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President CJ's Letter:

Dear Colleagues,

As we transitioned into the month of July, we welcomed our nation's birthday on July 4th – the 246th birthday to be exact. In the last few days, I've been reflecting on the true meaning of Independence Day and thinking about how our country has endured and evolved. My letter today is simply "food for thought." I came across a quote from Joseph Sobran (former columnist for the National Review) that caught my attention:

"By today's standards, King George III was a very mild tyrant indeed. He taxed his American colonists at a rate of only pennies per annum. His actual impact on their personal lives was trivial. He had arbitrary power over them in law and in principle but in fact it was seldom exercised. If you compare his rule with that of today's U.S. Government, you have to wonder why we celebrate our independence."

This really resonated with me because it rings so true. So much of what we wanted to escape has only crept back to shackle our citizens in much the same way, though we never equate the two as the same – because we've been in charge of ourselves. But we now have a central Government with unchecked power and a citizenry that, for the most part, has accepted the situation.

Independence Day signified much more than freedom from the tyranny of one country over another, however. It represented the beginning of a new form of government — free and accountable only to its own people. No more monarchies, dictators, tyrants, serfs. A government "of, by, and for the people." What happened in America was unique and inspirational to other people in other lands. As a famous poem put it, it was America's "embattled farmers," fighting

for their own freedom and independence, who "fired the shot heard round the world."

There was no question that the government of these new "united" states was "exceptional." Self-government on such a large scale was a unique experiment and the founders of the American republic were very much aware that it had its dangers. Thomas Jefferson warned that "eternal vigilance" was the price of liberty. And survival of such a nation would depend on "an educated citizenry." Abraham Lincoln expressed his fervent hope that "government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth." The survival of freedom was – and still is today – not something to be taken for granted. More recently, President Reagan reminded us that "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Yet, here we are.

Today we witness the consequences of the ever-expanding arbitrary powers of central government. Such that has been evolving for over 200 years, and rapidly in the last half century – escalating at warp speed ever since the presidency of Barack Obama. Such high-handed use of government power seems commonplace today. Our "ruling" elitist political demagogues have a blatant disregard for the freedom guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and protections afforded and defined explicitly in the U.S. Constitution.

What has happened to our country? Were we vigilant? Are we educated? Have we passed the founding principles to our children? Will our nation (as founded) perish from this earth? Are we one generation away from extinction?

Each year on July 4th, I look forward (in a cynical way) to the roving news reporters who visit the beaches, BBQs, and public gatherings – interviewing average Americans, asking these questions: "Why do we celebrate this day?" Or, "What nation did we revolt against to win our U.S.

Independence?" I am always amazed at the number of adults and college students/graduates who do not know the correct answers.

Now, more than ever, may God Bless America!

C. J. Hatcher, WAC President

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WAC Members and Guests Heard from Virginia's Chief Deputy Attorney General Chuck Slep at our May Luncheon

On May 26, 2022, WAC members were excited to hear Virginia's Chief Deputy Attorney General Chuck Slep speak about all the wonderful things Attorney General Jason Miyares and he are working on to accomplish for the citizens of Virginia, including urging the Biden Administration to stop their attack on the First Amendment, opposing proposed changes to federal funding of charter schools, fighting against discriminatory admission policies at Thomas Jefferson High School, and taking action to end the CDC's unlawful mask mandate, among many other things. We also enjoyed hearing from Steve Harvey who is running for the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in 2023, and Clara Belle Wheeler who is working to ensure the integrity of our Virginia elections.







A Decent Respect

By Christopher Flannery, *The American Mind*, condensed

The American Founding continues to take place in the minds, hearts, and lives of succeeding generations

The “real American Revolution,” as John Adams said, took place in the minds and hearts of the American people in the years leading up to 1776. This Revolution of thought gave birth to a Revolution of words and deeds; and Revolutionary thought, word, and deed together became the American Founding, a “human event” unsurpassed in the history of the world. With the aid of the Divine source of all blessings, this Founding remains eternally the earthly source of all America’s blessings of liberty. It is also America’s eternal earthly measure of itself.

There will be Americans in the world so long as the American Founding continues to take place in the minds, hearts, and lives of succeeding generations. The wisdom, justice, courage, and moderation of the Founders, and of the great tradition they drew upon, are always there for us to make our own and apply to our unprecedented circumstances. We have seen great examples of this in the historic decisions of the Supreme Court last week. Careful study of these decisions awakens important parts of the American Founding in the soul.

One small but essential ingredient of that Founding was the thought the Revolutionaries expressed in the Declaration of Independence: that “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that [Americans] should declare the causes which impel them to” their revolution. Declaring the causes of their actions – giving reasons for them – was an act of respect for the opinions of mankind because it treated mankind as if their opinions could respond to reasons. This was a hopeful view of the human condition. It did honor to human nature and imposed expectations on human capacities. It is a respect rising to very high levels in the best Supreme Court opinions.

