Institute's Free Cities Center. Additionally, he is a columnist for the *Orange County Register* and *American Spectator*, among many other publications, and the author of several books including on the topic of union power and California's manmade water crises.

Steve and I have had dozens of conversations over the years about the problem of affordable housing and our unaffordable government. I would like to share some summary points with you because the reason we have some of the most expensive housing, crowded freeways, water shortages, and unaffordable housing is by design, not necessity.

Government Fiats and Regulations

Greenhut wrote a column for the *Orange County Register* about the dirtiest four-letter word in California: CEQA (the California Environmental Quality Act). This act goes back to 1970 and if I had to peg the one thing that makes housing unaffordable – and job creation impossible – it would be CEQA. CEQA is the embodiment of the paralysis of analysis. It not only slows down progress, but it also stops it dead in its tracks. It requires endless analysis, costly mitigation, and it invites litigation. It serves to obfuscate progress with respect to housing, economic development, and even environmental measures.

Our state decision-makers know it is a bad law because every time a project comes around that they want built on time, with minimal cost, and the avoidance of never-ending litigation, they exempt the project from CEQA. Yet, they won't reform it, let alone eliminate the law for the rest of us.

Our second big issue is water. California sends almost half its rainfall and snowpack to the ocean rather than to our cities and farmers. Not only that, but our state government has consistently squandered the opportunity to build

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In California, The Tail Is Wagging The Dog On Biological Men In Women's Sports

By Katy Grimes

California's itsy bitsy, teeny-weeny shift on allowing 'trans' athletes in women's sports

Tuesday President Donald Trump announced that California's current policy of allowing biological males to compete in girls sports against girls, will result in significant cuts in federal funding if California continues to resist the President's executive order banning biological men from participating in girls school sports.

A little later in the day, the California Interscholastic Federation, which governs high school sports in California, and has said it follows state law allowing athletes to play on a sports team "consistent with their gender identity," altered their gender policy, clearly interested in covering their butts. The CIF created a "pilot entry process" to allow previously eliminated female athletes to now participate in the 2025 CIF State Championships.

What a big bold move for the CIF, which is still not honoring or protecting California's high school female athletes from biological males, or their opportunities in competition, by allowing the trans athletes to still compete against women and girls.

The only way to correct this injustice and violation of Title IX is to require single-sex spaces (bathrooms, locker rooms) and single-sex opportunities (sports) on campuses; to only play on sports teams based on their biological sex and not their gender identity; and ban trans athletes from competing in girls' and women's sports.

Wednesday, as I was writing this, the United States Department of Justice announced they formally entered the legal battle to save girls' sports in California, filing a Statement of Interest in a federal lawsuit brought by Advocates for Faith & Freedom on behalf of two courageous female high school athletes in the Riverside Unified School District.

After being pushed out of a key competition, missing critical exposure for college scouting, all in the name of policies that undermine fair play in girls' sports, two female high school athletes protested by wearing shirts that read, "Save Girls' Sports" and "It's Common Sense. XX ≠ XY." The school claimed their shirts created a "hostile" environment, comparing wearing these shirts to wearing a swastika in front of Jewish students.

"The Department of Justice's filing sends a clear mes-



sage: Title IX was designed to protect biological females in sports, not to be twisted into a tool that allows boys to displace girls on the track, the podium, or in scholarship opportunities."

Notably, only men/boys who are mediocre at a sport claim "trans woman" status to compete and dominate women at that sport. Women do not claim to be men in order to compete in their sports – because that would be ridiculous and dangerous.

In March the Globe attended a CIF executive committee meeting where the Coalition of Women and CIF High School Female Athletes addressed the issue of biological males participating in women and girls sports. The CIF got an earful from women, moms, parents, and female student athletes – primarily about how unsafe it is for female athletes when teen boys and young men are allowed to compete in sports against teen girls and young women, because of California's education code and CIF policy.

Moms and daughters reported to the CIF that boys/men in their locker rooms and bathrooms is not only uncomfortable, but dangerous and creepy. Jordan, a high school athlete who runs track and cross-country, implored the CIF to understand that the issue is about fairness and safe competition. She warned that the injuries to female athletes are increasing. "How many more injuries will it take for women and young girls to feel safe?" she asked.

She said aloud what most everyone already knows:

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Three Insufferable Talking Heads Bring On \$8 Per Gallon Gasoline

By Andy Caldwell



Three Insufferable Talking Heads Bring On \$8 Per Gallon Gasoline

The term “talking head” has become slang for a person whose talk is empty and pretentious. Accordingly, allow me to introduce you to three talking heads who are doing their part to ensure gas prices on the Central Coast and throughout CA hit \$8 per gallon in less than two years by shutting down oil and gas production.

The empty pretentious talk associated with this policy initiative? According to Supervisor **Laura Capps**, by eliminating onshore oil production on the Central Coast, we will *never* have fires again. That is, she is passing the blame for the past fires here on *local oil production* versus global greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions we can do nothing about.

County Supervisor Capps is simply living in a bubble of pretense. She is as woke as they come, coupled with an attitude of sanctimonious superiority. She pretends she is going to end wildfires by eliminating oil and gas operations in the county even though most all the devastating wildfires in our region have been started by fallen electrical lines during windstorms that ignited *unmanaged chaparral* that hadn't burned in 100 years. The very same electrical lines that are bringing so-called *green electricity* to our region.

Moreover, Capps can't wrap her head around the difference between production and consumption. As our local and state governments have stymied our state oil production, we consumers didn't reduce consumption; we just imported the oil from half-way around the world to satisfy demand. Hence, the only real thing Capps & Co. accomplished was loss of jobs and resultant higher fuel costs.

Bobble-Head Roy Lee

Supervisor **Roy Lee**, for his part, is simply a bobble-head. That is, he agrees with virtually everything Capps tells him to do. His one big credibility gap? Uncle Chen's has gas! What does that mean? It is safe to assume the Chinese restaurant his family owns, called Uncle Chen, is still cooking with the natural gas he wants to eliminate from other people's homes and businesses.

