

January 1, 2021

Editor's Note: We wish all our readers a Happy New Year! May 2021 be better than 2020. That's a pretty low bar, but we'll take it.

Quote of the Week: "The truth of it is this: Making a big show of holding Trump accountable was the easy and safe play for certain self-proclaimed heroes in the press. Trump's lies are obvious, and there is an audience for 'resistance' theatrics. But doing the same for Biden would require effort and risk, and, well, that is apparently too much to ask of certain members of our vaunted Fourth Estate."

- Becket Adams

In This Issue:

1. The Year in Review.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year was disappointing to so many people in so many ways. Looking back is both cathartic and a sort of "airing of grievances" that Frank Costanza could easily understand. And while there are numerous stories and issues that dominated the year, three stand out to this publication.

The first is COVID, the predominant issue of the year. In particular, the government response to COVID is noteworthy.

As many states, Minnesota included, implemented draconian, freedom sapping lockdowns by executive fiat, it became clear that many Americans are nothing more than sheep.

These timid souls were more than content to swallow every last bit of rhetorical tripe from their government, telling them to live in fear, surrender their rights, ignore whatever common sense resided between their ears, and meekly comply with the sovereign's dictates, lest they end up dying from a virus that features a survival rate of better than 99%.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of them. It is said that during the American Revolution, only 3% of the population actively took up arms against the British Empire. It's very likely true.

Mask mandates, shut down orders, shelter in place orders, endless assaults on our freedoms both large and small, all of it is happily absorbed by millions.

Those who would sacrifice their liberty for security deserve neither. True.

Here in Minnesota, even Tim Jong Walz's incompetence is excused and overlooked.

The \$7 million uber-morgue. The ridiculous and silly pandemic model that was incorrect by orders of magnitude. Ridiculous executive orders about how many people can show up for Christmas or forcing kids to wear masks on the ice. No problem, because Tim's trying.

The simple, ugly truth is that most people are more than happy to let government take care of them, even if it means sacrificing liberty and other natural rights.

The reality is that freedom is hard. It's uncomfortable. It means accountability and self-reliance. It means the freedom both succeed or fail. With true freedom, there is no guaranteed safety net.

For millions, that's too much.

Freedom is like going to the gym. It's hard to gain the benefits but really easy to lose.

Freedoms lost under the guise of public health may be very difficult to regain.

It's sobering to consider the "temporary" governmental powers that may prove permanent.

If you wonder how totalitarian government has ruled millions over the centuries, look back at this year. Surely, you have friends, neighbors, and family members who have without a second thought supported and followed every mandate related to the virus.

That's the template.

Ronald Reagan observed that freedom is never more than one generation from extinction.

He was correct, in every sense of the word.

The second issue has a silver lining. 2020 was the year that the media finally eliminated all pretense and threw off the mask of objectivity to reveal their eternal liberal bias.

That bias will be further confirmed as we watch Slow Joe treated with kid gloves throughout his term in the White House.

No questions about Hunter.

As Becket Adams recently wrote, “No questions about the lies that will surely accompany a man who has been lying his entire adult life, which is to say the entire time he’s been in Washington.

Biden, you may recall, lied during the election about his opposition to fracking. He lied when he said he was the first person to call for invoking the Defense Production Act to fight the coronavirus. Biden claimed in May that every time he has run for office, he has had the backing of the NAACP. This is false. Biden claimed that the Obama administration did not ‘lock people up in cages.’ It absolutely did. He claimed that ‘immediately, the moment the Iraq War started, I came out against the war at that moment.’ He did not.

Then, there’s the plagiarism, the lying about being shot at in Iraq, the lying about marching in the civil rights movement, and the lying about being arrested in South Africa while attempting to meet with an imprisoned Nelson Mandela.

When Biden first ran for president, he claimed during a tense exchange with a voter that he attended law school at Syracuse University on a full academic scholarship, that he finished in the top half of his class in law school, that he was named the outstanding student in the political science department as an undergraduate at the University of Delaware, and that he graduated from Delaware with three undergraduate degrees.

Not even one of these claims is true.”

Biden is an inveterate liar, a proven fact.

Watch the media cover for him.

2020 was also the year that political pollsters were shown to be liars for the Democrats.

Anyone who has reviewed their failed body of evidence over the past three election cycles could only conclude that they are liars, the same as the media, in bed for the Democrats and nothing more than a propaganda organ.

This publication could fill many pages of commentary with the massive polling errors that prevailed during the campaign. Overall, the polls consistently showed Biden leading Trump in key battleground states. They were all wrong. While we don’t know the outcome as of this writing, we do know that the pollsters have no credibility nor do the political talking heads who called this election for Biden and Team Socialism. They got it wrong on every level.

Consider the RealClear Politics polling average versus the results in select states:

Florida: RCP average of Biden +1. Result: Trump +3.5
Wisconsin: RCP average Biden +6.7. Result: Biden +0.7.
Iowa: RCP average Trump +0.2. Result: Trump +8.2.
Texas: RCP average Trump 1.3. Result Trump +5.8

Remember that these are polling averages. Many polls were downright ridiculous, such as the New York Times poll in very late October that showed Biden at +11 in Wisconsin.

In the Senate, the polling was just as bad.

In Maine, not ONE poll showed Republican Susan Collins ahead. The most recent poll in that state showed her opponent ahead +6. She won.

In North Carolina, not one recent poll showed Republican Thom Tillis with the lead. He is poised to win.

In Iowa, Republican Joni Ernst beat the RCP average by +5.2 to win re-election.

In the generic vote for Congress, once again, every poll had Democrats ahead, for an RCP average of +7. The pundits had Dems picking up between 5-15 seats.

The reality is that Republicans have gained at least six seats in the U.S. House and will likely pick up at least 10.

Good job, guys. At least we now know the enemy. Fake news, indeed.

Finally, 2020 was a year in which red states began to show superiority to blue states.

The numbers don't lie. Blue states are losing taxpayers while red states gain them. California, New York, Illinois, and their ilk will be losing congressional seats while Texas (3), Florida (2), North Carolina, and Montana will be gaining. In fact, blue states that aren't tinfoil hat crazy are gaining. Colorado and Washington (minus Seattle) are two examples of blue states that value capitalism and wealth creation, thus attracting capital of all types.

One driver of this activity is the little noticed but brilliant federal law limiting the SALT deduction to a hard cap of \$10,000.

SALT, an acronym for "state and local taxes" was for many years a limitless deduction that allowed wealthy taxpayers to fully deduct their state and local taxes from their federal taxes.

This was little more than a blank check that allowed irresponsible blue state like

Illinois and New York to jack up taxes with impunity, as the federal treasury would take the hit.

Moreover, this tax code provision punished responsible states and their taxpayers.

With a hard cap, many successful people had the incentive to move to states like Texas and Florida, potentially saving thousands or even millions in state taxes.

No wonder Pelosi and Schumer are working so hard to reinstate this tax break for the richest Americans.

May this cap never go away.

What a year.

January 8, 2021

Quote of the Week: “They weren’t protesters — don’t dare call them protesters. They were a riotous mob, insurrectionists, domestic terrorists.”

- Joe Biden on the Capitol Hill riots

Quote of the Week: “They’re not gonna stop before Election Day and they’re not going to stop after Election Day. And everyone should take note of that. They’re not gonna let up and they should not.”

- Kamala Harris on the BLM/Antifa riots

In This Issue:

1. A Legacy Tarnished.

A LEGACY TARNISHED

The assault on the seat of government of our great country was ugly, vile, un-American, and worthy of unqualified condemnation.

There is no question that the President of the United States bears his share of responsibility for the mayhem (more on that later).

There is also no question that the outrage of Democrats and the Left is in many respects cynical, hypocritical, tone-deaf, and revealing of the win-at-all-costs mentality that is the hallmark of their ilk.

For months, they excused, ignored, and even cheered the violence that led to so much pain and destruction in cities across the country.

In today’s digital environment, there is a long, irrefutable record of this support for rioters.

For them, the morality of violence falls in the realm of situational ethics. Do they condemn mayhem? Do they believe in the Rule of Law? That depends on who’s committing the violence and why.

When rioting is normalized, it becomes impossible to control it, excusing the behavior for some and not others.

We are either a nation of laws or we are not.

It is also worthwhile to recall that the Left and their media allies spent much time noting that the riots of summer 2020 were likely the work of “infiltrators” and agent provocateurs.

When such a possibility was raised regarding the Capitol Hill riot, the theory was immediately condemned and shot down, even though an investigation won't be completed for months.

The hope is that the Left will join Republicans in condemning and working to prevent ALL politically inspired violence.

Having said that, don't hold your breath.

The legacy of President Trump will be complicated and perhaps not discernable for many years.

One thought that comes to mind as we contemplate the end of his term is that Donald J. Trump is an American Tragic Hero.

As explained by Aristotle, Trump fits many of the traits.

The very personality traits that got him elected and drove his policy agenda ultimately led to his demise.

For conservatives, we will spend much time in the coming months and years thinking about what might have been, especially as we watch Joe Biden and the Democrats kill jobs, strangle prosperity, and trammel the values that made the country great.

Trump was a candidate who demonstrated the courage to say the things many Americans were thinking. He was a man who said what he meant and meant what he said, as crude or impolitic as some of it may have been.

He was a president who laid out a policy agenda and then boldly pushed for it, providing a stark contrast to candidates from both parties who are all too comfortable making campaign promises they have no intention of keeping.

He pursued his agenda despite the constant attacks and harassment from the Swamp, the media, and coastal elites who despised his concern for the Forgotten Man.

His legacy will be one of a pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-liberty agenda that delivered results that we will long for as we endure the inevitable Biden stagnation.

But his legacy is also one of missed opportunities, countless unforced errors, and an incivility borne of arrogance that Americans didn't want or expect from their president.

In short, Trump the candidate never made the transition to President Trump, which was his ultimate downfall.

So often, single incidents come to be emblematic of careers, eras, or long-running affairs.

The first presidential debate of 2020 stands out in that regard.

Trump was the combative, argumentative, juvenile, belligerent man that made us all cringe.

His constant interrupting of Biden and refusal to offer even a modicum of cooperation to the debate moderator was a typical Trump debacle.

While presidential election results are the product of countless factors, his performance was a singular moment that crystallized in the minds of many voters everything they disliked about man who was often easy to dislike.

The other example is January 5th, 2021.

This is the day Republicans lost both Georgia Senate seats, giving the Democrats control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

Again, many factors were in play, but there is no doubt the losses were the fault of Trump.

At a time when Republicans should have been rallying around their Georgia candidates with a unified narrative of stopping the Democrats from running DC, Trump occupied the narrative with his obsessive, quixotic, pursuit of election fraud claims that went nowhere.

He demonstrated clearly that his personal political desires were the priority, with Republican priorities a distant second,

He destroyed the campaign plan with attacks on Georgia Republicans, attacks on the integrity of the Georgia voting system ("Don't vote, it's rigged! Wait, vote GOP!") and the distractions of wild conspiracy theories, all based on "reports."

What a ham-handed effort.

It's clear that the Trump campaign had absolutely no plan in place for probable

election challenges prior to Election Day, despite the fact that election fraud is a fact of life in places like Philadelphia and Detroit.

Moreover, the challenges were punctuated with the aforementioned conspiracy theories and explicit threats against members of Congress who didn't fall in line with the increasingly bizarre legal and political theories, such as the idea that the vice president had unilateral authority to nullify and disqualify a state's slate of electors. Federalism, anyone?

It's ironic to think about how decisively Republicans won the ideas campaign in 2020 but lost the personality campaign, thanks to Trump.

Republicans gained seats in the House (contrary to conventional wisdom), defended ALL their legislative majorities in the state legislatures (contrary to conventional wisdom), and held losses in the U.S. Senate to a net of one seat (contrary to conventional wisdom).

Yet, the White House was lost, as was the Senate, under the narrowest of numbers, leading to the narrowest of governing majorities.

In short, when voters were presented a contrast of ideas, the GOP won. When they were presented a contrast of personalities, the GOP lost.

The role of Donald Trump in both the past and future of American and Republican Party Politics will be fascinating to watch.

Joe Biden's administration, on the other hand, will not.

January 15th, 2021

Quote of the Week: “If you demand that your political adversaries adhere to a principle, but exempt people whose cause you endorse from having to comply, then that preference you enjoy boasting about is not really a principle. It is not a standard of conduct applicable to all, in other words, but just another rhetorical device used for political combat.”

- William Voegeli

Quote of the Week: “Whenever the vicious portion of population shall be permitted to gather in bands of hundreds and thousands, and burn churches, ravage and rob provision-stores, throw printing presses into rivers, shoot editors, and hang and burn obnoxious persons at pleasure, and with impunity; depend on it, this government cannot last.”

- Abraham Lincoln

Factoid of the Week: According to the Minnesota Department of Health, only 32% of COVID vaccine doses sent to the state have been utilized. In other words, 68% of vaccines are sitting on the shelf.