The first “cause” of the Revolution, and the first one the Revolutionaries respectfully declared, was the self-evident truth that “all men are created equal,” that is, that all men everywhere and at all times possess by nature equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To understand the significance of the American Revolution and partake of that Revolution in our lives, it helps to remind ourselves that, when the

American Revolutionaries declared this self-evident truth, the idea seemed self-evidently *untrue* to the hereditary monarchs and hereditary aristocracies of Europe. To the rest of the world, it was simply unheard of.

So America showed its first respect for the opinions of mankind by disagreeing with practically all of them! This took not just wisdom but great courage, and philanthropy. In the same breath, the Revolutionaries told the peoples of the world how they might show greater respect for themselves, by recognizing and asserting the rights of their own humanity. Every self-respecting man or woman would want to govern himself rather than to be treated like a child needing someone else to govern him.

Americans were keenly aware how difficult it would be to live up to the principle they were proclaiming – how heroic and continuous an effort would be required of themselves or any people that aspired to rise to equality. This very difficulty is part of what makes it an act of self-respect and an act of respect to others to invite them to join us in what James Madison called the “honorable determination to rest all our political experiments on the capacity of mankind for self-government.”

Any people that wish to be free, including Americans, have to demonstrate this capacity for themselves, and continue to demonstrate it each generation. America will always be an experiment, an experiment than which nothing could be more beneficial to all concerned or more honorable to human nature, because self-government—the true and real “pursuit of happiness”—requires the active exercise of all the human virtues to the highest degree.

The American experiment claims to be a glorious experiment because it aims, for the first time in human history, to make actual this potential for self-government—this capacity to pursue true happiness for themselves—that we Americans insist human beings have by nature. This is what the Founders meant when they soberly—and by no means arrogantly—reflected on the fact that it seems to have been reserved to “the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice.”

The greatest respect Americans can show for the opinions of mankind—and the greatest benefit they can bestow upon themselves—is to continue to take responsibility for being the kind of self-governing people we invite all people to be.

Happy Independence Day, and may Americans always be free.



Living Dobbs

By Auguste Meyrat, *The American Mind*, condensed

The pro-life movement must become a pro-life culture.

As many writers and pundits have already noted, the ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is not the end of the abortion debate in America, but the beginning. Instead of the Supreme Court issuing laws on abortion based on arbitrary criteria like trimesters and viability, these laws will be made democratically by state legislatures. As one might expect, more conservative states like South Dakota and Texas have banned abortion completely, while more progressive states like New York or California will vote to keep it legal up until birth.

So how should the pro-life movement proceed at this point? Should it continue its campaign for life, doing annual marches, hosting pro-life events, and deploying pro-life apologists in the public square? Should it step this up and start making demands on conservative lawmakers who have a role now in deciding the fate of the unborn?

By all means, this campaign for life must continue, but it's also time to expand the message and consider the culture in addition to the law. In this regard, it might be helpful to compare the *Dobbs* decision to Emperor Constantine's decision to legalize Christianity in the Roman Empire. Despite being a major religion by that time, Christianity could only start transforming Roman culture after the Edict of Milan (hear me out), which mandated religious tolerance in the empire. Christians needed the protection of the law so they could come out of the catacombs and start participating in public life. This meant they could build churches, preach to different people, build schools, and, most importantly, make Christianity something normal rather than secret and transgressive.

Similarly, now that abortion is no longer granted blanket protection across America, the pro-life movement has the chance to change the culture. This means pro-lifers should see themselves less as protesting outsiders and more as participants in a culture of life. As such, they need to normalize the values and perspectives that promote childbirth and family.

Arguments are still going to be necessary, especially when laws are crafted or challenged, but in the cultural realm, narratives are key. Arguments engage the mind with claims and abstractions, but narratives make those claims and abstractions tangible and engage the emotions. Being against abortion is fine when uniting a broad coalition of individuals with different backgrounds, but it's somewhat limited as the basis for building community.

For this reason, pro-lifers need to tell stories about family, parenthood, and by extension marriage. They need to celebrate mothers who go through the trials of pregnancy, delivery, and childcare. They need to cheer on fathers who provide for their families and help with raising the kids. And, for the sake of the children, they need to promote strong marriages between parents and reject the harm brought on by promiscuity, divorce, and surrogacy.

This might be a bridge too far for some pro-lifers, but it's the next logical step. Popular media has normalized childlessness and abnormalized family to such an extent that many adults of childbearing age now think it's devastating to both oneself and the planet to have kids. This can be seen in the way abortion has evolved from being a necessary evil to an expression of freedom and empowerment. As the recent Washington Post story about 18-year-old Brooke Alexander suggests, why get married and have kids when you can possibly be a real estate agent and have casual couplings with a deadbeat at the skatepark?