Pinhead Joan Hartmann

Finally, we have County Supervisor **Joan Hartmann**, PhD, which must stand for Pinhead. How is it that Hartmann has literally *closed her eyes* to the fact that shutting down CA oil production will cause more pollution that will arise by shipping oil from halfway around the world instead of pumping it here? Moreover, she believes she has the moral imperative to *steal* the property rights and investments of people in the oil and gas business even while she is violating the Constitution in the process.



Supervisor Joan Hartman closes her eyes to the increase in overall pollution caused by the production and transportation of non-Santa Barbara oil.. Source: SB County

Moreover, unlike imported foreign oil,

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County Greed, Failure, And Ineptitude On Display

By Andy Caldwell

You may recall that a County consultant wrote a report to the Board of Supervisors advising them that it was illegal to bill permit holders more than the actual cost to inspect the businesses subject to permit fees. That is, while it is permissible to charge a business owner the direct cost of inspections, it was not okay to charge the businesses for the vacation, sick leave, and holiday pay of the inspectors (when they are not "on the job"). The fee program this consultant was hired to review affects some 5,000 businesses in the county including restaurants, gas stations, auto repair shops, food trucks, tattoo parlors and the like. The reason the county hired the consultant was to justify a \$1.1 million fee increase, but considering the fact the expert rendered all time-off as "unbillable," that means the regulated community should be getting a 25% decrease in their fees instead.

What's worse than being overcharged for these unbillable hours? Have you seen those road-side taco stands popping up all over the county from a common vendor company? There is reason to believe these stands are being run by Mexican cartels. Several counties are trying to shut them down because they are not following any food safety protocols, and that is saying it mildly.

They have been caught transporting meat in a five-gallon bucket.

Food that should be kept cold has been discovered in ice chests with no ice.

There are no sanitation facilities on hand.

And, of course, they are operating without a license.

In other words, they are not even trying to comply with the law.

Santa Barbara County has spent hundreds of hours of overtime trying to shut these vendors down, and rightly so. However, the county is charging the enforcement costs to the businesses mentioned above, who follow the law. This too is something the county consultant mentioned in his report. That is, the county is *not* to charge businesses for activities having to do with a public benefit. These lawless taco stands are a matter of public health and protecting the same is something the county should be paying for out of its general fund.

Something the County *shouldn't* be Paying For

The county fire department's new Regional Fire Communications Facility. This ill-thought-out venture seeks

to duplicate the services previously supplied by the Sheriff's Department. That is, for years the Sheriff ran dispatch for both his department, county fire, and ambulance services. However, about the same time the fire department was attempting to steal the county ambulance contract, they convinced the supervisors they needed their own standalone dispatch service for fire and ambulance calls.

When the fire department originally asked the board to approve the construction and operation of the facility, they promised that the county general fund would not have to contribute to the project. This has to do with the fact that the county fire department is technically a special district, meaning the department has a dedicated property tax revenue stream of its own. The Fire Department promised to make the Sheriff whole because his dispatch center costs were going to rise due to the duplicate dispatch services.

Well, guess what? The Fire Communication Center is one year late in commencing to operate. They are also \$2 million short in funds, and they want the Board of Supervisors to make up the difference. And they have no plan to make the Sheriff whole for the long run.

Sounds about right for the Fire Department.

Speaking of the Sheriff, Supervisors **Capps** and **Hartmann** want to *reduce* the holding capacity of the north county jail while sticking to their story that crime is down. This has to do with their unwillingness to replace the jail cells that will be lost when the county closes most of the south county jail because it is antiquated and dilapidated.

Regardless, one person who isn't buying the line that crime is down is the District Attorney. He reported to the supervisors that murder and attempted murder cases are *up* 74% since 2020; open murder/attempted murder cases are *up* 42% since 2019, and open felony caseloads are *up* 29% since 2019. I believe voters have more trust and confidence in the leadership and expertise of the Sheriff and the District Attorney than they do the county supervisors when it comes to prosecution and incarceration matters.

Since the Sheriff and the DA were elected by those voters to handle these matters, county supervisors should defer to their judgement and expertise accordingly.

Freeing Farm Markets Is Better Than Tariffs And Welfare

By Steven Greenhut

SACRAMENTO—If you want to, say, make juice from an orange, the typical way is to mash the orange on a simple squeezer. But the early-to-mid 20th-century cartoonist, Rube Goldberg, had an even better way. His “simple” juice-making contraption involved pulling a string, which releases a guillotine blade, which cuts a cord that engages a battering ram that then enrages a sleeping octopus, which attacks the dangling orange and squeezes out its juice.

Goldberg’s bizarre cartoon machines were hilarious and have for decades inspired students to create their own real-word variety. One website notes that dictionaries in 1931 turned his name into an adjective that means “accomplishing by complex means what seemingly could be done simply.” I’ve always enjoyed perusing them because they remind me the world’s unnecessarily complicated systems—and see them as analogous to how our governments operate.

Let’s take the issue of farming. The simplest way to provide food for the population is to, you know, let farmers grow what they want to grow, sell their products to whomever they choose, export them in response to demand and so forth. The more important the product—and food certainly ranks high on any list—the better it is to allow markets to work. Instead, our government micromanages the situation with complex regulations and subsidies that distort the market, raise prices and pick winners and losers.

Farm policy has been a mess for decades, with both parties to blame. Every politician (and voter) loves farmers, who are perfect fodder for gauzy backdrops of real Americans nurturing the land, flying the flag and epitomizing everything good and wholesome about the nation. The early Iowa caucuses reinforce this dynamic. Farming is a tough and risky business, but it is in fact mostly a business. Creating a mythology about it only makes it harder for lawmakers to address farm policy in a sensible manner that benefits everyone.