Question of the Week: Is there anything dumber than requiring athletes to wear masks during competition? Dumb laws breed contempt for the rule of law. Another example of a governor in over his head.

In This Issue:

1. The Swamp;
2. Those Public Unions;
3. Bad Bill of the Week.

THE SWAMP

Don't delude yourself into thinking that the events of the past week, or the past four years have been about Donald J. Trump.

Disapproval of the president's often unpresidential behavior shouldn't deceive you into going along with the power grab and oppression to follow.

If President Trump did anything, he ripped the mask off the Swamp to prove beyond

a reasonable doubt that there is a Deep State, supported by the Left's thirst for power.

The banning of the president from major social media platforms was a breathtaking and disgusting display of this power.

The Ayatollah can tweet but Trump can't.

Somehow, Big Tech can't stamp out child porn on the Internet, but they can de-platform Parler in a day.

A group that preaches unity and reconciliation impeaches a president who will leave office in a week. The attacks on the president have grown so mundane, the world essentially shrugged off an impeachment of the president, an action that would have brought the world to a standstill in years past. Was it even televised?

We have seen calls from Democrats for Republicans to resign or be impeached for exercising their constitutional rights. Like it or not, it is the right of every member of Congress to vote against certification of Electoral College results. In fact, many of the Democrats condemning votes against certification themselves have voted against certification in the past, as recently as 2016.

The media covers up massive scandals like Hunter Biden's pay to play schemes and the seemingly never-ending parade of California Democrats caught hanging out with Chinese agents. Instead, the public is subjected to either outright fabrications or "reports" that Trump doesn't like puppies and baseball.

Trump or not, the Left and their allies in corporate America, the bureaucracy, and the media are moving to suppress voices with which they disagree, cancelling dissenting voices.

Who do these people think they are, college presidents?

Wake up, America. These people are shredding your natural rights. It isn't about Trump, it's about you.

THOSE PUBLIC UNIONS

The data is clear. Medical and mental health professionals are united. Kids need to be in school. Every day that kids aren't in school, there is more and more damage to their learning, their mental and physical health, their odds of acquiring the skills needed to be productive citizens.

You can easily guess who doesn't support in-person learning.

Hint: It's the same group that generally opposes efforts to enhance learning – the teachers' union.

Now that many districts are contemplating a return (finally) to in-person learning, the union is coming out of the woodwork to oppose. It's about the children, right?

Local media has featured the opposition of the unions representing teachers in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Of course, support is up for sale, if government spends enough money, capping class sizes for example, as the science tells us COVID goes away in class sizes under 20.

If the comments section of the major media publications are any guide, taxpayers and parents aren't in the mood. They want kids in school and they want teachers teaching.

If paramedics and grocery store staff can be at work, so can teachers.

BAD BILL OF THE WEEK

With the legislature back in session, it's time for the bad ideas to roll.

This week's winner is House File 6, a bill that seeks to have an unelected panel appointed by the governor hand out state tax dollars to repair both public and private property damaged in the riots that Governor Walz and Mayor Frey allowed to rampage for days on end this summer.

Regarding public property, those cities should pay for it. They certainly appear to have lots of money to spend, as they always do.

Regarding private property, that is a matter for insurance and litigation.

It may seem harsh, but to hand out taxpayer money to uninsured or underinsured private businesses is to create a moral hazard.

Because some business owners chose not to insure or underinsure their business doesn't make it an obligation for fellow taxpayers to cover the loss.

There seems to be an ever-expanding list of people and organizations the government is willing to bail out.

With so many riding in the wagon, pretty soon no one will be left to pull it.

January 22, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Reflexive invocations of ‘systemic racism’ and ‘white supremacy’ have become the Tourette’s Syndrome of left-wing professors and activists. They are au courant, shallow terms of the moment, lacking depth or weight.”

- Heather Mac Donald

Quote of the Week: “Banning Trump from his often self-destructive Twitter addiction, smearing his supporters as racists, and bulldozing through a far-Left agenda will only ensure Trump a ninth life. Americans hate one thing more than a sore loser, and that is an arrogant, vindictive—and bullying—winner.”

- Victor Davis Hanson

Factoid of the Week: 56% of Americans agree with the statement that "Journalists and reporters are purposely trying to mislead people by saying things they know are false or gross exaggerations."

Factoid of the Week: 58% of Americans think that "most news organizations are more concerned with supporting an ideology or political position than with informing the public."

In This Issue:

1. Action, Not Words;
2. The Leviathan;
3. Predictions.

ACTION, NOT WORDS

In determining if President Joe Biden is serious about truly unifying the nation (and not defining “unity” as coercing conformity though cancelling and intimidating dissenting voices), we should not examine his words, but his actions.

Is he interested in being a leader, or will we see another four years of the underachieving, unproductive Swamp denizen we’ve seen for the past 47?

Will he be a statesman or simply the same old lying-dog-face-pony-soldier-corn-pop-top-of-my-law-school-class-HBCU-graduating-you’re-a-damn-liar-man-political-

science-class-winner-push-up-king-hair-smelling-grabby-hands blow hard we've come to expect – and loathe – for the past 47 years?

No, let's examine his words.

Of course, the mainstream media, reverting to their traditional role as the propaganda arm of the federal government, fawned over his inaugural address and proclaimed it something akin to the Gettysburg Address.

Consider this passage: "I know that the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new, our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we all are created equal, and the harsh ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, demonization have long torn us apart."

So, political differences are a stark choice between those who treasure American ideals and the racists?

That's simplistic, naïve, and casts legitimate differences of opinion as nothing short of a war between enlightenment and primitive bigotry.

Biden's speech toadies are clearly steeped in the ideology of victimhood, complaint, ethnic Balkanism and America as a bastion of structural, irredeemable racism.

This isn't a good look for slick talking, Washington careerist who looks to millions of Americans as more of a used car salesman than chief executive.

And how about those actions?

The president's slew of executive orders included, among other things, stabbing American construction trade workers and our energy economy in the back by rescinding a key permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

The pipeline is in progress and not on the drawing board, meaning that his diktat immediately put thousands of construction trade workers in the bread line, hurt contractors and workers in supporting roles for the project, stranded billions in investments, and slapped a valued foreign ally in the face.

Biden bragged throughout his campaign about his blue collar "everyman" roots while courting the endorsements of the very unions he now slapped down.

On the first day.

One can only hope that TC Energy, the owner of the project, sues in federal court. Only the Congress has the authority to regulate Interstate Commerce, so says the Constitution.

Article I, Section 8 clearly states that “THE CONGRESS (emphasis added) shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The president has no power to unilaterally regulate commerce between the U.S. and Canada by rescinding a permit. That power was an impermissible delegation of legislative power to the executive.

Paging Amy Coney Barrett...

But first we'll see if TC Energy has the guts to refile this lawsuit, which they filed once before, which was made moot when Trump gave the needed approvals.

And what of impeachment? Isn't the most important action the new president can take to heal the nation is to call for the Congress to drop the impeachment trial of Donald Trump?

Merits aside for a moment, isn't this a very necessary step on the road to unity and healing?

In other words, talk of unity and healing is meaningless, and patently insincere, if Biden fails to lead the call to drop this dubious impeachment and trial.

Moreover, the impeachment was a blatantly political act that is also unconstitutional.

Clearly, the Constitution's text and history shows that the Framers intended that only THE PRESIDENT, be subject to impeachment, not former presidents.

The Framers were well aware of the practice of harassing and intimidating deposed leaders by outing them through show trials to exact political revenge.

It's a farce.

Biden's leadership, or lack thereof, on this issue is the litmus test for his claim of Unifier-in-Chief.

Either lead on it or admit that it's another lie, Joe.

THE LEVIATHAN

Government doesn't do much well. Government is inherently bloated, unresponsive, inefficient, and oppressive.

This is because government is a monopoly and monopolies, by definition, are unresponsive.

This is why the government can't effectively distribute vaccines.

Amazon, UPS, and FedEx can effectively and efficiently distribute millions of products around the world on-time, every single day.

The solution for the Democrats in DC will be to turn to these or other private sector actors to rescue the program.

Then they will turn around and hold hearings to castigate these same actors and demand that they be brought to heel under the yoke of coercive government.

The same holds true for Walz's failed COVID appointment web site.

If you are surprised that the web site crashed and utterly failed, you aren't paying attention.

The state's ObamaCare web site did the same.

Remember MNLARS?

This is a joke, the only bigger joke being that people keep electing these Democrats, expecting something different.

Ticketmaster can handle selling 80,000 Rolling Stones tickets in one morning.

Delta can handle millions of reservations and reservation changes seamlessly.

VRBO can do the same for housing reservations.

Multiple web sites do the same for dinner reservations.

Same goes for medical appointments.

Yet government can't make it work for a vaccine reservation.

We get the government we deserve.

PREDICTIONS

Predictions for the Biden administration:

1. All failures will be blamed on Trump;
2. "Unity" will mean "conformity;"
3. The media will act as a propaganda front for Biden;
4. Most Americans will be worse off under Biden;
5. All of the above will lead to more polarization.

To be clear, this publication is pulling for President Biden.

Unlike the Left, we don't put ideology or party above country.

If Biden fails, the country will fail.

We just don't have much faith he's the right man for these times.

May we be totally wrong about this.

January 29, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Politics has turned the lofty ideal of equality into the ugly reality of resentments of other people’s achievements – and a feeling that the world owes you something, while you owe nobody anything.”

- Thomas Sowell

Quote of the Week: “We must keep life affordable by not raising taxes on anyone, much less small businesses that found a way to thrive in a pandemic, which will be hit by the 5th tier. Nor should we have regressive tax increases on tobacco. We can support families by tightening government budgets first.”

- Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R – Niswaga)

Quote of the Week: “In a year when thousands of MN families & businesses have lost 50%+ of their income, Gov. Walz is proposing just .3% in budget reductions from our \$50b+ budget. Democrats are not even bothering to ask govt to tighten its belt like so many Minnesotans have this year.”

- House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R – Crown)

Factoid of the Week: Only two states have inoculated fewer citizens, per capita, against COVID-19 than Minnesota. Those two being California and Virginia.

In This Issue:

1. #SQ+\$1.7
2. The Plan

#SQ+\$1.7

“Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son.”

- Dean Wormer

This should be the hashtag for every Minnesota Republican for the next few

days. This hashtag stands for “status quo plus \$1.7 billion.”

This is shorthand for Governor Walz’s proposed budget, which is nothing more than the failed status quo plus \$1.7 billion in tax increases.

The budget is nothing more than the same old tired ideas and pay offs for favored constituencies – plus a few billion more in spending.

Of course, the budget is also dressed up in the same old shop-worn euphemisms about the wealthy “paying their fair share” and just “a little bit more” through various “revenue enhancements” to “invest” in failed, bloated government programs that will reaffirm our commitment to “being in this together.”

Yes, nothing signals our collective commitment to the common good like an expensive, worthless government program that does nothing except enrich and empower the bureaucracy.

This parade of fiscal supplication clearly puts the teachers’ union, Education Minnesota, at the forefront.

Their power over the DFL so influential they forced Puppet Walz to hold a separate press event to showcase their sacking of the public fisc, a passive-aggressive Minnesota version of the Pirates of the Caribbean ride at Disney World. Someone buy Denise Specht a wooden leg. Avast, taxpayer booty dead ahead!!!

The education budget agitprop even had a catchy name, the “Due North” plan.

Walz could spare us the charade and simply name Denise Specht, the union boss, as commissioner of Management and Budget.

You’re either protecting the family budget or the government budget.

In his proposal, Walz nicks the government budget by .3% while jacking up taxes \$1.7 billion.

Let’s take a look at those massive, proposed increases.

Income tax. Walz wants to add a fifth income tax tier that would hit small businesses making between \$500,000 and \$1 million per year. While dressing up the increase in the language of punishing rich people, he intentionally fails to note that many small businesses are “pass through” entities that pay their taxes as individual taxpayers. Thus, he wants to hammer job creators who have managed to survive his draconian lock down measures.

Apparently, Tim hasn’t heard that these talented and successful people are finding it very easy to move their operations to tax-friendly jurisdictions. The term “hyper-

mobile capital” is unfamiliar to the chief executive.

Corporate tax. For those corporations that aren’t “pass through”, he wants to raise their rates as well, leaving no job creator unscathed.

Not an economics teacher, Walz doesn’t understand the simple concept that corporations don’t pay taxes. They pass those taxes onto customers in the form of higher prices, to their employees in the form of less pay and fewer benefits, and to shareholders in the form of reduced dividends and shareholder value.

Put another way, Walz is on a fiscal Kamikaze mission to emulate Illinois and New York, ignoring the open arms of Texas and Florida.

When you wield the hammer of executive fiat, everything looks like a nail.

And then there’s the estate tax, also known more accurately as the “death tax.”

The governor wants to tax the dead and what they leave behind by reducing the value of an estate that can be excluded from the tax.

This tax, like so many others, won’t yield what the DFL thinks it will because people will engage in various avoidance behaviors to put their assets beyond the reach of Tim’s puffy, greedy fingers.