Rather, it should be the reverse: childless adults should be getting weird looks (yes, that means you, Chris Evans!), and parents should be praised and supported at every turn. Adults who marry and have children are undertaking a selfless task that requires many lifelong sacrifices. By contrast, there's no way around the fact that adults who actively choose not to marry or have children are engaging in selfishness. It seems clear which one a prosperous society should normalize and encourage.

Also important is the way parents are praised and supported, so as to establish a set of values that underlies a particular culture. Parents should be praised as parents, not simply child bearers. Parenthood is a way of life that leads to more life. Moreover, that life is more than just physical, but also spiritual. Parents don't just produce anonymous offspring, they raise human beings and help them live out happy, fruitful lives.

And no institution or expert can replace the parent. The same can't be said for the childless adult. It's a positive

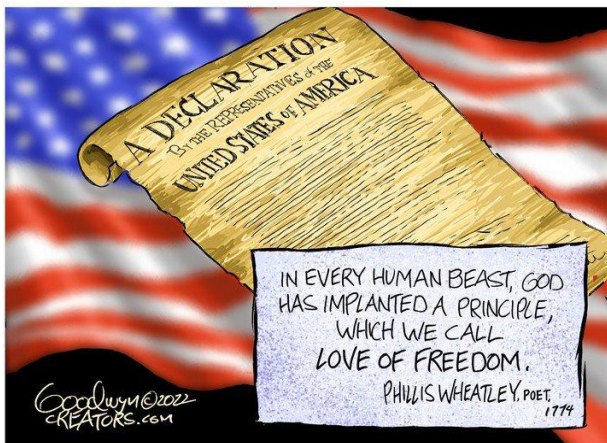
sign that a recent Pew survey found that an increasing share of Americans now see single motherhood and cohabitation as “bad for society.” So maybe the culture is changing for the better already.

For those who doubt the possibility of building a robust culture of life, they should remember that this used to be the norm, especially in Christian communities. Once upon a time, the Catholic Church extolled the vocations of fatherhood and motherhood and encouraged young adults to marry or take religious vows. Then a few decades ago, it became popular to call single life a vocation, but this never made any sense. A Catholic culture could only be realized by priests and parents committed to the faith, not single people looking for a good fit for their lifestyle.

The same should be said for the country. American culture, and Western culture in general, is currently in decline because fewer people are marrying and having children. Consequently, fewer people are committing to the American ideal, which is to use one’s God-given freedoms to build up a home and community.

As Fr. Paul D. Scalia (son of late Justice Antonin Scalia) explains in a recent essay: “True freedom is both from and for. Our mistakes about freedom deny one of those prepositions or the other. On one extreme is the fear of being freed from what we know.... On the other extreme is the violation of freedom by excess – that is, to think that it’s not for anything other than whatever we want.” In a true culture of life, people are free for parenthood, not from it.

But if so many young adults reject this premise, then it really won’t matter if their particular state bans abortions. They need to be invested in a culture of life and seek the joy and fulfillment of having a family. With *Dobbs*, the pro-life movement has won legitimacy in the minds of Americans (no matter what Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez might say). Now a pro-life culture has to win their hearts.



The Supreme Court Reclaimed Its Legitimacy

By David Rivkin and Jennifer Mascott, Wall Street Journal, condensed

The most anxiously awaited Supreme Court decision in decades is also the least surprising. An act of institutional sabotage leaked Justice Samuel Alito’s draft opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* nearly eight weeks in advance. On Friday a five-justice majority definitively overruled *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), affirming states’ authority to regulate abortion. In so doing, the court reclaimed its legitimate constitutional role and signaled a willingness to re-examine precedents that strayed across the line between law and policy or misconstrued important constitutional provisions.

But the draft opinion’s leak damaged the court, which requires the justices to collaborate in confidence. The leaker’s purpose seems obvious: a last-ditch effort to mobilize public opinion and activist protesters in hope of intimidating the justices into rethinking their position.

This breach was shocking but probably shouldn’t have been surprising. In the past several decades, and particularly since President Trump began appointing justices, the court has faced mounting opposition, including pointed threats against individual justices by members of Congress. Supreme Court nominations, especially by Republican presidents, have become ideological and partisan wars, sometimes featuring ugly uncorroborated allegations of personal misconduct. Sending mobs to threaten justices and their families at home was only the latest escalation.

These attacks on the court are part of a concerted campaign to undermine the legitimacy of American institutions and norms and the Constitution itself. The court’s most vociferous critics either don’t understand its proper role or, more likely, reject it. This was evident in the national debate over the leaked draft of Justice Alito’s opinion, which focused entirely on the policy and political implications of overturning *Roe* rather than its legal basis.