Farming has been in the news lately, as the Trump administration talks incessantly about imposing massive new tariffs on agricultural products. It’s also intent on deporting a large portion of those farms’ labor pool. Last month, Trump assured farmers that he would protect them from any negative effects of his on-again, off-again trade war with China—not a surprise given federal taxpayers typically provide massive subsidies to farmers.

“The Trump administration provided more taxpayer dollars to farmers financially damaged by the admin-

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istration’s trade policies than the federal government spends each year building ships for the Navy or maintaining America’s nuclear arsenal,” according to a 2020 study from the National Foundation for American Policy. “The amount of money raises questions about the strategy of imposing tariffs and permitting the use of taxpayer money to shield policymakers from the consequences of their actions.”

What a crazy policy contraption. Basically, the feds impose damaging new taxes and trade restrictions on farmers for reasons mostly related to ideology and rent-seeking, then undo their effects by making farmers more dependent on government largesse. Often lost in the discussion, but one reason that U.S. farmers are so dependent on selling commodity crops to China and elsewhere is that past policies essentially subsidized them to do so.

Like with all things political, various federal farm policies have created a series of odd bedfellows. Many environmental groups have lauded past farm bills because they provide incentives for farmers to set aside land as open space, but overall the federal meddling has harmed the environment. For instance, federal sugar subsidies have greatly diminished the Florida Everglades by encouraging the conversion of wetlands into sugar fields.

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A Wink and A Nod To A Semi-Annual Mass Casualty Event

By Andy Caldwell



Twice a year, students who live in Isla Vista and their “guests” participate in two unsanctioned events, Halloween, and Deltopia. The County of Santa Barbara, over the years, has tried to curb the excess associated with these events by way of limiting bands, kegs of beer, access to the beach, etc. What have they *not* done? One thing they haven’t done is ask UCSB and Santa Barbara City College to sanction (suspension anyone?) any of their students who are cited, arrested, or need to be medically treated for overdosing on drugs and alcohol, and to help pay for most of the cost of these parties.

On the note of overdosing on drugs, what the press release below did not mention is that Supervisor **Laura Capps** is now making an annual door-to-door trek through IV distributing Narcan to every household to help prevent an opioid overdose or death.

Could that not be construed as a subtle invitation or inducement to indulge?

If any other community group in our county held a mass event that required 300 cops and dozens of medical personnel to come to the scene prepared for a “mass casualty” event (the county’s words, not mine), do you think the county would send out a press release touting how well they responded to the same?

I have asked the county to cough up the details about the cost of this massive waste of taxpayer dollars as this situation is getting more and more out of control as you can see from the stats below. Finally, the public has a right to know how many of the people who were either cited or arrested will be let off with a slap on the wrist?

The following is the verbatim press release with some emphasis added:

“The County of Santa Barbara is releasing preliminary figures from the *unsanctioned* Deltopia spring break street party in Isla Vista, which took place from Friday, April 4, 2025, to Sunday, April 6, 2025.

“Emergency Medical Services Agency reported 135 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) contacts, a 27% increase from 2024’s 106 contacts. This year, 12 patients were transported directly to hospitals, and 57 patients were treated in the EMS Medical tent, with 13 requiring a transfer to the hospital. Most cases involved alcohol intoxication, minor injuries, or anxiety. Pre-staged paramedic foot teams and a field treatment site helped reduce pressure on local hospitals and ensured timely on-scene care.

“Law enforcement issued 485 citations and made 84 arrests, compared to 256 citations and 32 arrests in 2024, and 151 citations and 23 arrests in 2023. Additionally, five underage DUI arrests were also made during the weekend at nearby checkpoints and by saturation patrol. Despite the large crowds, there were no fatalities, cliff falls, or injuries to officers.

“The safety of our community is the county’s highest priority. Preparing for and responding to Deltopia is a huge lift for hundreds of dedicated county staff each year, in partnership with students, campus and community leaders,” said Chair of the Board of Supervisors Laura Capps. “I’m thankful to our first responders and medical teams for their efforts in preventing serious injuries, fatalities and unforeseen crises. While

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Senate Should Ignore The Parliamentarian On Electric Vehicles

By Steve Milloy

Who runs the Senate? The democratically elected Majority Leader, Sen. John Thune? Or leftover partisan Harry Reid-appointed, Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough?

The answer to that question may very well determine whether the Republican-controlled Senate will be able to vote this week on whether to repeal the Biden EPA decision to allow California to establish a national mandate for electric vehicles (EVs).

The Clean Air Act allows EPA to grant waivers to the state of California in order for the state to set more stringent air pollution regulations than EPA sets for other states. The basic rationale for this rule is that California has special environmental conditions. The populous Los Angeles region, for example, is located essentially in a bowl that traps and concentrates air pollution when the wind isn't blowing.

In December 2024, the Biden EPA granted California a Clean Air Act waiver to mandate that only EVs can be sold in the state by 2035. Although California's mandate technically only applies to the state, it is really a national problem.

California is a large part of the US new car market. Car makers don't make one type of car for California and another type of car for the other 49 states. They make one type of car for all 50 states. There is genuine concern that California's EV mandate would become a *de facto* national mandate.

Because the Biden EPA was late to issue the December 2024 waiver, it is now subject to the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Under the 1996 law, Congress may repeal regulations by a simple majority vote, no filibuster permitted, within 60 legislative days of a regulation's issuance. The House voted on May 1 to repeal the California waiver and now it is the Senate's turn to do so. The Senate has until the first week of June to do the same.

But there's a problem.

Ahead of the House vote, the General Accounting Office tried to derail the CRA rule by characterizing the waiver as a permit versus a regulation, where permits are not eligible to be repealed by the filibuster-proof CRA. But while the EPA granted permission to California to regulate more stringently, the end result is more stringent regulation. The waiver, therefore, is a clearly a regulation and not some sort of permit.