As Walz himself very inaccurately noted, “the tax code is for altering behavior.”

No, that’s not the reason we have a tax code, but he’s right in noting that the code influences behavior.

(This is a great reason to introduce “dynamic scoring” to the revenue estimates of these proposals, by the way. Paging Tax Chair Carla Nelson...)

While there are other “Revenue enhancements” proposed, perhaps none is more emblematic of the hypocrisy and arrogance of Walz and his ilk than the \$151 million tax increase on vaping and tobacco products.

While Walz is claiming that his tax increases are okay because they only harm “the rich”, the truth, of course, is different.

It is beyond dispute that tobacco taxes are regressive, meaning they harm the poor far more than the wealthy.

Tobacco taxes are right up there with the gas tax in being regressive and therefore harmful to poor people.

Good for Minority Leader Dautt for calling out Walz on his double speak.

What a totally expected yet still disappointing budget.

DOA.

THE PLAN

The Republicans are in a great position to execute a strategic plan this simple and powerful.

The three-point plan is thus.

One. No tax increases. Minnesota is a high tax state that has suffered greatly under Walz's pandemic response. Thus, there will be no FY 22-23 budget with tax increases – period.

Two. Open the schools. Let Republicans for once act as Democrats and not let a crisis go to waste. Walz has unilaterally shut down the schools and parents are rightly freaking out. Even many liberals want schools open.

Importantly, even “the science” (The science!!!!!!) says schools can be open safely.

In exchange for an education budget, Republicans should insist on school choice in some form. There may never be more momentum for a game-changer like school choice. With a hard-nosed reformer like Roger Chamberlain heading the Senate Education Committee, it's game on.

Three. Reform the governor's pandemic powers. Minnesota has suffered greatly though the unilateral actions of a governor who has used executive fiat to rule for the past many months.

Moreover, the law granting him this authority is an unconstitutional delegation of power from the legislative to the executive branch.

Reforming this law is both good public policy and good politics, proving our Framers to be once again prescient in foreseeing men like Tim Walz and devising bulwarks against their designs.

Moreover, there is bi-partisan support for reforming this law, which is needed at some level. With a part-time legislature, there may be times the chief executive needs to act during an emergency.

Tim Walz has clearly shown the fatal flaws in the current law.

Let's reform the law and get it back within constitutional guardrails.

And finally, stand your ground. Republicans should steel themselves for a

protracted, perhaps ugly, confrontation with the governor and the DFL.

This is your time.

February 5th, 2021

Quote of the Week: "Each family is receiving \$500 a month, unconditional, no strings attached, and no work required."

- Muneer Karcher-Ramos, Office of Financial Empowerment, City of Saint Paul

Quote of the Week: "Despite being massively outspent, we held every Republican seat, picked up seats in the suburbs, knocked off longtime Democrat incumbents, and made historic gains on the Iron Range."

- House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R – Crown)

Quote of the Week: "Money, it's a crime. Share it fairly, but don't take a slice of my pie."

- Roger Waters

In This Issue:

1. Setting Money on Fire;
2. Tax Me, Please!
3. Golden Turkeys.

SETTING MONEY ON FIRE

Liberals are good at setting money on fire. Whether blowing money through governmental spending on bloated, inefficient programs or through propping up crappy candidates with bad ideas, their profligacy has reached art form.

The last election cycle is yet one more prime example.

This publication explored this tragic comedy at the federal level in recent editions.

Today, we take a look at the state level.

In the aggregate, the DFL and aligned groups spent over \$16 million on state Senate races. The GOP spent approximately \$7.7 million defending their majority.

The result was that the DFL gained one seat and remained in the minority.

Over in the Minnesota House, the DFL spent \$9 million to the GOP's \$4.5 million.

The result was that the DFL lost five seats while keeping a narrow majority.

What a crock to hear Democrats continue to decry the influence of money in politics.

There were 13 senate races where the DFL spent more money but lost the race.

On the GOP side, there were two races where that was the case.

There were 8 senate races where the DFL spent over \$1 million, winning only two of them.

All told, the DFL and company spent over \$10 million on losing races.

In the House, the DFL and allied groups lost 30 races where they outspent the GOP and allied groups.

In contrast, the GOP only lost 3 races where they spent more.

While money indeed matters, good candidates and good ideas matter more.

If having more money was dispositive, the GOP would never win in Minnesota, where the DFL enjoys hedge fund money, public union money, George Soros money, and Rockefeller money.

TAX ME, PLEASE!

With Biden in office, we are now seeing the all-too-predictable parade of his rich buddies taking to the various media platforms to tell us how important – and patriotic! – it is to have successful people hand over more of their money in the form of higher income taxes.

We all know the public policy reasons to oppose higher taxes.

We know that the wealthy already pay most of the income taxes and certainly pay far more per capita than other citizens.

We know that many wealthy people are really small businesses that pay via “pass through” entities that are on the individual income tax. Thus, more paid in taxes is less available to hire, train, and offer enhanced pay and benefits to employees. Less money available to buy new and better equipment. More in costs of the product or service the company offers in order to cover the higher tax bill.

We also know that the rich, or any citizen, has the ability to write an extra check to

either the federal or state government if they feel their tax bill isn't high enough.

Last year, the Treasury Department reported that citizens donated \$1.6 million to the poor, beleaguered, federal government.

In short, there they go again.

We've seen this bad movie before.

But here's one issue that doesn't get enough attention.

The debate is always focused on the pure policy of raising taxes.

That's important, but what about the back end of the increased revenue?

In other words, why do we take at face value the claim that more taxes will equal better outcomes?

Will taking more from the rich make for a more just and equitable society? It won't.

Will giving some federal agency a couple more billion lead to better outcomes? It won't.

Really, raising taxes on the wealthy only accomplishes two dubious goals.

First, it satiates the envy of citizens who are jealous of more successful people and derive perverse pleasure in seeing them punished for their prosperity.

Second, it allows wealthy liberals to virtue signal their guilt over being successful and see the enhanced rates as public atonement for their sin of success.

It's time for thinking citizens to challenge the narrative that higher taxes mean a better society buttressed by "adequately funded" government programs that will magically start to deliver results.

Making the Leviathan fatter won't make us better.

GOLDEN TURKEYS

Speaking of bloated, unresponsive government, our friends over at the Center of the American Experiment recently published 2020 Golden Turkey awards, highlighting Minnesota's most wasteful government programs.

Check out the Center, Minnesota's premier conservative think tank.

The Centers publishes a magazine entitled "Thinking Minnesota" each quarter.

Below are excerpts from their list of state spending infamy:

\$1,000 to explore our feelings about climate change

Every year the Legacy Fund (another constitutionally dedicated funding source), doles out millions of dollars of sales tax revenue to projects for clean water, outdoor heritage, arts and cultural heritage, and parks and trails. And every year, there are some really questionable expenditures that qualify for the Golden Turkey Award. This year, the Legacy Fund set aside \$1,000 of your money for a woman to host a hands-on climate mapping workshop where participants create maps of their personal emotional terrain of climate change. Does anger over really wasteful spending count as “personal emotional terrain”?

Tourism through Twitter: two tweets a month for \$57,000

One of our Golden Turkey Award nominees for wasteful spending shows how easy it is to move from a legitimate state purpose to just plain silly. In the name of tourism and promoting the state, Explore Minnesota (our Department of Tourism) recently paid \$57,000 to celebrity chef (and erstwhile Minnesotan) Andrew Zimmern to tweet twice a month as a “social media influencer.”

The \$6.9 million (thankfully, still) vacant Tim Walz morgue

When the Governor bought the abandoned fruit company warehouse back in May, the state was averaging 12.5 deaths per day. Like many of Walz’s early predictions, his estimation of the need for storing 5,100 bodies at a time scared Minnesotans into giving up more and more of their freedoms in return for safety.

February 12, 2021

Quote of the Week: "The not-guilty vote is growing after today. I think most Republicans found the presentation by the House managers offensive and absurd. We all know what happened at the Capitol was terrible. I hope everybody involved that broke into the Capitol goes to jail, but I don't remember any of these House managers saying a damn thing when they were trying to break into my house and going after Susan Collins and spitting on all of us."

- Sen. Lindsay Graham (R – SC)

Quote of the Week: "Who cares [if they] died in the hospital, died in a nursing home? They died."

- NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, referring to COVID-related nursing home deaths

In This Issue:

1. What's in a Name?
2. The Extremists;
3. The Beleaguered Postal Worker.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Here they go again. Efforts are underway to change the name of Coon Rapids, MN, because of the perceived racial epithet inherent in the name.

This, despite clear historical evidence that the city got its name from the trappers and fur traders who frequented the area in the 19th Century to trap racoons, which were abundant, by historical reports.

We shouldn't be surprised, given the virtue-signaling, "woke" world in which we live.

Some non-profit group appropriately named "Transformative Circle" is pushing the change. According to the group, changing the name of some rather anonymous suburb of Minneapolis would be a transformative chapter in the global quest for peace, love, and understanding.

"We're in the middle of a worldwide movement to become more racially aware, more equitable, learn more about each other", says Lori Anderson, who represents the

Circle.

Here's what the Watchdog knows about becoming more racially aware and equitable, Lori.

You can call Coon Rapids whatever you want, but it won't do a damn thing for a minority kid trapped in poverty, a broken home, or forced into worthless online schooling because political leaders don't have the guts to stand up to Education Minnesota.

If there was truly a concern about equity, why not march down to the governor's mansion and demand that schools open – today – and get these kids back in front of teachers.

Where's the concern about black student achievement?

According to the state's Department of Education, Coon Rapids High School is failing black students.

68% of black students at the school are below proficiency in science.

75% of black 11th graders at the school are below proficiency in math.

57% of black 10th graders at the school are below proficiency in reading.

It's damn near impossible to prosper in life when you can't properly read, write, cipher, or understand basic principles of science.

How do you get a good job? Who wants to hire a person lacking these kinds of skills?

And do you think these numbers have gotten better or worse after Governor Walz shuttered our schools?

Maybe the Transformative Circle should transform itself into an education reform group.

But that wouldn't garner any media attention, would it?

THE EXTREMISTS

The biased and dishonest members of the Fourth Estate are telling us that we need to beware of a group of Americans they call "Christian Nationalists."

The Watchdog hasn't heard of such folks, so we read deeper into a local news article to find out the characteristics we should be on the lookout for with these allegedly dangerous citizens.

We learn that Professor Samuel Perry of the University of Oklahoma says such people are drawn together by “a collection of myths, traditions, symbols, narratives and value systems that idealize and advocate a fusion of Christianity with American civic life.”

We further learn that Christian Nationalists are “conservative, believe in the supremacy of the Bible, and believe the nation is ‘on the brink of moral decay,’”

If this is indeed the case, don’t these same definitions apply to millions of ordinary Americans?

After all, many are politically conservative, are people of faith, and believe in participating in civic life.

Moreover, couldn’t these same descriptions be applied to very men who founded the nation?

Wasn’t this nation founded upon Judeo-Christian values?

The historical record is quite clear that the foundation of the Constitution, and the nation, is based upon biblical principles.

There is no question that the Framers were people of faith.

“In God We Trust” can be traced back as early as 1814 in our national life.

So, what’s the point? That anyone who is conservative and Christian is suspect? That there may be a small number people within this broadly defined group who advocate law breaking?

If that’s the case, what about Antifa and BLM?

This publication suspects this is little more than agitprop designed to smear conservatives and Christians, two groups the mainstream media despise.

You’ve been warned, Watchdogs. You’ve been put on notice that the Left is pushing towards a day when these beliefs will be outlawed and subject adherents to criminal sanction.

The Cancel Culture is only a first step to rewriting history and cowing those who object.

THE BELEAGUERED POSTAL WORKER

The mainstream media have also been telling us that we should pity postal workers, who are apparently upset that President Trump didn’t show enough respect and that

they were overworked over the Christmas Holiday.

Readers can make up their own mind, but the Watchdog this week took a quick spin through the 460 page collective bargaining agreement to see the terms and conditions of employment in this organization.

We learned that postal workers:

1. Have tenure. After 6 years of continuous service, you can't be laid off;
2. Top of the salary schedule is \$76,754 per year;
3. Ten days of paid vacation every year;
4. 2 hours of vacation earned each pay period;
5. Overtime pay after 8 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week;
6. A defined-benefit retirement plan.

Doesn't seem like a bad gig, but that's just us.

February 19th, 2021

Quote of the Week: “I’m literally humbled to have my name mentioned. There’s a lot of conversations that need to be had. I’ll never say never. I’m keeping all options open, but I was just reelected, and I have a great opportunity to represent the constituents of the 8th District in Congress.” (In reference to the office of Governor of the State of Minnesota)

- Congressman Pete Stauber (R – MN8)

Factoid of the Week: On this date in 1942, FDR signed executive order 9066, which sent thousands of Japanese Americans into forced exile for 2.5 years. Timely for today.

Poll of the Week: 76 percent of U.S. adults said the national anthem should be played prior to professional sporting events, including 60 percent who said it should “definitely” be part of the pregame.