In fact, *Dobbs* imposes no policy. It simply states that abortion is not among those individual rights protected by the federal Constitution. The result is that this contentious issue has been returned to the state legislatures, which had primary responsibility for setting abortion policy until the court imposed its own views on the country in 1973.

It was at that time, and not today, that the justices overstepped their boundaries and ensured that the court would become the focus of political contention for half a century. *Dobbs* belatedly corrects that error by recognizing that the federal judiciary's constitutional role is merely to decide cases and controversies, based upon the established tenets of law grounded in the Constitution, federal statutes and common law. Policy decisions properly belong to the elected branches of federal and state government.

Congress's approval ratings are abysmally low, as are President Biden's, and some critics have claimed the justices should be concerned that the Supreme Court's ratings are declining too. But the federal judiciary is a counter majoritarian institution. The court does its most important work when it renders decisions that are unpopular but legally correct.

It bears emphasizing that *Dobbs*'s detractors lob objections that don't reflect the true nature of the opinion. They claim the justices have shown a disregard for stare decisis, the doctrine of respecting precedent. In fact, the decision relies on the precedent in *Washington v. Glucksberg* (1997), which concluded that there is no constitutional grounding for any claimed right that is neither enumerated in the Constitution nor deeply rooted in the nation's history and tradition.

Dobbs also marks a path toward restoring the constitutionally prescribed diffusion of powers among governmental branches, undergirded by a system of checks and balances. This uniquely American structure of government is the primary safeguard of individual liberty.

In the coming years, the court will face a series of momentous opportunities to perform its constitutional responsibilities. It will be called on to continue re-examining Congress's authority to dictate state policy by attaching strings to funding measures. And in a series of cases over the past 30 years, the justices have issued rulings restoring some of the proper balance between the federal government and the states by reaffirming that there are limits on Congress's authority to regulate interstate and foreign commerce. Those limits may now be tested depending on whether Congress decides to re-federalize abortion by legislation either requiring or limiting its availability.

The court will also face key questions involving the relationship between Congress and the executive branch, such as the permissibility of broad congressional delegations of policy-making power to regulatory agencies and statutory limitations on the president's constitutional duty to manage federal bureaucracies.

The extent to which executive agencies can adjudicate matters involving significant private-property and liberty interests without close judicial supervision is another question that the court likely will revisit. The justices are repeatedly being asked to resolve questions about whether agencies have overstepped their statutory authority to regulate, particularly in areas involving major policy questions. In the oft-repeated words of Chief Justice John Marshall: "It is emphatically the province and duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is." The burgeoning federal bureaucracy too often arrogates this power to itself, often overlooking statutory and constitutional constraints.

The Supreme Court's legitimacy therefore is of utmost importance. The decision in *Dobbs* suggests a majority committed to the court's proper role, which is to decide cases independent of political and popular winds.



Criminalizing Conservatives

**By Larry O'Connor,
Townhall, condensed**

The January 6th Committee has certainly made history, if unintentionally. Thanks to Nancy Pelosi and Liz Cheney, this committee has set a new, historical precedent for our constitutional republic.

Unlike the Watergate hearings, the Benghazi hearings, all past impeachment hearings, or the House Un-American Activities Committee, this committee does not have a single person who might present a challenging set of questions for any of the witnesses brought before the American people.

From Supreme Court confirmation hearings to the aforementioned congressional proceedings to the OJ Simpson murder trial to the Johnny Depp/Amber Heard defamation trial to any episode of Judge Judy, the American people have come to expect that we would hear "the other side" to every issue put before us. No matter how paltry the defense of any given charge might be, we take for granted that we will hear that defense, and we, the people, will be allowed the respect to reach our own conclusions.

Perhaps if Rep. Jim Jordan had been on this committee as the GOP leadership had hoped, one or two challenges to

Cassidy Hutchinson's hearsay testimony might have been presented. Perhaps some exploration into her desire to continue to work with President Trump in Mar-a-Lago in his post-presidency would have emerged. Or her damning comments about the "BS" committee (she's right about that) would have come out.

Absent any semblance of disputative content that might run afoul of the Cheney/Raskin/Schiff narrative, the American people would be forgiven for feeling somewhat discombobulated when (and if) they tune in for any of these proceedings.

It's been obvious for over a year now that the Jan. 6th Kangaroo Committee is not interested in "getting to the truth" of what happened on January 6, 2021. If that were the case, there'd be a complete and thorough dissection of the decisions made by House leadership and Speaker Pelosi with regard to the pitiful and ineffective protection for the capitol that fateful day.

So, what's really at play here?