Speaker Johnson rightly chose to ignore the weird General Accounting Office interpretation of the waiver. The House subsequently passed the repeal, 246 to 164, with 35 Democrats joining all 211 Republicans present.

But opponents of the CRA action still have hope because the Senate Parliamentarian, appointed to her post by Democrat and then-Senate Majority Leader

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Deep-Sea Mining Next Arena For U.S.-China Global Rivalry

By Bonner Cohen

Vowing to “counter China’s growing influence over seabed mineral resources,” the Trump administration is opening a new front against America’s chief geopolitical rival.

“Vast offshore seabed areas hold critical minerals and energy resources,” an April 24 presidential executive order states. “These resources are key to strengthening our economy, securing our energy future, and reducing dependence on foreign suppliers for critical minerals.”

The timing of the executive order is no coincidence. Though President Trump and his advisers recognized the strategic importance of rare earths and other critical minerals as early as his first term, the matter has become even more urgent. In retaliation for stiff U.S. tariffs, China recently restricted the export of rare earths to the United States. And Beijing has leverage. China is the source of over 90 percent of the world’s rare-earth minerals; it both extracts them at sites around the world and refines them at facilities in China. This vertical control of the global rare-earth supply chain gives Beijing a near monopoly over minerals that go into “everything from satellites and jet fighters to CT scanners and iPhones,” the *Wall Street Journal* notes. When rare earths are combined with Beijing’s formidable position in the mining and processing of other critical minerals -- such as nickel, cobalt, copper, and manganese -- China enjoys a wide lead that will not be easy to narrow.

How will the Trump executive order on seabed mining address this? The Trump strategy has six components:

- Develop domestic capabilities for exploration, characterization, collection, and processing of seabed mineral resources
- Support development of deep-sea science, mapping, and technology
- Enhance coordination among federal agencies with respect to seabed mineral development
- Establish the U.S. as a global leader in responsible mineral seabed exploration, development technologies and practices, and as a partner for countries developing seabed mineral resources within their national jurisdictions, including their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
- Create a robust domestic supply chain for criti-



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cal minerals derived from deep-sea resources to support economic growth, reindustrialization, and military preparedness, including through new processing capabilities

Strengthen partnerships with allies and industry to counter China’s growing influence over seabed mineral resources and ensuring that U.S. companies are well-positioned to support allies and partners interested in developing deep-sea mineral resources within their national jurisdictions, including their EEZs

A Tall Order

While the resource potential of the seabed is significant, and the Trump plan is nothing if not ambitious, serious challenges remain. The executive order devotes much attention to polymetallic nodules, which exist throughout the ocean floor. “To date, no country has extracted these resources at a commercial scale,” note Gracelin Baskaran and Meredith Schwartz in an

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America Doesn't Need 'International Students'

By Daniel Greenfield

From 9/11 to Chinese spying to the Hamas campus riots, they're just not worth it.

There are over 1 million foreign students in the United States. The largest group by far are Chinese students whose numbers have fluctuated between a third and a quarter of a million. These students are in America to gain training in this country, not only at top universities like Harvard, but at tech companies, before taking their knowledge and skills back to China.

Saudi Arabia, the tenth largest source of foreign students, had the single most famous foreign students of any country who didn't win any Nobel prizes, but did successfully fly passenger planes into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, but didn't quite make it to the White House.

Despite that, the Saudis continue to send tens of thousands of their students to America.

With Bangladesh in 13th place, Iran in 14th, Pakistan in 16th, Turkey in 19th and Indonesia in 22nd, a lot of foreign students come from the Muslim world and were involved in the pro-terrorist riots calling for the destruction of America, Israel and all of Western civilization.

Notably, few of America's foreign students are westerners. No European nation even shows up in the top 10 countries for foreign students. The UK is in 15th place and France is only in the 20th. Only Canada, right across the border, is in the top 5, but accounts for only 2.6% of foreign students. Nigeria accounts for three times as many foreign students as France, Iran sends more foreign students than the UK and Pakistan far more than Spain. While most American students who study abroad go to Europe, European students are not going to America.

International students are mostly non-westerners and that's by design. The Eisenhower and Kennedy



administrations, after extensive lobbying by Ivy League colleges, began bringing third world students to America to counter Communist influence. Beneficiaries included Barack Obama Sr and Shyamala Gopalan, the mother of Kamala Harris, along with other radicals, who found positions in the United States and left behind radical children who undermined America.

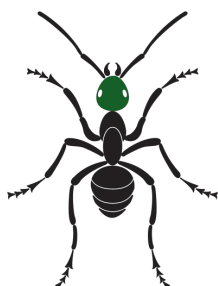
Whatever benefits we may gain from foreign students are more than outweighed by 8 years of Obama and by the destruction wreaked by the wayward children of other 'international students'. And those benefits are at the heart of the debate taking place right now.

Outrage and protests followed the Trump administration's crackdown on foreign students. America, we were told, would be absolutely lost without those 1 million foreign students.

According to NAFSA, the Association of International Educators which promotes foreign students, foreign students contributed \$43.8 billion to the U.S. economy. NAFSA did not mention its support for nearly \$1 billion in federal subsidies for "international education" appropriations.

We are told that "international students" pay their way, but that's not actually true.

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Matthew Graves' Abysmal Legacy As US Attorney For DC

By Cully Stimson

The legacy of Matt Graves, the former U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, is now coming into focus, and it's not pretty.

In April, I reported in these pages that from 2018 to 2022, only 1.7% of people arrested on charges of carrying a pistol without a license in the District were sentenced to prison.

Now we have the 2023-2024 data from the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission, which shows that during the last two years of Graves' tenure, a meager 3% of adults arrested on charges of carrying a pistol without a license were sentenced to prison.

That abysmal data point exemplifies his stint as the District's top prosecutor and indicates the Herculean task for interim U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro.

When he was sworn into office in November 2021, Graves had served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District for almost 10 years before entering private practice in 2016. You would think he would know how to be an effective prosecutor.