Editor’s Note: It’s truly amazing to see how Donald Trump still lives in the heads of so many liberals. They got the memo that he’s left public office, right?

In This Issue:

1. The Clean Energy Fiasco;
2. The DFL’s Nasty, No Good, Very Bad Week;
3. Government Schools.

THE CLEAN ENERGY FIASCO

Much has been written regarding the recent meltdown of Texas’s energy grid, resulting in death, hardship, and the near collapse of their entire system, which would have taken months to repair.

Like everything in our lives, the issue has become politicized, with environmental wackos rushing to blame everything but renewable energy sources, along with their Hollywood funders taking joy in the suffering of fellow Americans.

Heck, if they can politicize baseball and wearing socks, they can politicize electricity.

The reality is that the fiasco in Texas has laid bare the situation into which environmental extremists and their politician allies have placed us.

In short, reliability has been sacrificed at the altar of environmental radicalism.

Note that the phrase is “environmental radicalism.”

This is to say that including renewable generation sources in the generation mix is desirable.

Wind and solar power aren't inherently poor public policy.

But heavily subsidizing these sources to grossly distort markets is poor public policy.

Failing to prioritize reliability as the cornerstone of good energy policy is horrible public policy.

Apologists for Renewable Dogma can spin the Texas situation all they want, but the simple fact remains.

Wind doesn't always blow.

The sun doesn't always shine.

Therefore, these sources of generation by definition aren't reliable.

The reality is that our public policy has pursued “green” energy at the expense of reliability.

In doing so, renewable advocates have done a disservice to their own cause.

Look for a strong course correction in favor of reliability.

There may be a day when technology makes these sources reliable and part of a grid's baseload calculus. For example, quantum leaps in battery technology may get us there.

But that isn't today.

And lest you think the pain was limited to Texas, know that rolling blackouts hit North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of western Minnesota.

[Rolling blackouts could continue in Dakotas, Minnesota as winter tests region's power grid | INFORUM](#)

That's something you probably didn't see highlighted by the mainstream media.

That would hamper the media agitprop that this is a Texas problem brought on by

deregulation and a failure of government to put the grid under the yoke of bureaucrats.

This, by the way, is also why there is a fixation on Sen. Ted Cruz being gone for one day while Joe Biden gets a pass.

Yes, Cruz made a bonehead move, but one that certainly didn't make anyone's life worse.

The Rule here is that the mainstream media will persecute the highest-ranking Republican in any crisis.

Imagine if we had a Republican president right now.

The headlines would announce that this crisis is President XXX's "Katrina" moment.

The news would be chock-full of stories about the slow federal response, wondering why the 82nd Airborne hadn't yet been deployed to Eagle Fart, TX to thaw out that frozen septic pump, chop firewood for the local orphan's home, or jump start Jethro Jones' stalled F-150.

Yet nary a peep from the White House press Corps.

Give it a week, and the fawning stories of Uncle Joe's decisive and timely leadership will spew forth, jamming all social media platforms.

There will no doubt be a complimentary narrative blaming Donald Trump in some manner.

All in a day's work for the mainstream media.

THE DFL'S NASTY, NO GOOD, VERY BAD WEEK
The DFL is glad it's Friday!

It was a poor week as Team Blue took two black eyes, thanks to friendly fire.

It was even a bi-cameral effort.

Existential question: if it was a unicameral legislature, would there have been only one embarrassment?

In the Senate, a bill was debated that would place the decision to close schools in a peacetime emergency solely in the hands of the locally elected, locally accountable school boards.

The debate dragged on for hours, as DFL senator after senator bemoaned the bill

while extolling the virtue of the governor's unilateral powers.

When the vote board had closed, 40 senators were in favor of the bill and only 27 opposed.

Every Republican, two independents, and four Democrats voted for the bill.

The dramatics of the DFL speakers belied a lack of support for their position.

And over in the House, things weren't much better.

The DFL leadership early in the week had to pull a bill off the calendar that would have created a slush fund to pay for the law enforcement response to civil unrest that is likely to accompany the trial of the four Minneapolis police officers charged in the death of George Floyd.

They didn't have the votes to bring up the bill.

And when they finally brought up the bill on Thursday, it was voted down, with Democrats joining every Republican in rejecting the bill.

What a circus.

We wish the DFL leadership a restful weekend. They need it.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

If there's one silver lining to this horrible pandemic, it's that many parents have discovered that the government school monopoly isn't the best choice for their child.

Enrollment numbers are way down in government schools, while enrollment in private schools and home schools is way up.

The response from government is exactly what you would expect: give us money.

Whether enrollment is up or down, the government school leviathan will always want more money.

The story line is that more money will cover the alleged budget gaps until students come back to government schools once Tim Jong Walz and the Teachers' Union allow it.

Who says so?

Our view is that many parents will discover the value of being free from government schools and won't go back, despite the monopoly and heavy subsidies the government schools enjoy.

Senate Republicans shouldn't give into this scheme.

With Sen. Roger Chamberlain chairing the Education Committee, this publication has every confidence the right thing will be done

February 26, 2021

Quote of the Week: “North Star was a loser before and ridership may never come back and it was never financially feasible. So, I think we should continue to press and look harder to mothball North Star possibly.”

- State Rep. Jon Koznick (R – Lakeville)

Quote of the Week: “What I saw during my presidency was the politics of white resistance and resentment, the talk of welfare queens and the talk of the undeserving poor and the backlash against affirmative action. All that made the prospect of actually proposing any kind of coherent, meaningful reparations program struck me as, politically, not only a non-starter but potentially counter-productive.”

- Barak Obama (2/22/21)

Translation: I would have totally done reparations but all the white racists in our irredeemably racist country would have had a conniption.

In This Issue:

1. Facile Writing 101;
2. Sometimes, Being Right is Too Easy.

FACILE WRITING 101

No reasonable person would describe the Minneapolis Star Tribune as a serious, thought-provoking, scholarly publication.

Having said that, the paper really outdid itself this week by publishing one of the most juvenile, ridiculous, unpersuasive opinion pieces which we have ever had the misfortune of reading.

The piece was written by one Erin Maye Quade, who describes herself (apologies if she identifies otherwise), as the “campaign manager and coalitions director” of a group called “UnRestrict Minnesota.” We hope no one got paid a lot to come up with that bland, vapid name.

The thesis of the piece is that two Republican state Senators, Michelle Benson and Julia Coleman, have “elevated” “dangerous and inflammatory” rhetoric against people who “access pregnancy care” (translation: get abortions).

This is a serious charge. Cutting through the liberal muck speech, Quade accuses Benson and Coleman of fomenting (inciting?) violence against others.

That's the thesis and that's the charge.

Yet, after 16 paragraphs of grade school prose, she offers not a single example of this "dangerous and inflammatory" rhetoric.

You have to be joking.

Every middle schooler (when they're actually in school) learns that the thesis sentence is then supported thereafter.

In any school that doesn't engage in outcome-based education, this piece would earn an "F" and perhaps not even qualify for a participation ribbon.

Moreover, the piece was doomed from start, given that the thesis was also poorly constructed, overly vague and lacking in coherency.

What does it mean to "elevate" one's rhetoric?

What exactly is "dangerous" rhetoric?

What does the author mean by saying that this "dangerous" rhetoric "targeted" women to get abortions?

While Quade utterly failed in her mission to stain Benson and Coleman's reputations as legislators, she proved two other points beyond a shadow of a reasonable doubt.

One, Quade's vague, non-sensical, opaque speech patterns epitomize the results wrought by today's public school system.

She represents the millions of young people churned out by the public school system who are totally incapable of rational, logical, dispassionate thought and analysis.

Instead, emotional, illogical, feel-good double speak and the regurgitation of political slogans are prized.

"Pregnancy care." Classic.

Two, Quade represents the worst of the Left's intolerant, venomous, Cancel Culture.

In a sense, her miserable show in persuasive writing is irrelevant because that wasn't the real mission.

The real mission was to hurl the smear and run, knowing that the target audience, like the author, would have no real interest in a truly persuasive piece.

So long as the right-wingers got kicked, that's all that matters.

Likely, Quade's social media blew up afterwards, with accolades from like-minded haters.

Surely, any smear hurled in the name of "pregnancy care" is justified and applauded by today's Left.

What's next, Star Tribune, glorifying vandalism and violence in the name of environmentalism?

"Young Minnesotans find 'calling' leading Line 3 pipeline protests" (Strib 2/23/21)

(Editor's Note: The Watchdog no longer links articles from the MST. They don't deserve the clicks).

And the Left decries "extremism."

SOMETIMES, BEING RIGHT IS TOO EASY

While the Watchdog is right nearly all the time on every issue, sometimes the prediction is easy money, like fishing with dynamite.

Such is the case in predicting the failure of Northstar commuter rail.

Since the Watchdog's inception in 2005, this publication has consistently pointed out the failure of this ill-conceived white elephant.

It wasn't too hard to see that a fixed-rail train line running through lightly populated (by mass transit metrics) exurban and rural counties would fail.

Recall that the original line was supposed to terminate in the tiny burgh of Rice, MN, up in Benton County.

And while we always maintained that Northstar was a loser that stunk like burned money, we never thought it would get this bad.

A recent news report states that ridership on the line is down a whopping 80% in 2020.

Note that this is an 80% drop from the line's already pathetic ridership numbers.

Want another mind-blowing number?

The taxpayer subsidy per rider is a whopping \$400 per ride.

You could fly riders by helicopter for that number.

As State Rep. Koznick noted in our “quote of the week”, Northstar has always been a loser.

The line has NEVER met promised ridership numbers. Ever.

So, policy makers shouldn't buy the bunk narrative that ridership will come back after Tim Jong Walz deigns to reopen our republic.

The line was promised to be the equivalent to 1.5 lanes of traffic on Highway 10.

Right.

And no, extending the line won't fix it.

There is a false narrative that conservative politicians cut the northern terminus from Rice down to Big Lake, thereby preventing a stop in the cosmopolitan city of Saint Cloud.

Wrong.

The line was cut because the original proposed line failed to meet the Federal Transit Administration's metrics for funding.

In short, the line up to Saint Cloud wasn't viable.

Now we're seen that the line up to Big Lake isn't, either.

Rep. Koznick is absolutely right.

Mothball this sucker and cut the losses.

White elephant.

Shame on those who ripped off the taxpayers and voted for this crap.

March 5, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Now it is time to turn the page, to unite, to heal.”

- Dotard-in-Chief Joe Biden

Quote of the Week: “Government can and should be doing more to help workers and families. And the ultra-wealthy can and should be paying more of their fair share. Nothing about Minnesota’s surplus projection changes that.”

- House DFL Majority Leader Ryan Winkler

Factoid of the Week: Dr. Tony Fauci is the highest paid federal bureaucrat, at \$417,608 annually. By comparison, the president of the United States makes \$400,000. The chief justice of the Supreme Court makes \$267,000.

In This Issue:

1. No Surprise;
2. The “Experts” Were Wrong;

NO SURPRISE

Were any of you actually, truly, sincerely thinking the Democrats would govern as moderates? Did you really believe in the whole “unity and healing” shtick?

Sucker.

Of course, the Democrats abandoned the “unity and healing” gimmick once they got power. It was never a public policy goal. It was merely an expedient political lie, a deceit to be swallowed whole by millions of the gullible.

After all, if you can be made to believe that Trump is a Russian agent, Brett Kavanaugh is a gang rapist, and all we need is 15 days to flatten the curve, you will certainly believe Joe Biden is interested in leading a united country.

While we haven’t seen the president for 43 days (they must have relocated the Delaware basement to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.), we have certainly seen his policy craft at work.

We have seen major bill after major bill passed with ZERO Republican votes.

That's saying something. When every single member of the House GOP Conference votes, in toto, against a bill, it's a big deal.

It's almost like failing a high school class. You have to work really hard to do it.

Biden's legislation should pick up a couple of GOP votes by default.

The same holds true for the Woke DFL crowd down in Saint Paul.

Their catalog of extreme and laughable legislation could occupy the next 15 editions of the Watchdog.

Putting mask mandates into law. Reverse discrimination bills. Defund the police. Abortion on demand (aka "pregnancy care").

Perhaps the most emblematic piece of legislation in this regard is the governor's DFL budget proposal.

The proposal contains over \$1 billion in tax increases, including regressive taxes on the poor.

And even after the most recent state budget forecast showed a significant surplus, the DFL is doubling down on these tax increases.

Think about it.

We have a state budget surplus.

Washington is on the verge of sending hundreds of billions in debt-financed dollars directly to the states.

Minnesota, thanks to Walz, has seen the private economy devastated, with thousands of businesses permanently closed as a result of unnecessary, unproductive lock downs.

And the DFL still wants tax increases?

No wonder the DFL failed to take over the state Senate and came within a whisker of losing the House.

No wonder the GOP did so well around the country last November.

The Democrats will certainly pursue their Woke agenda until the 2022 elections.

And the GOP would have it no other way.

No wonder the few moderate Dems who are left are fretting.