Obviously, this is a political enterprise. The committee has no direct criminal authority, just the ability to refer issues to the Justice Department for criminal investigation... which Chairman Bennie Thompson has already ruled out. (This has not kept Cheney, bless her heart, from Claiming the opposite. Who's really running this show, Chairman Thompson?)

And clearly, the committee has no legislative agenda. So it must be purely political. But, to what end? What is the political goal?

The obvious answer: to harm Donald Trump.

If the American people are to be persuaded by the made-for-TV unreality programming, they'd be so disgusted by Trump that he'd have no chance to try to run for office again.

If that were the goal, it ain't working. Just four days ago, Trump led Biden by five points in an Emerson College poll. Given how Trump always underperforms in MSM polling, he's probably leading by double digits.

So... what else are these Kafka-Klowns trying to accomplish if it's not to do political harm to Donald Trump?

The answer is a little more subtle and more insidious.

They are sending a warning shot to any conservative who might entertain working on a Trump 2024 campaign or in a potential Trump Administration.

Having spoken to several high-ranking officials in the first Trump administration, it's clear that the "Russian Collusion" hoax was drummed up in part to scare off potential members of Trump's nascent presidency. Long-time Washington Republicans didn't want anything to do with a presidency that would eventually end up under the scrutiny of a special prosecutor. They took a pass on joining the administration for fear of endless subpoenas and committee hearings.

Because of this, many of Trump's appointments never got confirmed, and many of his administration's jobs never got filled. For those who did stand up and dedicate several years to his presidency, they've been rewarded with stigma from the corporate world and subpoenas from Congress.

Part of the Jan. 6 hearings is to provide a two-year-in-advance, preemptive strike against Trump's prospects to staff his administration in January 2025.

Ken Klukowski is a perfect example. Klukowski is a constitutional lawyer who has clerked for a federal judge. He worked with many conservative legal organizations and was a well-spoken advocate for the legal and constitutional arguments in support of conservative causes.

He took a job in Trump's Office of Management and Budget and eventually transferred over to Attorney General William Barr's Justice Department.

Having served several years in relative anonymity for the Executive Branch of the federal government, Klukowski hoped to return to the private sector and take up his legal career.

But, last week, he found himself in the middle of Cheney's prime-time soap opera.

"The January 6 Committee falsely accused me on Thursday of being a go-between in a conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. That accusation is false both in its broad outlines and its details. Since the Committee first contacted me, I have cooperated without hesitation, provided it with hundreds of documents, and sat for many hours of recorded depositions. The information produced from those efforts fully contradicts the Committee's statements regarding my actions, yet the Committee has chosen to keep such information to itself rather than share it with the public," Klukowski wrote in a public statement.

"The January 6th investigation is all about attacking mid-level and senior staff like Ken, to ensure that we don't have a farm team in 2024, no matter who the president is. This isn't about truth, but about making it impossible for conservatives to successfully enter and leave government," Andrew Kloster, the White House staffer who coordinated Klukowski's transfer from OMB to DOJ, told Margot Cleveland at The Federalist.

"Ken's transfer had nothing to do with the election."

It has been nearly two weeks, and the Jan 6 committee has still refused to release the entirety of Klukowski's deposition. They snipped a portion of it and used it as a larger presentation to tell their one-sided story. Klukowski is now left dangling and smeared without the benefit of a congressman on the committee even willing to present his full story.

Make no mistake. This proceeding is not about the truth, and it's not about justice. It's not about criminal behavior (surely we would've heard about that by now), and it's not about preventing another incident; otherwise, you'd see Cheney interrogating her colleague Alexandria Ocasio Cortez for lending her voice to a bullhorn for a "call to action" over the "illegitimate" Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe* last month.

The committee is designed to stop Trump (that isn't working) and to warn any high-profile Republican from embracing or endorsing him in the future.

And it's executing methodical character destruction against any American who dared to lend their support to his administration or might entertain the thought of doing so in the future.

Thankfully, these men and women have more character than the likes of Cheney, Raskin and Schiff were anticipating. It's going to take more than their limp attempts to intimidate us from being the man in the arena.



States Target Independent Election Watchdogs with Reprisals to Deter Scrutiny of Irregularities

By Natalia Mittelstadt, Just the News, condensed

As voter integrity groups continue to report irregularities in the 2020 election, some states are pursuing punitive reprisals to deter unwanted scrutiny, with Wisconsin's elections regulators slapping independent election watchdogs with fines, while Washington's Democratic attorney general has submitted a state bar complaint against an election integrity lawyer.

In Wisconsin, Peter Bernegger, data analyst for the Wisconsin Center for Election Justice, has been fined \$2,403 by the Wisconsin Elections Commission for filing "frivolous complaints."