By October 2023, two years into the job, Graves was feeling the political heat. Crime rates had exploded on his watch. Homicides, armed carjackings, robberies, and gun crimes were all up. Bodies were piling up in the morgue, and a series of high-profile politicians were victims of violent crime.

In February of that year, Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota was viciously assaulted in the elevator of her D.C. apartment by a career felon. That April, Phillip Todd, a staffer for Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, was stabbed in the head by a recidivist who had been released from prison a day earlier. That October, Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas was carjacked by three armed men in the Navy Yard district.

Fortunately, each one survived.

The same could not be said for Mike Gill, a married father of three who had worked at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission during President Trump's first term. Gill was fatally shot in an attempted carjacking in early 2024.

Early in his tenure, Graves dissolved the community prosecution unit, which held hundreds of community meetings across the city, listened to community members, and was the public face of the office.



The number of weekly carjackings averaged in the low single digits during the first Trump administration. Yet under Graves' hands-off approach, the number exploded into the double digits, up to 43 the week of June 11, 2023.

Under Graves' tenure, the District had more than 2,000 carjackings, 75% of which involved guns. Most were perpetrated by 16-year-olds, followed by 15-year-olds and 17-year-olds.

Under D.C. law, juveniles can be charged in the D.C. Superior Court as adults if the U.S. attorney's office charges them with certain enumerated violent offenses, including armed carjacking, murder, robbery while armed, and the like.

From 2013 to 2023, 176 juveniles accused of committing 206 offenses were charged as adults, about 16 annually.

In the seven years before Graves took office, an average of 22.7 juveniles were charged as adults annually. Under his kids-are-just-kids approach, an average of six juveniles were charged as adults from 2021 to 2023. The data for 2024 is not yet available.

Homicides, which averaged 134 annually for a decade ending in 2020, mushroomed to 226 in 2021, dropped to 203 in 2022, spiked to 274 in 2023 and waned to 187 in 2024, for a cumulative average of 222 for the four years of the Biden administration. Graves' tenure was three years, and the average annual number of homicides on his watch was 221.

Today, thanks to the actions of interim U.S. Attorneys

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Matthew Graves' Abysmal Legacy As US Attorney For DC

Cont.

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Pirro and Ed Martin, the numbers have returned to levels before the Biden administration.

Aware that the crime spike was largely a result of the D.C. Council's underfunding of the police and Graves' hands-off approach, the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime held an Oct. 12, 2023, hearing titled "Victims of Violent Crime in the District of Columbia."

I was a witness, along with D.C. Police Union Chairman Gregg Pemberton, two victims of violent crime and two other witnesses. I testified about five main reasons for the unacceptably high crime rate, including the U.S. attorney's office policies, practices, and personnel selection criteria that undermined public safety.

I noted that the U.S. attorney's office, where I used to be an assistant U.S. attorney, had a 67% declination rate (the rate at which prosecutors declined to file charges presented to them by law enforcement authorities), compared with the San Diego district attorney's office, which had a 22.6% declination rate for the past 20 years in more than 500,000 cases.

Both offices had 330 prosecutors, but Graves' office had one prosecutor for every 2,035 residents and the San Diego office had one prosecutor for every 9,927 residents of the county. The D.C. office's ridiculously

high declination rate wasn't a resource issue; it was a competency and leadership issue.

A week later, Graves held a press conference about the crime problem in the city and said, "I don't focus on the criticism." No one believed him. He blamed his office's high declination rate on the D.C. Court of Appeals, which he said issued rulings that made it harder to prove cases.

If that was the entire reason for the high declination rate, why did the office's declination rate drop in fiscal year 2023 to 56.3% and even further in fiscal year 2024 to 42.7%? Public pressure to start doing his job is why.

Think about this: Graves' average declination rate was 55.3%, compared with 35.5% during the 10 years before he took office.

That's the legacy of Matt Graves, who will go down in history as the worst chief prosecutor in the District in decades because of his abysmal track record in keeping our city safe and because of his false, misleading, and downright insulting excuses for not doing his job.

Charles "Cully" Stimson is the deputy director of the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, the manager of the National Security Law Program, a senior legal fellow, and a senior advisor to the president at The Heritage Foundation.

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America Doesn't Need 'International Students' *Cont.*

(Continued from page 9)

In 2023, around 20% (or 207,788) of foreign students benefited from university subsidies, 1,684 foreign students were funded by the U.S. government and 2,351 by other domestic sponsors.

Only 56.8% of foreign students were mostly using their or family money to pay their way.

(Federal student aid is also extended to 'refugees', Afghans, Ukrainians, Haitians and any number of other groups seen as distressed, also victims of human trafficking, children of foreign domestic abuse victims, and anyone who spends enough time complaining about their life.)

It's hard to track exactly how much student aid is going to foreign nationals, but it very likely outweighs the very limited impact of foreign student spending on the broader economy outside of a few college towns in Boston, D.C. and a handful of big cities in California and New York.

What is painfully clear is that the costs of foreign students, whether it's 9/11, the Hamas campus riots, Obama administration, a hypothetical Kamala administration or Chinese intellectual property theft far outweighs whatever limited benefits they provide to anyone outside Harvard, Yale, Columbia or Georgetown. America doesn't need international students, colleges do.

And as has been obvious for a long time: what's good for colleges, isn't good for America.

American taxpayers subsidized wealthy nonprofit institutions. These institutions demand an unlimited flow of foreign students to further enhance their revenues. And these foreign students, whatever tuition they pay or don't pay, are benefiting from taxpayer-subsidized institutions.

It's a good deal for Harvard, but it's not a very good deal for America.

The original idea of bringing foreign students to America was that they would learn about 'democracy' and our way of doing things, then go back to their countries imbued with the American spirit. This hasn't worked very often because foreign students are usually members of foreign elites, like the Obamas or Kamala's family, who despise America. Rather than teaching the rest of the world about America, we import foreign and domestic enemies into our country.