2022 can't come fast enough.

THE "EXPERTS" WERE WRONG

Remember Joe Biden's famous proclamation, "This is dark winter ahead" regarding COVID?

Or Tim Walz's declaration that we would have tens of thousands of dead by July – of 2020?

And these guys aren't even experts at anything, except grifting.

The real public health "experts" were also wrong.

Their predictions of millions dead, lockdowns for years, and COVID's lethality and transmissibility, were all wrong.

Instead, the real epidemic, the real tragedy, was the havoc wreaked by government fiat, all based on their bogus claims.

Economic dislocation, addiction, mental health issues, isolation, educational disaster, all because of their failure to properly assess the situation in a rational, logical manner.

The experts who were correct were ignored, ridiculed, and "cancelled at the stake" in a manner not dissimilar from the way geocentric heretics were burned at the stake centuries ago.

History will not judge kindly these purveyors of panic porn.

If history is just, this chapter will be viewed in the same manner as other similar mania, such as the Salem Witch Trials.

One of the heroes of this episode is Dr. John Loannidis of Stanford Medical School.

The good doctor has succinctly captured the tragedy by describing the COVID panic porn as a "once-in-a-century evidence fiasco."

He has also said, "Unfortunately, we do not know if these measures work.... [w]e don't know how long social distancing measures and lockdowns can be maintained without major consequences to the economy, society, and mental health."

Another guy who has been both hero and goat on this issue is Minnesota's own Dr. Michael Osterholm, who has been on both sides of the COVID debate.

Here, we'll choose to follow the "good" Osterholm, who said back in March 2020: "Covid-19 will go away eventually in one of two ways. Either we will develop a vaccine to prevent it, or the virus will burn itself out as the spread of infection comes to confer a form of herd immunity on the population."

He also said: "Consider the effect of shutting down offices, schools, transportation systems, restaurants, hotels, stores, theaters, concert halls, sporting events and other venues indefinitely and leaving all of their workers unemployed and on the public dole. The likely result would be not just a depression but a complete economic breakdown, with countless permanently lost jobs, long before a vaccine is ready or natural immunity takes hold. We can't have everyone stay home and still produce and distribute the basics needed to sustain life and fight the disease."

And, finally, there is Dr. Knut Wittkowski. In a quote that should be engraved on the walls of the Capitol in Saint Paul, said of the lockdowns, "I think people in the United States ... are more docile than they should be."

Indeed, doctor. Indeed

March 19th, 2021

Quote of the Week: "Let me be clear: There is no room in our classrooms for things like critical race theory. Teaching kids to hate their country and to hate each other is not worth one red cent of taxpayer money."

- FL Governor Ron DeSantis

Quote of the Week: "If you're waiting for permission from the chief executive to celebrate Independence Day with your family, you clearly don't grasp the concept of Independence."

- Rep. Thomas Massie (KY-4)

Factoid of the Week: No woman has run faster than Flo-Jo, who set records still unbroken 33 years later. You know who has run faster? 76 high-school boys in the US in 2019.

- Sen. Tom Cotton (R – AR)

In This Issue:

1. Executive Privilege;
2. Stick it in Your Earmark;

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

So, Governor Tim Walz again finds himself in quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure.

This development has sparked a debate over whether or not he should have been vaccinated.

The Watchdog isn't so partisan that we would attack Walz over this situation.

While he may have wanted to avoid the optics of "jumping the line", there is enough vaccine in stock to get the chief executive inoculated.

Go get it done, Tim.

This is especially true since the governor is over age 50 and is clearly overweight.

No reasonable person can attack the governor in this regard, just as the crazy Left shouldn't have attacked Sen. Gazelka for suggesting the same for legislators.

The Capitol is under lockdown right now, closed to the public. How ironic that the People's House is closed to The People.

Walz should lead the parade and let the state know it's okay to get in line, just as it's okay to stay out of line, if that's what one's conscience dictates.

STICK IT IN YOUR EARMARK

Donald Trump did his best to drain the Swamp.

The fact that he was persecuted for four years by the Establishment proves it.

And now we see why.

Just weeks into the Biden administration, the old way of doing business returns to Washington.

The latest manifestation of Swamp Fever is a return of "earmarks", a process whereby members of Congress to allocate money for a specific project, like a bridge.

Ten years ago, Republicans banned the practice after notoriously wasteful projects were highlighted, such as the infamous "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska.

Sources say the House GOP voted 102-84 in favor of resuming earmarks.

The justification for returning to this swampy practice is that the Democrats are doing it, so a failure to participate in the scam would be a "disadvantage" somehow.

The other alibi is that if Congress doesn't earmark, project selection would fall to the agencies, such as the federal Department of Transportation, which is under the leadership, ultimately, of President Biden.

What a crock.

Earmarking is a scummy practice that allows members of Congress to steer projects to their district, regardless of need or merit.

Refusing to participate in this scam is both good politics and good public policy.

Agencies have an objective "scoring" process to select projects, which is preferable

to earmarks, which are governed by nothing more than political considerations and raw political power.

Calling BS on the return of earmarks would provide the House GOP with a high-profile point of contrast with House Democrats going into the pivotal 2022 elections, a cycle where Republicans rightly feel good about retaking the majority.

This publication fails to see how climbing in the gutter with Democrats enhances election prospects.

It seems that every day, Republicans sully their brand with political moves that dull the lines of difference with Democrats.

For example, Republicans long ago lost credibility on the issue of the national debt and deficit spending, in the process vaporizing their reputation for fiscal responsibility and accountability.

So long as the House GOP acts like this, voters will ask why they should vote GOP.

After all, why vote for fake Democrats when you can vote for the real thing.

Republicans are attempting to paper over the controversy by pointing to some “reforms” in the process that allegedly make the process “transparent” and therefore acceptable.

Nope. You can put lipstick on a pig but a pig is still a pig.

Rep. Chip Roy of Texas has it right, saying, “We’ve got \$30 trillion in debt, and people are tired of the swamp. And the GOP should be ashamed of itself if it jumps headfirst right back into the swamp.”

April 2nd, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Look at how he steps and look at how I step. Watch how I run up ramps and he stumbles down ramps. OK? Come on.”

- Joe Biden, referring to President Trump, said in September of 2020

Quote of the Week: “So the best way to get something done, if you – if you hold near and dear to you, that you, uh-um, like to be able...anyway.”

- President Joe Biden

In This Issue:

1. Bill of the Year;
2. The Leviathan – Part XXVII.

BILL OF THE YEAR

The calendar may have just turned to April, but the Watchdog is already making the call for our “Bill of the Year.”

That bill is HF1993 and its Senate companion SF2244. Both bills finally put a wooden stake through the heart of the tax-dollar-sucking vampire called Northstar Rail.

Authored by Rep. Cal Bahr (R – East Bethel) and Sen. Michelle Benson (R – Ham Lake), the bill is a one-page declaration of taxpayer freedom wrapped in eloquent prose such as “The council shall immediately terminate all services related to Northstar, including stopping all passenger service, closing all stations, and ending law enforcement services provided by the Metropolitan Transit Police along the route.”

Beautiful.

The beleaguered white elephant has once again caught the attention of lawmakers as the line has experienced a staggering 96% drop in ridership since the pandemic struck, begging the question as to whether it isn't time to cut losses and finally mothball this loser.

Although this publication has said it before, it's important to say it again, as the

Northstar apologists continue to lie about the line's past, present, and future.

First, Northstar rail has NEVER met ridership projections. Of course, the goalposts have been moved over the years to show the line as less of a loser than it really is. The original slogan that the line would equal "one and a half lanes on Highway 10" never came close.

Second, the lie will be told that Northstar ridership will rebound once the pandemic passes.

Rebound to what, is the question. The answer likely is a rebound to the previous abysmal numbers.

Again, ridership projections have never been met, and the pandemic is only one small part of the story.

Then, of course, is the grand old chestnut that Northstar would be a raging success if only those intransigent Republicans hadn't stopped the line from going to Saint Cloud.

Again, the line didn't go to Saint Cloud (actually Rice, MN) because the line under that scenario failed to meet FTA metrics for viability – period. It wasn't because of Republicans, even though so many of them foolishly supported the line.

This "line to Saint Cloud" narrative is a bunch of bunk and shouldn't be given any credence.

Saint Cloud, Minnesota is a small city. In fact, it isn't even in the top ten for state population.

Yeah, extending the train to the 542nd largest city in America will fix things – NOT.

Northstar commuter rail is a loser and it always was.

The line was nothing more than a vanity project for Dan Erhart and the other Anoka County commissioners to satisfy their political "short man's syndrome" to put Anoka County "on the map."

Whether it was the stupid idea that the county tax base could support a pro football venue or this train, Erhart and company never ceased to embarrass themselves with their "Waiting for Guffman" behavior.

The train imploding is a fitting epilogue to an era of county government that is finally washing out of the body politic in Anoka County.

THE LEVIATHAN – PART XXVII

Tell us if you've heard this one before: state agency is found to have wasted money, not followed the law, failed to follow internal rules, and is filled with staff who are lacking the skills, experience, training, and competence to do the job.

Tell us if you recall the Minnesota Department of Human Services being described in such a way as recently as 2019.

Well, here they go again.

Because regulators smelled so much smoke with 2019 audit that uncovered waste, fraud, and abuse, they decided to see if there was some fire, so to speak, with a follow up audit.

And to no one's surprise, it was fire they found.

Specifically, the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) conducted a deeper dive in the Human Services Behavioral Health Division (BHD) grant awarding process.

What the OLA found wasn't pretty.

Here are some of the conclusions:

- *Throughout this report, we cite the grant administration controls DHS should have had in place and how, lacking those controls, it failed to comply with a significant number of important policy and legal requirements.*
- *OLA found that internal controls over the areas in our audit scope were not adequate to ensure that DHS, through its Behavioral Health Division, safeguarded assets and ensured compliance with legal requirements and state policies related to grant oversight.*

OLA also found that the Department of Human Services, through its Behavioral Health Division, did not comply with legal requirements and state policies related to grant oversight.

The OLA found some 14 major deficiencies during their audit, including phrases like:

- *Administrators did not ensure that employees had the appropriate skills, knowledge, and job descriptions...*
- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not comply with state requirements...*
- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not ensure that appropriate staff approved advance payments...*

- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not ensure grantees submitted required progress reports...*
- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not conduct and document required monitoring...*
- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not conduct and document required financial reconciliations...*
- *The DHS Behavioral Health Division did not complete required closeout evaluations...*

The rest of this all-too-familiar passion play will come to pass, with the agency leadership acting contrite and pledging to do better next time.

Then the next time will come and then the next and then the next.

These examples of egregious government waste, fraud and abuse are all too frequent here in Minnesota, happening across numerous agencies (MNLARS, anyone?).

Perhaps it's time to admit that there is a limit to size and scope of government and that once that limit is surpassed, government borders on the ungovernable.

Government at some point simply becomes too unwieldy to fulfill its assigned mission, help the people its supposed to help, and honor the taxpayers by properly and efficiently deployed allocated resources.

After all, who's being well served by the current system? It appears that the bureaucrats are only ones getting better from this state of affairs.

Perhaps the best way to serve the least among us is to limit the help government can offer but ensure that the help that is given is efficient, competent, meaningful, and worthy of taxpayer support.

What is the limit of effective and efficient government?

This is the question that should be asked and debated.

We're at that point.

April 9th, 2021

Quote of the Week: "There is nobody around who can say Northstar rail hasn't been given a fair shot. Even on its best days, the numbers were horrible. Ridership is way down and the subsidy is far too high. So, I hope we can realize we gave it our best shot and it didn't work and put those transit dollars to better use."

- Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte

Quote of the Week: "Man, I think most white people and Black people are great people, I really believe that in my heart, but I think our system is set up where our politicians, whether they're Republicans or Democrats, are designed to make us not like each other so they can keep their grasp of money and power. They divide and conquer."

- NBA great Charles Barkley

Quote of the Week: "Senate Republicans are committed to no new taxes. Unfortunately, House Democrats are not. As Democrats look to increase taxes on your salary, your, gas, and a plethora of other things Senate Republicans will continue to fight to keep Minnesota affordable for you."

- Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka

In This Issue:

1. Taxes, Taxes, Taxes.

TAXES, TAXES, TAXES

There may have never been a worse time in modern Minnesota history to raise taxes, yet here they go again.

The DFL has not only proposed tax increases, they have gone completely bananas and proposed taxes that would be the highest in state history.

Tim Walz and company are making a game effort to compete with New York and California to be the highest taxed state in America.

The fact that Minnesota is lacking Wall Street, Broadway, Hollywood, Silicon Valley, and an ocean has not dissuaded this merry band of liberal wack jobs from seeking out job-killing, punitive, confiscatory tax increases.

This is the response to businesses in the state getting hammered by the DFL COVID shutdowns that “the science” has proven were not needed.

Given the state’s budget surplus and billions in funny money flowing from the printing presses in DC, there is no legitimate public policy purpose for tax increases.