Bernegger submitted four separate complaints with WEC this year regarding the state's voter rolls. WEC replied to all the complaints in March, dismissing them and fining Bernegger one dollar per claim made in each complaint.

WEC said that "each complaint fails to provide reasonable suspicion of a violation."

"The system is completely defective," Bernegger told *The Sconi* last week. "I told them that, and they hit me with a fine for filing a frivolous complaint. I'm going to hit them back with a civil rights suit."

Bernegger also testified in February before the Wisconsin State Assembly regarding voter fraud in the 2020 election.

According to WCEJ, there are 30 issues that have been found with the 2020 election in Wisconsin, including: nearly 46,000 ballots that were cast without verification with the state Department of Motor Vehicles; about 12,200 ballots cast by people who weren't registered to vote; and approximately 7,200 double absentee ballots cast twice by people with the same name and address.

In an audit of the WEC, Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau found there were 30 areas of concern and made 18 suggestions. The Wisconsin state Supreme Court also let stand earlier this year a lower court ruling prohibiting the WEC from allowing drop boxes to be used in the April local elections.

In Washington, meanwhile, the Washington Election Integrity Coalition United (WEICU) was ordered by the state Supreme Court to pay nearly \$9,600 and its lawyer, Virginia Shogren, was ordered to pay nearly \$18,800, according to *The Seattle Times*.

The election integrity group petitioned the court in October to find that Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee had violated the state constitution by allegedly encouraging, or at least allowing, the state Department of Licensing to register noncitizens to vote.

In an unusual decision, the state Supreme Court granted Democratic state Attorney General Bob Ferguson's motion to impose sanctions on WEICU for the petition, which Ferguson's office called "so devoid of legal merit that there was no reasonable possibility that it would have been successful."

Following the court's decision, the AG filed a Bar complaint against Shogren for her lawsuit, claiming she violated professional conduct rules by advancing "frivolous legal arguments and made allegations of voter fraud with no basis in fact."

The bar complaint was submitted to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, which investigates ethics complaints made against lawyers in Washington, The Seattle Times reported.

The office can recommend punishment, including anything from a formal warning to suspension or even disbarment. Court-appointed hearings officers make final decisions, but suspensions and disbarments are reviewed by the state Supreme Court.

The complaint asks the office to "look into this matter and take further action as you deem appropriate," according to the Times.



The Left's Relentless War on Thomas Jefferson and His Colleagues

By Don Feder, Washington Times

Along with the picnics and fireworks, some Americans may give a passing thought to the men who gave us this blessed land and the rights and prosperity we enjoy today. The leaders of the Democratic Party won't be among them.

It's not just that we have a president who can't quote the best-known lines in the Declaration of Independence. (Mr. Biden in 2020: "We hold these truths to be self-evident. All men and women are created, by the, you know, you know the thing"). We have a party that is unalterably opposed to the spirit of 1776.

The left has gone from absurdly claiming the mantle of the Founding Fathers — equating economic equality with political equality — to giving itself permission to hate them. The struggle today is between two competing 18th-century revolutions — those of America and France.

With critical race theory, the 1619 Project, and removing statues and renaming schools, the left is methodically canceling America's history and heritage. The violence in the streets and violent rhetoric is part of the process.

With the Declaration and Constitution, the Founders gave us a system of government that springs from a sublime vision: political authority based on the consent of the governed, equality before the law and God-given rights — among them life and liberty, freedom of expression and religion, and the right to the means of self-defense.

The left's assault on these rights includes abortion, cancel culture (the notion that expression of certain ideas is a form of violence), its Wall of Separation — the only wall it believes in — and the attack on gun rights.

Just a few years after the Constitution was adopted, a competing worldview arose, based not on the divine rights of kings, but on a perverse ideology that promised liberty but aimed at achieving an ant-hill society.

The ideology of Revolutionary France was collectivism, atheism and genocide as the means of projecting political power. The American Revolution is often symbolized by a quill pen. The French Revolution should be represented by the guillotine.

Our revolution gave us stability for 248 years and a system of government that became a model for new nations. Their revolution gave them the Reign of Terror, a toxic ideology (the left was born in the flames of Revolutionary France), Napoleon and five republics since 1792.

The left has rejected the principles of 1776 for those of 1789 — revised and updated by the revolution of 1917.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders feel more affinity for the regimes in Venezuela and Cuba than our own system of government. They believe Americans have a right to kill unborn children but not to refuse vaccination, drive a gas-powered car, own a gun or keep more than a modicum of their income.

Their war on Thomas Jefferson and his colleagues is relentless: They were slave-owning aristocrats who displaced American Indians, exploited the lower class and had scant regard for the Earth, they tell us. As advocates of alternative lifestyles, you'd think they would at least appreciate the powdered wigs and buckled shoes.