Foreign students haven't Americanized the world, they've radicalized, Islamized and terrorized America. Many of those third world students who moved here undermined America and even those who went back home, returned with an insider's understanding of our weaknesses.

And American campuses, in their current state, are hardly likely to do anything other than radicalize foreign students and teach them to hate America. The original purpose of the foreign students programs introduced under Eisenhower and Kennedy failed even as the number of foreign students shot up from 400,000 in the 1990s to over 1 million.

Instead of making America or the world, foreign students set up Muslim Brotherhood operations, Chinese spy organizations and radical groups calling for the destruction of America.

There's a place for foreign students in America, but the Trump administration is right to closely scrutinize Chinese students and the social media of students from Islamic terrorist states like Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan, while trying to cut back on the number of foreign students.

The truth is that America doesn't need foreign students, foreign students need America.

Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, is an investigative journalist and writer focusing on the radical Left and Islamic terrorism



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Deep-Sea Mining Next Arena For U.S.-China Global Rivalry *Cont.*

(Continued from page 8)

analysis for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). "The ocean region that has garnered the most attention is the Clarion-Clipperton zone (CCZ), a 1.7 million square-mile patch of ocean located in international waters between Mexico and Hawaii. The CCZ contains the largest known nodule field on the globe, estimated at 21.1 billion tons."

As an indication of the challenge facing the administration, Baskaran and Schwartz note that the United States "currently lacks the processing infrastructure needed to process polymetallic nodules at-scale."

Another complication, one ripe with the potential for international conflict, arises from jurisdictional issues surrounding deep-sea mining. Extracting minerals from the ocean floor within the U.S. EEZ is one thing, mining minerals in waters beyond American jurisdiction is quite another. The U.S. Senate, dating back to the Reagan era, has refused to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); which was adopted in 1982 and went into force in 1994. The Law of the Sea Treaty, as it is commonly known, established the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the UN body that governs deep-sea resources, largely through licenses it issues to eligible countries (currently 169) that have ratified the treaty.

Baskaran and Schwartz point out that the Trump executive order "essentially bypasses the ISA to allow U.S. companies to gain access to resources in international waters without consultation or permission from the UN body." For the "America First" Trump administration, bypassing a UN body is second na-

ture, completely consistent with its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement or the World Health Organization. Qualified American companies eager to engage in deep-sea mining can count on having the Trump White House at their back. They can also form partnerships with companies from allied countries that have ratified the Law of the Sea Treaty, even if that ruffles a few feathers at the UN.

Seabed mining is environmentally risky, with the ever-present threat of a spill that can lead to significant liability. Furthermore, creating domestic processing facilities will require an expedited permitting process and a labor force sufficiently trained to meet the task. But the U.S. cannot afford to stand aside and leave the field to China.

The game is on.

Bonner Russell Cohen, Ph. D., is a senior policy analyst with the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT).

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A Wink and A Nod To A Semi-Annual Mass Casualty Event *Cont.*

(Continued from page 6)

sunny skies and larger crowds did lead to more citations, enforcement helped keep the event under control and our community safe.

“Lieutenant **Joe Schmidt**, manager of the Isla Vista Foot Patrol Station, said, ‘This year’s Deltopia operation showcased the strength of teamwork and efficiency. Our team, made up of nearly 300 deputies and officers from eight law enforcement agencies, worked tirelessly to maintain public safety and respond quickly to medical emergencies. With the larger-than-usual crowds, our officers did an excellent job keeping up and ensuring the safety of the community.’

“In anticipation of the large number of attendees, joint planning among Santa Barbara County Fire, American Medical Response, Alcoholic Beverage Control, University of California Police, California Highway Patrol, Santa Maria Police, Lompoc Police, Ventura County Sheriff, Santa Barbara Police, San Luis Obispo Police, and Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services allowed for coordinated response and pre-staged resources.

“The Santa Barbara County EMS Agency designated the event as a *pre-planned mass casualty event*, allowing for advance staging of medical resources to preserve system function and prevent surges at local hospitals.

“As in previous years, the EMS Agency—alongside volunteers from the County Health Department’s Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)—staffed a Field Treatment Site, or medical tent, to reduce hospital impact. The County Fire Department deployed multiple paramedic foot teams, while AMR staffed five additional ambulances and County Fire added two more, all of which rendezvoused with foot teams at pre-designated locations to facilitate patient transport.

“New this year was the deployment of mutual aid medical resources from neighboring counties. Interim EMS Director **Vince Pierucci** stated, “This year we relied on mutual aid provided by both the Ventura County and San Luis Obispo County EMS Agencies, which sent additional personnel including ambulances and MRC staff. The support of our tri-county partners was invaluable in *protecting* those attending Deltopia and maintaining the stability of our local EMS system.”

End of Press Release

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The county spent how much time, energy, and money, so that tens of thousands of (mostly) college students could party on the streets of IV at taxpayer expense without killing themselves and the county is congratulating itself for a job well done? The supervisors and powers that be act as if society would bear the blame if bad things happened to these students *sans* our planning on a mass casualty event.

That fits the description of a codependent enabling relationship, as the county is ultimately facilitating the destructive behavior patterns of these *adult* students year, after year, after year.



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Freeing Farm Markets Is Better Than Tariffs And Welfare *Cont.*

(Continued from page 5)

As is typical, federal subsidies end up benefiting the biggest players. Overall farm incomes remain above average, but politically savvy agriculture lobbies cry poorness to boost their handouts. In 2023, market-oriented groups opposed congressional efforts to boost those subsidies by noting: “Increasing price guarantees for covered commodities would only boost federal payments to the largest and most successful farmers, who already received almost 66 percent of all commodity subsidies in 2021.”