Instead, the justification is merely political, to punish the successful and play to their rabid base. This is a political base that despises achievement, denigrates free enterprise, and has a childish faith in the ability of government to solve problems.

Think about the fiscal situation.

The state is projected to have a \$1.6 billion budget surplus, one of the largest in modern times.

Moreover, billions in aid is flowing into the state from the profligacy of Sleepy Joe Biden, who may or not be aware of all of this.

In short, the state is drowning in revenue.

Despite the windfall, the DFL tax orgy includes:

- \$350 million increase in the gas tax
- \$1 billion Metro sales tax increase for light rail and transit
- \$160 million in vehicle tab fee increases
- \$563 million for “fifth tier” income tax bracket at 11.5%

Thankfully, these tax increases are dead on arrival with the Senate GOP, which is, thankfully, the back stop against the DFL House majority and a DFL governor who is clearly in over his head.

The next week will see the legislature pass their “omnibus” budget bills through each house.

The week after will see conference committees begin to meet in an effort to hammer out differences.

The legislature, by the constitution, must adjourn no later than May 17th.

If any budget items remain unresolved, a special session would be needed to get things done.

The state’s fiscal year ends June 30th, meaning that any unresolved budget issues would mean a partial government shut down as there would be no funding.

You can bank on the Senate GOP refusing tax increases.

If Walz needs to be taken to a shut down to prove it, so be it.

April 16th, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Let’s be clear: The brave men and women of the Minnesota National Guard are our neighbors. They’re teachers, health care workers, and business owners who live in communities across our state. This is unacceptable. They can’t ‘go home’ — this is their home.”

- Governor Tim Walz

Quote of the Week: “Policing in our country is inherently & intentionally racist. Daunte Wright was met with aggression & violence. I am done with those who condone government funded murder. No more policing, incarceration, and militarization. It can’t be reformed.”

- Rep. Rashida Tlaib (MI-13)

In This Issue:

1. Appalling;
2. The Spin Machine Fires Up.

APPALLING

The “woke” crowd knows no boundaries when it comes to their behavior. From acts of extreme violence to those boorish and embarrassing, these people beclown themselves at every turn.

The latest episode concerns woke members of certain labor unions.

This week, the Saint Paul Labor Center, a building that houses numerous labor union offices, was opened to members of the Minnesota National Guard who have been deployed in response to the riots in Brooklyn Center.

The building was opened at the invitation of one of the tenants, the Minnesota Pipe Trades.

Leaders of different unions got wind of the hosting and decided to march on their own building to demand the eviction of the Guard members.

A leader of the Minnesota Nurses Association was quoted in the media as follows, “Our position, especially as members of organized labor, is it’s critical that we side

with the people on this issue — not the politicians, not the bank owners and not the armed forces that are defending both. Our position has always been, in especially in light of another killing of an unarmed Black man, that we are unequivocal in our support of that community’s right to protest. The infrastructure of labor is not for rent to the people who are suppressing that protest.”

Peak wokeness.

Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin would be proud.

Thankfully, there has been forceful pushback from other labor unions, condemning in no uncertain terms this shameful behavior.

There is clearly a schism happening within organized labor in America.

On one side, you have the “adult” unions that are focused on jobs for members, political pragmatism, and public policy solutions to complex problems.

On the other side are the “juvenile” unions, focused on social justice pap, virtue signaling, political radicalism, and the expenditure of union resources and goodwill on issues that have absolutely nothing to do with improving the terms and conditions of employment for their dues-paying members.

May elected officials on both sides of the aisle take the time to discern the difference.

Treating “labor” as a monolithic entity is unproductive and simply wrong.

Put another way, not all unions are created equal.

THE SPIN MACHINE FIRES UP

The headline this read as thus: Dem Pollsters Acknowledge “Major Errors” in 2020 Polling.

Five of the largest DFL polling firms released a statement this week acknowledging the obvious – that they totally screwed up 2020 election polling, a mea culpa of sorts.

The statement then goes on to list a bunch of excuses as to why things went wrong.

Don’t be fooled. This statement is no mea culpa and it certainly isn’t sincere.

First, it isn’t like 2020 was some aberration. Democrat polls have been wrong for many years and in many federal and state elections.

Hello? Trump 2016 anyone? Remember when Hillary Clinton was predicted a

shoo-in for the White House?

Second, and related, these polling firms didn't "get it wrong."

In fact, they got it right. You just have to understand the question.

You see, it isn't about accurate polling that provides a service to both candidates and the public at large.

Instead, it is part and parcel of a massive voter disinformation campaign designed to suppress Republican votes by demoralizing their voters, making it seem like certain races are a forgone conclusion in favor of the Democrat.

This propaganda is then propagated by the legacy media, also an integral part of the Democrat machine.

The pollsters are proven wrong every November, they feign disappointment, profess remorse and the desire to do better, then go right back to the plan.

Wash, rinse, repeat.

The good news is that no thinking citizen swallows this tripe anymore.

The pollsters, like the media, long ago lost all credibility with many Americans.

And with good reason.

Watch. 2022 will be filled with the usual claims that Democrats are going to do great in congressional and legislative elections.

Republicans will do far better than expected, and the pollsters will all profess shock and surprise.

And, as usual, it will all be a bunch of BS.

Don't believe the polls; don't believe the media.

April 23, 2021

Quote of the Week: “I grew up in the era of actual, legalized institutional racism. I grew up in the Deep South in Tallahassee, Florida in the 1960s during the days of the KKK, Jim Crow, and segregation. I sit today before you as someone who has lived the American Dream, as have millions of other Americans of all races from every background. This is due to our country’s mission statement that all men and women are created equal.”

- Rep. Burgess Owens (R – UT 4) and former NFL Star

Quote of the Week: “What I find extremely offensive is the narrative from the Left that black people are not smart enough, not educated enough, not desirous enough of education to do what every other culture and race does in this country, get an ID. True racism is this: It’s a projection of the Democratic Party on my proud race. It’s called the soft bigotry of low expectations.”

- Rep. Burgess Owens (R – UT 4) and former NFL Star

In This Issue:

1. Vaccination Hesitancy
2. A Nation of Laws

VACCINATION HESITANCY

Minnesota, and the nation, is quickly reaching a pivot point regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

Soon, vaccine stocks will start to out-number those who want the vaccine.

Put another way, simply, supply will start to overtake demand.

This has implications for the fight against the China virus (or can we only cite geography when referring to the “U.K. variant” or the “Brazil variant”?), as herd immunity may not be reached.

Now, the Watchdog has no opinion regarding vaccination. That’s a personal choice.

But we have seen, and will see, is a nasty attack on those who are skeptical of the efficacy of the vaccine, regardless of manufacturer.

Of course, those who are skeptics have been derided as ignorant, uncouth “Trumpers” who lack the understanding and intelligence to comprehend basic science.

Huh.

What could make so many Minnesotans and Americans suspicious of the vaccine and those touting it?

Consider the following.

How it started: The virus will kill 22,000 Minnesotans by July 2020

How it's going: 7,000 have died thus far, with a dispute ongoing as to how many of those 7,000 died “because” of COVID or died “with” COVID.

How it started: We need restrictions for two weeks to flatten the curve.

How it's going: Governor Walz has exercised unilateral, plenary powers for over 400 days.

How it started: We need kids at home “learning” online because of the virus.

How it's going: Lockdowns were unnecessary. Distance learning has harmed our kids in ways we are just beginning to understand.

How it started: We need to shut down businesses and kill jobs to halt the virus.

How it's going: Lockdowns were unnecessary.

How it started: The virus remains active on surfaces for hours and is a threat.

How it's going: The virus dies quickly on surfaces.

How it started: Our lockdown is based on a sophisticated model.

How it's going: Two grad students at the U concocted the model over a weekend.

How it started: The state needs to spend \$7 million on a morgue to house the bodies.

How it's going: Just kidding. But now taxpayers own a crappy building with a leaky roof.

How it started: The vaccines are completely safe.

How it's going: J&J and Astra Zeneca are two vaccines under scrutiny.

How it started: Trump is delusional. A vaccine will never be delivered that quickly.

How it's going: Man, Joe Biden did a great job getting the vaccine to market.

And we wonder why people are expressing hesitation to get vaccinated.

It's not ignorance. It's not superstition.

If the government wants more people to get vaccinated, answering rational, reasonable questions is the way to do it.

Ridicule and condescension won't cut it.

A NATION OF LAWS

The trial of officer Derek Chauvin resulted in a verdict of "guilty" on all three counts.

To many legal experts, the verdicts weren't surprising.

The real question is what happens on appeal, which most assuredly will happen.

This was, of course, a very high-profile trial that took place in the era of high tech, where news and information is spread instantaneously around the world.

Throughout the trial, the jury wasn't sequestered, making it almost impossible for the jury to follow instructions not to consume news related to the trial.

There are a number of issues that could be raised on appeal.

The jury could have been unduly influenced by a number of developments, starting with the City of Minneapolis granting a \$27 million civil law settlement to the estate of George Floyd.

Or it could have been the killing of Daunte Wright just 10 miles away in Brooklyn Park.

Or the comments of Rep. Maxine Waters, who urged rioters to become "more confrontational."

Or the president of the United States, who publicly prayed for the "right" verdict.

This exposure also raises the appeal of issue of not only sequestration but also venue.

It's a bit surprising that for this type of case, the trial wasn't moved out of Minneapolis with a sequestered jury.

Moreover, there could be grounds for appeal based on the prosecution's closing arguments, which violated rules of the court by offering belittling and negative descriptions of the defense's closing.

Finally, there could be grounds for appeal on the third-degree murder charge. There is an ambiguity in the law that can be read to apply the charge only

when multiple people are at risk, not just one.

It will be interesting to see how it plays out, but there can be no doubt that many elected officials sullied and disrespected the sacred process of a criminal trial by jury with their pronouncements of “murder” and “guilt” before Chauvin was even charged.

It was a mob mentality, stoked by Biden, Walz, Waters, and a host of DFL legislators.

The rule of law has an important place in our society.

They trashed it with their irresponsible rhetoric and possibly have jeopardized the verdict rendered this week.

There was a time when we expected more from our elected leaders.

Not anymore.

May 7, 2021

Quote of the Week: “I think she’s got real problems,... I’ve had it with ... I’ve had it with her. You know, I’ve lost confidence.”

- House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Liz Cheney

Quote of the Week: “The cost of virtue signaling over the past five years has grown exponentially, from the painless task of planting anti-Trump signs in your yard all the way to turning your family members over to authorities, masking little kids playing outdoors, subjecting the young to racist re-education, and even injecting teenagers with a novel vaccine of which the long-term effects are completely unknown.”

- Christopher Bedford

In This Issue:

1. The Totalitarian Next Door;
2. School News.

THE TOTALITARIAN NEXT DOOR

There’s nothing like a crisis to expose a person’s true colors. The military veterans who read this publication know what that means. Military training is designed to breakdown the façade we all wear, expose the true person, and build them back up to withstand the rigors of combat.

At least that was true until the Biden administration re-oriented our military away from confronting enemies like China and Russia and focused our generals on confronting “extremism” in the ranks, which is code for any soldier who doesn’t embrace the Woke agenda.

Anyway, there’s nothing like a global crisis to expose those true colors.

During the initial phase of the pandemic, most Americans were exposed as sheep, meekly complying with government diktats and refusing to ask critical questions regarding the “science” that underpinned assaults on sacred freedoms and engage in the critical thinking required to evaluate the perennial trade offs between individual liberty and public safety.

Self-governance requires a lot of work. For many, it was easier to simply hide in the

basement, take the stimulus check, and watch Tim Walz shred the constitution.

Now we see the true colors of another type of nasty neighbor: the totalitarian next door.

This contemptible human being cheers oppressive government and believes that force is required to “help” the great unwashed masses to live their best life.

These people enthusiastically support rule by executive fiat because it frees our betters from the shackles of checks and balances that prevent them from implementing the social engineering programs that will makes us better, even if we’re too stupid to realize it.

In short, the Walz pandemic power parade is right up their alley.

This ideology is personified by one Jill Burcum, whose public biography is stereotypical to the point of comedy.

She’s an editorial writer and opinion columnist for the Star Tribune. We’re told she’s a not one but TWO-time Pulitzer Prize finalist. Only a liberal weenie would brag about being a bridesmaid. Does the Pulitzer organization issue participation trophies?

Next, we read that she’s not only a college graduate, but a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Washington. It’s a land grant institution, but you get the picture. Nothing like bragging about your honors from 30 years prior to establish one’s elitism and self-importance.

Most importantly, Ms. Burcum owns a coveted “blue check” from the Twitter overlords, the currency of the Digital realm and the new “papers” that are required these days to prove one’s loyalty to the new orthodoxy.

But give her credit. In one tweet, she managed to encapsulate the world view and the agenda of the Totalitarian Class and how they view the opportunity inherent in a pandemic.

Said Burcum, *“I’m hoping that the Gov. Walz ‘wind down’ plan announced tomorrow looks like Michigan’s ‘Vacc to Normal’ plan. Whitmer tied restriction easing to vaccination rates. It’s a nice, tasty carrot of an incentive to boost shots as doses into arms slow.”*

Read that one more time.