In the minds of the young, the left has replaced America the beautiful with America the ugly — America the racist, America the colonialist and America the oppressive. The slander permeates government, movies, television, the news media, public education and academia. The heroes of the left are Robespierre and his Jacobins — the men whose ideology they would substitute for the values of the founders. The war used to be covert. Now, it's very much in the open — a struggle to create a Republic of Virtue.

You can see it in the mobs surging in the streets for the past two years — rioting for something vaguely called "racial justice" and "women's rights," and for the sheer nihilistic joy of destroying as much as possible of the nation they despise. They even attacked the Vermont legislature after it enacted abortion on demand through the ninth month.

You can see it in the 3,500 classrooms that use the 1619 Project and in the left's attempt to expand its political power, with calls to pack the Supreme Court, eliminate the legislative veto and bestow statehood on D.C., and in the Jan. 6 committee of public safety and the process of importing a new electorate.

Today's American left is a product of Bastille Day and not the Fourth of July.

We must awaken the slumbering middle. The nation is poised on a razor's edge and could fall either way. It's 1776 or 1789 — there is no middle ground.



The Death of the Elite Center

By Ben Shapiro, BizPacReview

The false center cannot hold.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron has now lost his majority in the National Assembly; his party holds 245 seats in the lower house, but the Right holds 150 and the Left 131. In Colombia, former M-19 guerrilla and Marxist Gustavo Petro has now become the president of the country, replacing more establishment, Keynesian liberal rule. In the United States, the supposed center within both parties has been increasingly supplanted by anti-establishment forces on both sides.

None of this should be shocking, given the destruction of institutional trust throughout the West. And the destruction of that institutional trust has been well earned: It represents the natural result of policy elites lying to those they supposedly serve. Our policy elites maintain that they favor free markets while simultaneously battling against free markets on behalf of a world-changing ideology; they proclaim that they value traditional religion while fighting to undermine its most fundamental foundations; they argue that the world order must be maintained while shying away from the reality of international politics.

Klaus Schwab, the head of the World Economic Forum, supposedly a repository of free market thinking, declares that he and his friends will “serve not only self-interest, but we serve the community”; he then proceeds to leverage economic power on behalf of their preferred ideological outcomes. The result is both economic failure and ideological failure. Take, for example, the Biden administration's simultaneous demand that oil companies ramp up production and that we completely undermine oil and gas development over the next few years in order to fight global warming. Or, more immediately, take the German attempts to “green” their own economy while quietly outsourcing energy production to Russia — a policy

so egregiously stupid that it has now resulted in Germany firing up coal plants again, now that Russia has cut off the oil supply.

On the social front, our institutional elite declare fealty to traditional institutions — church, family, localism — and then simultaneously insist that society remake itself in the most radical possible image. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declares her fealty to Catholicism in the same sentence in which she militantly maintains her support for abortion-on-demand; President Joe Biden proclaims his own religiosity while simultaneously deploying his Department of Justice to target states that seek to prevent the confusion and mutilation of children based on nonsensical gender theory.

On the foreign policy front, our institutional leaders tell us that we must uphold the world order, then refuse to accept the consequences of that leadership. They rail against the evils of the Saudi Arabian regime while simultaneously intoning that the West must sign a deal with the Iranian terror regime, then end up visiting the Saudis to beg for more oil production. They declare their undying support for the Ukrainian government, then become wishy-washy about providing either the support necessary for its victory or an exit plan in case victory is unachievable. They look askance at the Chinese threat to Taiwan, then teach proper transgender pronoun use to members of the Navy.

In short, our institutional elites rely on the power of civilizational foundations that long predate them — free markets, religious values, military strength — to prop up failing ideas that undermine those foundations. The result is failure. The Left looks at the prevailing elite consensus and declares it dishonest: If the elites' principles mattered, they would fight free markets, religious values and military strength. The Right looks at the prevailing elite consensus and feels the same way: If the elites put aside their ideological commitments to leftism, they'd cement our civilizational foundations rather than keep eroding them.

Perhaps the center isn't holding because it *shouldn't* hold. That center has sought to enshrine its own power by taking from both the Left and the Right; it has no coherent ideology of its own. And that false center is now coming apart with centrifugal force, torn between those who believe in the fundamental institutions of the West and those who wish to see them supplanted.





Why Team Biden Might be Purposefully Grinding Down the Middle Class

By Glenn Reynolds, New York Post, condensed

Vladimir Lenin supposedly once said, “The way to crush the bourgeoisie is to grind them between the millstones of taxation and inflation.”

There’s some doubt as to whether this line is genuine; regardless, it seems like a pretty good description of what the Biden administration is doing to America’s middle class.

Inflation is running rampant. The Producer Price Index, the most useful measure of general inflation, is up a whopping 16.3% from April 2021, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

President Biden initially dismissed inflation worries about his large federal spending.