All these policies drive up food prices for non-farmers, and reduce our choices in meats and produce. As Chris Edwards of the Cato Institute explained in 2022, if the feds deregulated, “Different crops would be planted, land usage would change, and some farm businesses would contract while others would expand. But a stronger and more innovative industry would emerge that had greater resilience to market fluctuations. Private insurance, other financial tools, and diversification would help cover risks, as they do in other industries.”

Instead of creating this convoluted, counterproductive policy that mimics a Rube Goldberg farce, the government should do the basics to help farmers. It should scuttle tariffs, halt subsidies, eliminate costly shipping levies, create a guest-worker program so farmers can have a consistent labor source, lower taxes, bolster water infrastructure and let markets do the rest. There’s no reason to use an octopus to make orange juice.

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’

Senate Should Ignore The Parliamentarian On Electric Vehicles *Cont.*

(Continued from page 7)

Harry Reid in 2012, thinks the GAO was correct. She has some Republicans uncertain of their position.

According to Politico, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said has “some procedural issues” with the waiver. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska is “discussing the issue with colleagues and not yet ready to make a decision.” “There is obviously apprehension if we go sideways on our own rules and so I’m having a lot of good conversations,” Murkowski said.

Even West Virginia’s Sen. Shelley Moore Capito told Politico, she wasn’t “100 percent decided” yet. This holdout behavior is outrageous and Leader Thune should not stand for it.

First, the Parliamentarian is plainly wrong. The waiver is a regulation not a mere permit.

Second, the Parliamentarian is plainly partisan. Beyond her Harry Reid-era provenance, she conveniently decided all the climate provisions and spending in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act were budget- versus policy-related and so could be voted on under the non-filibusterable reconciliation process. But for her decision, the IRA would never have been enacted and President Trump and congressional Republicans wouldn’t be burdened with repealing a trillion-plus dollars worth of Green New Scam spending.

Finally, the Parliamentarian’s opinion is just like the GAO’s – i.e., merely advisory in nature. Leader Thune is not bound by Senate rules or any law to accept it. It would be absurd for a Republican-controlled Senate to allow a leftover Democrat administrative appointee to dictate the measures upon which Senate Republicans may vote.

President Trump campaigned on ending the EV mandate. Leader Thune should bring the California waiver up for vote next week and have Vice President JD Vance on-hand, if necessary, for a tie-breaking vote. Then, after winning the vote, appoint a new Parliamentarian.

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

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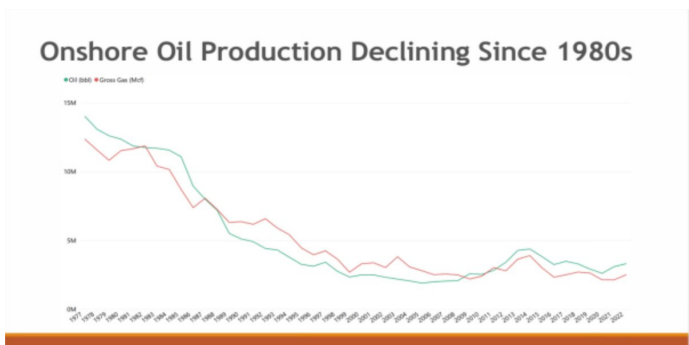
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Three Insufferable Talking Heads Bring On \$8 Per Gallon Gasoline *Cont.*

(Continued from page 3)

California-produced oil is specially formulated, processed, and mitigated to lower its environmental impact. We call it the California blend. Oil companies and refineries, along with industry, are required to pay money into the California Cap and Trade program, some *\$33 billion* to date, to offset greenhouse gases. That means their ghg footprint has been *eliminated* by offsetting the emissions. These funds are then used by the state to eliminate emissions by such things as buying electric buses and, of course, funding the high-speed rail project boondoggle. Hence, CA oil and gas production is not contributing to “climate change.”

Supervisor Capps, aka bubblehead, would have you believe that the \$7 million in tax revenues generated in Santa Barbara County is not worth considering as she tries to eliminate the industry. Moreover, she also presents a chart to support her claim that the industry is on its death bed anyway.



Her claim is a convenient lie.

For starters, she ignores the fact that there was a resurgence of onshore oil production in our county be-

ginning around 2012, when four independent oil operators sought to increase production but were effectively denied the opportunity to do so by the county via arbitrary and capricious regulatory standards. Hence, Capps would have you believe the industry is in decline when the county (and the state) have been responsible for decreased production and, subsequently, reduced refinery capacity.

On the California coast alone, the oil industry generates some \$10.5 billion in total economic contribution, including \$2 billion in tax revenue, and \$2 billion in wages and benefits.

Furthermore, Californians consume over one billion gallons of gasoline every month. Our gas prices are typically \$2 more per gallon than in other states. That means consumers could have upwards of \$26 billion more in their pockets every year to spend on food, rent, and over-priced green utilities, if our cheap-talking politicians would quit their meaningless war against the oil and gas industry.

All of this is par for the course for these hard-core left-ist talking heads. They steal things without compunction. First, it was the ambulance contract. Now it is the un-Constitutional taking of mineral rights of oil royalty owners. For these three talking heads, the ends justify the means as they seek to force consumers into electric vehicles who won't be able to afford \$8 per gallon gasoline way ahead of our ability to facilitate the transition.

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In California, The Tail Is Wagging The Dog On Biological Men In Women's Sports *Cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

the boys have more physical advantages, are more muscular, stronger, faster, and "no young women should have to feel they aren't safe. Women's safety matters," she added.

But the CIF dug in and kept the absurd policy in place allowing self-identifying "trans" high school athletes to play on a sports team "consistent with their gender identity." And since March, many high school female athletes have been robbed of wins and future opportu-

nities.

As the President posted on Truth Social Tuesday:

In California, the tail is wagging the dog. And Democrats and Gov. Newsom are allowing the few "trans" athletes to run roughshod over all women's sports.