She believes that our liberties, based on our God-given natural rights, are nothing more than a “tasty carrot” to force people to submit to a vaccine that is unproven and may conflict with a person’s principles and values.

Our freedoms are not the government's to dangle before us, as a parent would dangle a cookie before a toddler to encourage potty training or the way a trainer dangles a fish before a seal to encourage barking.

Our freedoms belong to each of us as human beings, conferred directly by our Creator, without government acting as the middleman or the gate keeper.

Some may see the reaction to Burcum's observation as an overreaction or a bit too much.

Hardly.

Her viewpoint falls squarely within a totalitarian world view that fundamentally discounts individual rights and elevates collective rights above them, as enforced by the state.

Innocuous words and phrases like "mandates" and "requirements" hide a very ugly truth. Every government program and initiative, at some level, is guaranteed by coercion and the threat of negative sanction.

Don't pay your taxes and see what happens. Men, don't register for Selective Service and see what happens. Try to board an airplane without photo ID and see what happens.

In the same way that the pandemic has shown us that many people are sheep, people like Jill Burcum have reminded us that oppressive government is the rule, not exception, throughout human history.

People had better wake up. Across a broad spectrum of American life, our individual rights are in imminent danger. Whether the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, or any other right, it's under assault in a big way.

It's high time for Americans to "wake" in response to "woke."

SCHOOL NEWS

Speaking of folks who know how to maximize a crisis, none are better than the Education Industrial Complex.

It's same old tried and true template, but souped up to meet the heightened anxieties of a pandemic that features a 99.9% survival rate for children.

As we now know, thanks to released communications, education union leaders conspired with political leaders to keep school shuttered to leverage more goodies from the public fisc.

This situation now sets the stage for the annual, inevitable plea to fully and adequately fund our schools.

A shopworn part of that narrative, faithfully executed by the media, is the sob story that districts are now in the process of reducing staff and “cutting to the bone” those already thin education budgets.

The goal, of course, is to get a healthy taste of both federal funny money as well as some booty out of the state’s projected budget surplus.

Don’t buy it.

First, our poor, pitiful government schools have already received over \$1 billion in federal COVID funny money, just for Minnesota.

Second, as pointed out by state Senator Carla Nelson (R – Rochester), our public schools have been well funded over the past number of years, even when inflation is factored in.

Even counting for inflation, state aid per pupil has averaged a 7% increase each year in recent years. That’s accounting for inflation.

One of the big problems for school districts right now is that enrollment is down.

Because money follows students, fewer students equal fewer dollars.

Of course, many parents have voted with their feet and left government schools in order to enroll their children in private or charter schools that offered the in-person learning opportunities they want.

Whether these students return is an open question, but the reality is that these school districts that shut down in part to appease the teachers’ union need to live with their decision.

You shut it down, you live with the consequences.

What is needed is more choice in education, not less.

May 14, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Our nation is in deep peril. We are in a fight for our survival as a Constitutional Republic like no other time since our founding in 1776. The conflict is between supporters of socialism and Marxism vs. supporters of Constitutional freedom and liberty.”

- Flag Officers 4 America, a coalition of retired senior military officers

Quote of the Week: “If you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, incl. local business and workplace guidance.”

- Centers for Disease Control

Quote of the Week: “The 2020 polls overstated Democratic support in every type of contest we looked at: the national popular vote, the state-level presidential vote as well as senatorial and gubernatorial elections.”

- Josh Clinton, Vanderbilt University

Factoid of the Week: The 2022 legislature will convene on January 31st.

In This Issue:

1. The End;
2. The End – of the Line;
3. Biggest Miss in 40 Years.

THE END

Not really. The state constitution mandates that the 2021 regular session of the legislature adjourn by midnight Monday.

That will happen, but it won't be the end of the story.

It is highly likely that the legislature won't finish a budget by then, making necessary one or more special sessions to conclude a budget by June 30th.

A delay beyond June 30th means that any budgetary programs not funded by then will result in a government shutdown, as the new fiscal year commences on July 1st.

Thus, June 30th is the real budget deadline.

Moreover, if the governor doesn't give up his emergency pandemic powers, there will be a special session on June 14th to consider an extension of those powers for another 30 days.

Any angst over not finishing on time is misplaced.

The reality is that special sessions aren't so special. Anyone paying attention knows that there have been many special sessions over the last 20 years.

Moreover, it's a reality that federal guidance and regulations regarding the use of federal funds isn't available right now.

The big idea here is to ensure that the legislature is involved in the expenditure of these funds and it isn't left to the sole discretion of the governor.

If it takes longer to get the right end product, including no tax increases, then so be it.

THE END – OF THE LINE

As long-time readers know, the failed Northstar commuter rail line is the very reason why the Watchdog was founded.

While not gratifying, it has been nonetheless very welcome to see elected officials call for abandoning this white elephant and cut losses instead of throwing good money after bad.

Anoka County Commissioner Scott Schulte has been at the forefront of this important effort.

Anoka County readers will find this as no surprise. As a business owner, Schulte knows the value of taxpayer money and has been a voice of fiscal restraint during his time in public service, including the county board, where he first did taxpayers the ultimate favor by booting Dan Erhart out of office.

Schulte recently penned an opinion piece detailing Northstar's abysmal numbers and laying out the logical case for mothballing the line.

Back in the "good old days" prior to the China Virus, Northstar required a subsidy of nearly \$40 per day per rider for a round trip.

Today, the subsidy stands at a whopping \$47,520 per year per rider.

That number is obscene and totally indefensible to any reasonable person.

Given that work patterns, and therefore commuter patterns, have changed in ways that will be permanent, it's highly unlikely that ridership numbers will greatly improve.

What a surprise. For years, the Watchdog and others have pointed out the folly of major investments in fixed guideway transportation.

That chicken will now come home to roost as employers large and small are abandoning downtown office space, ditching the cost, inconvenience, and crime inherent in densely populated urban cores.

And to think that a popular bus line with 85% farebox recovery was jettisoned in favor of a vanity project for a small group of elected officials whose arrogance and entitlement didn't allow them to see the error of their ways.

At least they didn't get their way on the equally ridiculous idea of taxing Anoka County residents to pay for a football stadium.

In that case, they only got played as stalking horses to allow the Wilfs to drive a better bargain with Hennepin County and Minneapolis.

The payback to the federal government to retire Northstar would only be \$83 million.

The state should gladly pay it off and be free of this mess.

BIGGEST MISS IN 40 YEARS

The Wall Street Journal recently ran a piece examining the deliberations of a trade group for political pollsters that examined how they got the 2020 elections so wrong.

Simply put, the group is trying to figure why 2020 elections polls were grossly wrong. More to the point, the polls overstated support for Democrats in every single case.

Start with the presidential election.

The aggregate polling for that race was the most inaccurate in over 40 years, of course overstating support for Sleepy Joe and understating support for President Trump.

The evidence was damning and overwhelming.

Said Vanderbilt political science professor Joshua Clinton, “The 2020 polls overstated Democratic support in every type of contest we looked at: the national popular vote, the state-level presidential vote as well as senatorial and gubernatorial elections.”

While this all appears interesting, it is the opinion of this publication that panels like these are a whitewash.

The reason these polls are wrong is because they are designed to be wrong.

They are a voter suppression tool, designed to demoralize Republican voters and cause them to stay home, believing that their vote won't change the outcome.

It has become an impossible task for the media and pollsters to hide their bias.

It's open, pervasive, and even celebrated by clowns like Jim Acosta and his ilk over at CNN.

The gig is up.

Pollsters, like the legacy media, have lost their credibility and deservedly so.

Millions of Americans are all done giving any credence to polling data.

Things you trust more than political pollsters: gas station sushi.

May 21st, 2021

Quote of the Week: "I don't know if there's a lot of data or research that's been done on it but I think the folks in business and human psychology would tell you: if there's a chance to get something free, it might encourage you to do something."

- Governor Tim Walz, explaining the DFL governing philosophy.

In This Issue:

1. Congratulate Iowa!
2. Red State, Blue State.

CONGRATULATE IOWA!

In a first for the Watchdog, we congratulate the state of Iowa.

The occasion for this historic pat-on-the-back is Governor Kim Reynolds signing into law a "never again" bill that prohibits school districts from adopting mask mandates.

Moreover, the bill prohibits local units of government from adopting them as well.

Said Governor Reynolds, "The state of Iowa is putting parents back in control of their child's education and taking greater steps to protect the rights of all Iowans to make their own health care decisions. I am proud to be a governor of a state that values personal responsibility and individual liberties. I want to thank the Iowa Legislature for their quick work in bringing this bill to my desk so that it can be signed into law."

Arkansas is the only other state that has passed this kind of law, though other states like North Dakota have passed similar laws that still allow local units of government to promulgate mandates.

This type of law is sorely needed as the Mask Cult is alive and well.

Despite there being no scientific evidence that mask mandates work, and despite COVID cases falling precipitously, many levels of government have now decided to stop following the "science" and continue to mandate masks, especially in schools.

If tinfoil hat types want to walk around wearing masks after vaccination, go for it.

When government practices this tyranny on the unwilling, it's most decidedly uncool – and unconstitutional.

More importantly, the mask tyranny is now creeping into other areas of public health.

More than one bureaucrat has hinted at the “value” of mask mandates to combat the flu or even the common cold.

Tyrannical behavior is a disease that infects many. COVID is just the platform.

9-11 was another platform.

There is no shortage of people of who want to trammel your Natural Rights and control you.

Don't let them do it, especially in Minnesota.

Politicians in this state would absolutely love to codify mask mandates.

The most important thing Republican legislators can do right now is fight for a repeal of the law that empowered Walz to act like a dictator.

Never again is the motto, folks.

RED STATE, BLUE STATE

The choice regarding where to live has never been greater.

There was a time not that long ago when most American jurisdictions were essentially the same.

Most Americans shared the same principles and values.

Sure, there were outliers like Vermont, but they were the exception, not the rule.

Today, that situation has been turned on its head.

Nearly every issue is now a political issue and you are either with your tribe or trapped behind enemy lines, it seems.

COVID mitigation measures are the latest cleave, with blue states clinging jealously to mask mandates, school shutdowns, and vaccine passports.

Red states the opposite.

Blue states continue to grab federal dollars from unemployment insurance while red states are declining the extra money, believing it provides a disincentive to work, with moral and economic implications.

And while COVID grabs the headlines, the culture wars have rapidly accelerated the trend.

Blue states embrace abortion on demand; red states are starting to challenge abortion rights, hoping to overturn the illogical, nonsensical Roe v. Wade holding.

Red states are pushing back on the notion that there are countless genders and thus a menu from which people, including young children, are entitled to choose, buffet style.

Critical Race Theory is another fault line.

So is defunding the police.

Standing for the National Anthem.

Allowing natural gas hook ups in homes.

And don't forget economics, always a fault line.

Taxes have in the past been a consideration mostly for business interests and those wealthy enough to care.

Not anymore. Government's insatiable appetite for money, coupled with a lack of accountability, has made it a middle-class issue, especially since the federal government stopped subsidizing blue states with a federal tax deduction for state and local taxes paid.

So have government policies that make economic life miserable.

California land use laws have driven home prices through the roof by restricting supply.

Forest management laws have made many parts of the state tinder traps, driving home insurance premiums into the stratosphere or making policies unavailable.

Increasingly, "self-selection" has become important to many Americans, the process of choosing to live among neighbors who share their world view.

How deep the polarization runs remains to be seen.

Is 2021 more like 1968 or 1858?

May 28, 2021

Quote of the Week: “In America today the principle that drove the civil-rights movement – equality for all – is fast giving way to the view that race must be a dominant factor in every decision from college admission to eligibility for a federal farm program to the makeup of corporate boards to who gets priority for a COVID vaccine.”

- WSJ Editorial Board

Quote of the Week: “He rejects Church teachings on abortion, marriage, sex and gender and is hostile to religious liberty. He embraces the most pro-abortion, and anti-religious liberty public policy program in history. The case against honoring him is immeasurably stronger than it was against honoring President Obama.”

- Notre Dame Alumni petition against Joe Biden

Quote of the Week: “Why ain’t nobody mad about a 10-year-old, my grandson, fighting for his life? Because a cop didn’t shoot him, is that why?”

- Sherrie Jennings, grandmother of Ladavionne Garrett

In This Issue:

1. Opaque;
2. Vile Threats;
3. Taxasota.

OPAQUE

So, here we are again. The regular session of the Minnesota legislature has adjourned and we have no budget, even though that’s the reason the legislature convened back in January.

The governor and legislators have a little over a month until the new fiscal year starts July 1.

Any budget items left undone will result in a government shutdown in that budget area.

This isn't the first time taxpayers have been in this situation.

In fact, it's been the norm, not the exception.

And it isn't any person or political party.

It seems regardless of who's leading and who's in the majority, budgets don't make deadline, which creates two issues.