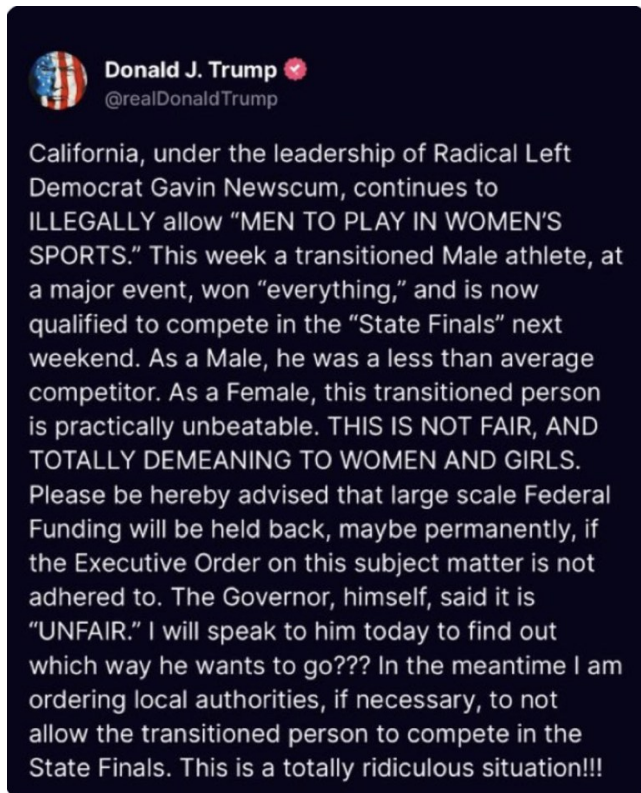
This is **President Trump's Executive Order:**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN AND

GIRLS: Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order keeping men out of women's sports.

- The Executive Order upholds the promise of Title IX and ends the dangerous and unfair participation of men in women's sports.
- The order requires DOJ to abide by the nationwide vacatur of the previous Administration's illegal Title IX rewrite that would have dissolved single-sex spaces and opportunities.
- The order also requires immediate action, including enforcement actions, against schools and athletic associations comprised of schools that deny women single-sex sports and single-sex locker rooms.
- The Executive Order calls for the convening of private sporting bodies in the White House to hear, in person, the stories of female athletes who suffer life-long injuries, who have been silenced and forced to shower with men, and whose hard work has been cast aside due to the biological advantage of males.
- The Executive Order directs State attorneys general to identify best practices for ensuring equal opportunities for women in sports and to highlight impact stories of women harmed by male athletes

(Continued on page 19)



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In California, The Tail Is Wagging The Dog On Biological Men In Women's Sports *Cont.*

(Continued from page 18)

competing in women's sports.

- The Secretary of State will demand changes within the International Olympic Committee to preserve single-sex sports, a necessity for safety and fairness.

The Department of Homeland Security will review visa policies to address males falsely asserting they are females when entering the United States to compete in women's sports.

The DOJ federal lawsuit "centers on a female high school athlete who was removed from the Varsity Top 7 cross-country roster after a male athlete—who had transferred schools and previously excelled as the top runner—was given preferential treatment and allowed to join the girls' team. The male athlete proceeded to displace other female athletes from races, podium spots, and college scouting opportunities. When the athletes wore shirts with the message 'Save Girls' Sports,' district administrators forced them to cover or remove the shirts."

Here is their story.

"The plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief to restore fairness and reinstate their rights under Title IX. The DOJ's Statement of Interest bolsters the core of the case: that permitting biological males to compete in female sports violates the letter and spirit of federal law."

The case is set for hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on June 20, 2025, where the State and the School District are asking the Court to dismiss the case.

This is the hat I wear when working out.

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?

Andy Caldwell Thanks You!



He's a government watchdog, taxpayer, business and traditional values advocate, and the Executive Director of COLAB.

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Of Telescopes, Mirrors, And The Government We Deserve Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

more dams and reservoirs despite the taxpayers having authorized billions of dollars to do so. They have also killed desal projects. Without water, we have neither the opportunity to grow our housing stock or feed ourselves. I seriously doubt any other state in the union is this stupid.

The Next Big Issue: Infrastructure.

You can't build additional housing and create more jobs without infrastructure. Yet, because our local government, for instance, spends over half the money they collect on themselves in the form of salaries, benefits, and pensions, there is no money left for new infrastructure. Heck, there is no money to *maintain* the infrastructure we already have. Santa Barbara County has amassed over \$500 million in deferred maintenance costs to roads, buildings, and parks. Thereby, when a developer comes along and wants to build affordable housing, the cities, the county, and the state want the developer to pay for *all* infrastructure costs, including those costs government should be providing.

In Santa Maria, for example, a very large swath of land – abutting the 101 freeway no less – will *never* be built because the city wants the developer to pay for an additional freeway overpass, even if the development is never constructed. On a similar note, this explains the fuzzy math the county employs when it tries to charge the developer of a new convenience store or a large gas station over \$1 million in so-called traffic fees that constitute an illegal tax designed to help the county catch up on their undersized failing road system.

The proof that it is government's fault that we don't have better-paying jobs and affordable housing is evident by looking at how other states are doing. In a column Greenhut wrote for *American Spectator*, "The Obvious Fix for California's Housing Crisis," Greenhut observes that "the Dallas-Fort Worth area has permitted more housing than all of California: five times more on a per capita basis." Moreover, in the last five years, the California's State Legislative Analyst's office has reported that mid-tier and bottom-tier priced homes in CA have both gone up over 80%.

In conclusion, many readers of this piece will think to themselves, well, "We don't want that much growth here." Precisely! And you have elected people who represent that very sentiment. Hence, even though California is losing population, it can't keep up with its housing needs as can other states who have both a booming economy and affordable housing. In other words, we have an unsolvable housing and job situation, along with the government that has been elected to keep it that way. of \$1 million to various "charities," to fund such activities as "anti-racism 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

(Continued on page 21)

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Of Telescopes, Mirrors, And The Government We Deserve Cont.

(Continued from page 20)

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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