The first issue is that the work doesn't get done on time, which isn't a big deal.

This publication would rather see Republicans fight for their principles instead of capitulating simply to meet some artificial deadline.

Principles are worth fighting for.

If things need to be shut down to prevent onerous and outrageous tax increases, so be it.

Minnesota is at a tipping point, and smaller, less intrusive government is worth fighting for.

In fact, it's mandatory if we're to keep from becoming the next Illinois.

On the other hand, the lack of transparency is disturbing.

These negotiations should be held in public, where taxpayers can weigh in and see the process.

Crafting 99% of state spending behind closed doors, where only small handful of legislators (or just two) are participating is simply bad public policy.

Republicans have the right ideas and the right agenda.

They should welcome a public debate and negotiation.

They should be willing to put their ideas up against DFL ideas at any public place at any time.

Let the world compare their ideas to those of Tim Walz.

The citizens of this state deserve better than the process that is currently playing out.

VILE THREATS

There may be no bigger domestic threat to America than Senate Majority Chuck Schumer.

He personifies his party's increasing willingness to publicly threaten our venerated political institutions in the name of political power.

Think about what he and the Democrats in Washington have done and threatened to do since winning their narrow majorities in the last election.

Statehood for Washington, D.C. which would alter the balance of power in the Senate.

The constant threat to abrogate the filibuster, a key parliamentary device designed to forge consensus and compromise. (By the way, how did repealing the filibuster for judicial nominees work out, Chuck?)

The bill that recently passed the House that would federalize elections for the first time in American history, repealing the election laws of all 50 states, especially those in red states.

And now we read of the threat to "pack" the Supreme Court with new justices if the current court overturns the horrible Roe v. Wade decision.

Here we have the leader of the Senate threatening the Judicial Branch if that separate, co-equal branch refuses to rule a particular way on a case.

If a drug dealer or foreign power threatened the American court system this way, the perps would be arrested straight away and locked up for a long, long time.

Democrats deserve a thorough rebuke at the polls in 2022.

They fared rather poorly in 2020, barely retaining and eking out slim majorities that certainly didn't provide a mandate for radical government.

Vile threats, indeed.

TAXASOTA

An interesting study was published recently that calculated how much taxes a person can expect to pay over their lifetime in each state in the union.

The study created a methodology that studied the income and tax obligations of an "average" person as their income and spending is applied to both the federal tax code and the tax code of each state for income, property, and sales taxes.

Those tax payments over a lifetime were calculated as follows for select states:

New Jersey: \$931,698 (1)
Illinois: \$693,792 (10)
Minnesota: \$649,130 (14)
South Dakota: \$387,013 (35)
North Carolina: \$362,634 (40)
West Virginia: \$321,023 (50)

[Life of Tax: How Much Tax is Paid Over a Lifetime | Self.](#)

Thus, in order to happy to pay for a better Minnesota, one must be willing to pony up an extra \$262,117 over neighboring South Dakota.

To pick Minnesota over North Carolina, one would need to part with an extra \$286,496.

And Joe Biden and the DFL want to raise these taxes even higher – on everyone.

June 4th, 2021

Quote of the Week: “Ham Lake Mayor Mike Van Kirk announced on [#tcnt](#) this morning they will not be changing the name of the city despite PETA’s requests, but they WILL be hosting a Freedom Festival & Pig Roast on July 3rd.”

- Justice and Drew Radio Program

In This Issue:

1. Captain Van Kirk;
2. Government Arson;
3. Wuhan Wackiness;

CAPTAIN VAN KIRK

Let’s hear it for Ham Lake Mayor Mike Van Kirk, a true conservative and man of the people.

As you may have read, the extremist, tin foil hat animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has called for the fair burgh of Ham Lake to change its name to “Yam Lake” for reasons unknowable to any rationale, sane person.

If this was a publicity stunt for the group, it failed miserably and only reaffirmed the group’s reputation as a collection of nut balls in the eyes of the average citizen.

If they were serious (our guess), they are proof positive that a large segment of America has come completely unmoored from the principles that built this country and the ideas that have allowed mankind to evolve from cave-dwelling animals to civilized humans.

It’s indeed to time discuss a formal divorce among Americans.

Back to Ham Lake.

The mild, meek response would have been to simply oppose the suggested name change.

Here, Van Kirk shoved it right back in PETA’s face with a freedom festival and pig roast.

Simply awesome.

Moreover, many readers don't know that both Mayor Van Kirk and the city council are fighting everyday to keep Ham Lake a city for freedom loving, constitutional government loving people.

For example, last May, the city passed a resolution declaring the city to be a "Constitutional and Business Friendly" community.

Bravo!

For many years, Ham Lake has been a bastion of Watchdogs, going back to the days of opposing the failed Northstar commuter rail white elephant.

We should also give a shout out to the freedom loving city government in Oak Grove, near to Ham Lake.

But this week, the spotlight deserves to be on Mayor Van Kirk and the Ham Lake city council.

If you're looking for an island of sanity in Minnesota, check out Ham Lake.

GOVERNMENT ARSON

As this publication has stated many times, government acts as an arsonist.

Government sets fire to things, calls 911, and then rushes back to the scene, fire hose in hand to douse the flames and act the hero.

This is a regular occurrence, apparently.

The latest episode of firebug government centers on the lack of available labor in the marketplace as the country rapidly recovers from various lockdowns that crippled the economy.

To this day, government is paying people not to work by offering rich unemployment benefits and "stimulus" checks.

Now, government is acknowledging the crisis they created by considering more government spending to encourage people TO work.

Thus, at the very time government is paying people to stay home on the couch, they are considering tax breaks and other incentives to encourage people to leave home and get off the couch.

This according to the Wall Street Journal, which noted government's "growing concern" that the lack of available labor will stall the economic recovery.

It's also happening at the same time dotard president Joe Biden is denying that extended unemployment benefits are incentivizing indolence.

Government's left hand holds matches while the right holds a bucket of water.

You just can't make it up. You really can't.

WUHAN WACKINESS

Are you old enough to remember when Donald Trump was labeled as nuts, yet again, because he believed that there was evidence that COVID-19 escaped from a lab in China, and wasn't a natural virus, as the media and "experts" maintained?

Are you old enough to remember when the "experts" like Tony Fauci claimed there was no credible evidence of a laboratory leak and that such claims were foolish?

This publication recalls, especially now as it's now acceptable and fashionable to consider this very distinct possibility.

Moreover, it appears that some of these experts were neck-deep in dangerous "gain of function" tests that manipulated corona viruses to make them more contagious and more lethal.

In short, it appears that this vicious pandemic may have been unleashed on the world via human error and then covered up by the media and the very experts who were involved in the experiments.

If you still believe a damn thing the mainstream media tells you, you probably should join PETA or call OJ to help find the real killers.

June 18th, 2021

Quote of the Week: "All cops are Derek Chauvin!"

- Minneapolis Mob Chant

Quote of the Week: "We have seen unthinkable atrocities committed by the U.S., Hamas, Israel, Afghanistan, and the Taliban."

- Rep. Ilhan Omar

In This Issue:

1. Emergency?
2. Poll Power.

EMERGENCY?

There's a lot of really good news out there regarding the Chinese virus. Infection rates are falling, cases are falling, hospitalizations are falling, and deaths from COVID are falling.

Life is returning to normal. Mask mandates have been lifted, social distancing protocols have been shelved, venues are opening and most of all, there will be a normal State Fair this year.

Despite all this normalization, Governor Walz continues to govern by executive fiat, pursuant to a state law that allows him to govern in despotic fashion, simply by declaring every 30 days that there is an "emergency" that doesn't allow for normal law making.

Minnesota statutes 12.31, Subd. 2(a) simply and succinctly declares, in part, "The governor may declare a peacetime emergency."

So, are we in a peacetime emergency? Are we in a situation that calls for the governor to bypass the constitution and sideline the duly elected members of the legislature?

Of course not.

Any reasonable definition of "emergency" includes the need to act immediately, the

need to act with urgency to prevent or mitigate harm.

There is utterly nothing about the current situation that demands the immediacy or urgency of executive fiat.

Clearly, the legislature should resume its rightful, legitimate place in making the laws of Minnesota.

Excuses about welfare benefits or the administration of vaccines are nonsense and a flimsy excuse for the governor jealously clinging to kingly powers.

Shame on the governor.

Shame all the more on the DFL majority in the House, which has consistently enabled this power grab by refusing to declare an end to these powers, as the statute allows.

At least with Walz, one can understand that he's a weak man who is finding it difficult to wean himself off the euphoric drug of absolute power.

With the DFL legislators, it's stunning to contemplate their abdication of legislative authority. Their total abdication of all moral, ethical, legal, and constitutional duties.

The same holds true for the judicial branch, which has also refused to uphold their basic and fundamental obligation to interpret and apply the constitution.

This rule by fiat for some 450 plus calendar days has been a shameful chapter in the state's history.

Ending the peacetime powers is important.

What's more important is to ensure it never happens again by amending Chapter 12 of Minnesota statutes to reassert the role of the legislature in lawmaking.

This egregious violation of the Non-Delegation Doctrine is truly shameful.

POLL POWER

There were a handful of polls this week that provided some excellent insight into the state of the country that provide some insight into where the country is headed over the next few months and into the next election cycle.

The first poll was an annual Gallup poll regarding how Americans view the state of our collective morals.

Overall, 84% view the state of moral values as "fair" or "poor."

66% see the state of moral values as getting worse.

What's really interesting is to see how these numbers break down by partisan affiliation.

That breakdown provides a stark, breathtaking contrast in how Democrats and Republicans view the state of moral affairs in the country.

It's affirmation that "blue" and "red" America are increasingly alienated from one another and have less and less in common regarding core principles and values.

Consider GOP responses:

66% call the state of moral values "poor."

27% label the state of moral values "fair."

7% call them "good" or "excellent."

92% say things are getting worse.

On the Democrat side:

30% call the state of moral values "poor."

47% label the state of moral values "fair."

22% call them "good" or "excellent."

49% say things are getting worse.

We are living in two Americas.

Next, our friends over at the Center of the American Experiment just released another "Thinking Minnesota" poll that collects Minnesotans' opinion on current issues.

85% trust law enforcement to act in the best interests of the community.

69% trust the police to keep us safe, compared to 50% for Governor Walz.

55% disapprove of Walz's response to the riots and crime.

48% believe the state is on the wrong track, while 45% believe it is on the right track.

81% are concerned about crime.

58% are visiting Minneapolis less frequently.

Clearly, Minnesotans are concerned about crime and they are holding Tim Walz responsible.

While the 2022 election is a long ways away, this could become a "public safety" election, which favors Republicans.

Clearly, the public isn't supportive of DFL efforts to defund law enforcement.

Moreover, the public wants a "tough on crime" approach, meaning that Republicans should be enhancing criminal penalties, not reducing them.

The public is sick and tired of reading of career criminals walking the streets.

We read of too many violent criminals who shouldn't have been on the streets when they attacked and assaulted yet another innocent citizen.

Public safety is a core function of government and a universal desire of humans, regardless of race, gender, religion, nationality or location.

In short, Minneapolis or Mora, people want government to do its job to keep people safe.

And finally, there is a great Monmouth poll out there that shows the great Democrat crack up.

The poll compares Democrat feelings about the president and Congress compared to a similar poll in April.

Then: 83% said the country was moving in the right direction.

Now: 59% think the country is moving in the right direction.

Then: 12% said the country was on the wrong track.

Now: 32%.

Then: 63% approved of the job of the Democrat-led Congress.

Now: 32% approve.

For Democrats, the 2020 election was about nothing more than Trump Derangement Syndrome, fomented by liberal media agitprop, led by propaganda outlets like CNN.

Now that Orange Man Bad glue has been removed, the Star Wars cantina of characters that make up today's Democrat party is at war with one another, brawling over the core question of whether they should act really nuts or really, really nuts.

The GOP is headed for a big win in 2022.

Count on it.

July 5th, 2021

FAREWELL

Dear Loyal Readers,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this communication.

After 16 years of journalistic excellence, I have decided to discontinue the Watchdog.

After 91 birthdays, I simply don't have the energy and enthusiasm I once did and it's time for me to step back and finally enjoy retirement.

To be honest, my health has also been failing me a bit of late.

I started the Anoka County Watchdog back in 2005 because I saw a county board out of step with the taxpayers.

Nowhere was this disconnect more evident than with the Northstar commuter rail project, a failed boondoggle and white elephant that has proven us right regarding our opposition.

I would like to think the Watchdog played a role in turning around the composition of the Board and helping fellow Watchdogs keep their local units of government accountable.

The Minnesota Watchdog played a similar role at the state level.

I have enjoyed every minute of fighting the liberals and standing up for core American values like individual liberty and free enterprise.

The fight is ongoing, but more important than ever.

The principles and values that built this country are under assault and the threat is real.

As Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction."

How true.

Now it is time for others to take up the torch of liberty and carry it forward.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your friendship, loyal readership, and your commitment to fight the good fight.

God Bless you, your family, and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Harold E. Hamilton