That means that roughly \$1 out of every \$6 that people earn has been lost to inflation in a single year. Or to put it another way, 80 minutes’ earnings out of every eight-hour day have been eaten up.

This is predictable, of course. Team Biden took an already bloated federal budget and supersized it with spending last year, printing money hand-over-fist to fund a massive array of pork-filled programs, many if not most of which guided billions of dollars into the pockets of Democratic Party supporters.

Americans are experiencing sky-high gas prices.

President Biden dismissed inflation worries at the time, saying that Milton Friedman — the famed inflation-fighting economist — no longer runs the show. Well, the late economist certainly didn’t run Biden’s show, but his observation that inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon was borne out in spades as prices took off.

And it was a double whammy. Inflation comes when you have too much money chasing too few goods. The spending part provided the excess money, but the Biden team was right there helping to ensure fewer goods, too.

Gas prices going up? Not only was Biden’s spending program stimulating inflation, but at the same time Biden policies were reducing the amount of gasoline, diesel and heating oil those dollars could buy. Biden went wild canceling pipelines, ending gas and oil leases, imposing

stricter environmental rules and — in cooperation with big institutional investors — choking off the finances of people trying to produce new fuel supplies.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has criticized President Biden’s approach to fossil fuels.

As Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) observed, “There has been a comprehensive hostility to the energy sector by this administration.” And how.

Even electric-car king Elon Musk has been mocking the Biden administration’s fixation on ending fossil fuels. The realities of physics and the marketplace mean that replacing gasoline vehicles with electric cars isn’t going to happen soon, no matter how big a squeeze Team Biden puts on Americans.

And what a squeeze it is. Even in Knoxville, where gas prices tend to be lower, I’ve paid more than \$5 a gallon for gas. In other parts of the country, it’s selling for more than \$7. Diesel — needed to move goods whose prices are already going up because of inflation — is even more expensive, adding costs to everything in what’s left of our supply-chain network. And there’s no relief in sight.

American mothers are facing a baby formula shortage.

Natasha Kaneva, a J.P. Morgan researcher, predicts a “cruel summer” with gas prices averaging more than \$6 a gallon by August. Team Biden likes this, because it will encourage people to drive less and to buy electric cars.

More expensive oil, coupled with the Ukraine war, also means more expensive fertilizer and thus more expensive food. Biden official Samantha Power thinks this is useful because it will encourage farmers to move from artificial fertilizers to things like compost and manure, which she calls “transitions that would have been in the interest of farmers to make eventually anyway.”

Someone needs to tell Power that Sri Lanka tried to “transition” to organic fertilizers and wrecked its economy, leaving its people hungry. Is that what she has in mind for Americans?

Then there’s the baby formula shortage, which is not the result of a natural disaster or war but an overreaching Food and Drug Administration order that shut down a huge swath of domestic production (which FDA and other federal policies had already limited to a handful of big players), with little or no thought to the consequences. Now the Biden team, in a sort of reverse Berlin Airlift, is flying in pallets of formula from Europe, which may look good on TV but does little to address the problem.

So does the Biden administration actually *want* to see middle-class Americans reduced to poverty and privation? Or is it just too stupid to foresee the obvious consequences of its own actions? At this point, I'm not even sure which is worse.

But with the midterms coming, no amount of talk about gun control, abortion or other Democratic hot-button issues is going to distract Americans from what's happening to their pocketbooks. Good.

Points of Interest

Several articles and book reviews from the Claremont Institute (including The American Mind) that are too lengthy to reproduce in this newsletter may be of interest to our members. Links to them are included below.

- The Making of the Administrative State, Claremont Review of Books, By Myron Magnet: <https://claremontreviewofbooks.com/the-making-of-the-administrative-state/>
- The Future of the Work Ethic, Claremont Review of Books, By Nicholas Eberstadt: <https://claremontreviewofbooks.com/the-future-of-the-work-ethic/>
- Ourselves and Our Prosperity, Claremont Review of Books, By James Piereson: <https://claremontreviewofbooks.com/ourselves-and-our-prosperity/>
- The Way Forward, The American Mind, By Matthew Peterson: <https://americanmind.org/salvo/the-way-forward/>
- The Great Regression, The American Mind, Victor Davis Hanson: <https://americanmind.org/salvo/the-great-regression/>
- The Origins of the New Right and Its Future, The American Mind, By Charlie Kirk: <https://americanmind.org/memo/the-origins-of-the-new-right-and-its-future/>



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Upcoming Events/Announcements

- **July Luncheon** – Please join us for lunch at the Greencroft Club on Thursday, July 28, 2022. Registration begins at 11:30am. Speaker will be the Republican Party of Virginia Chairman Rich Anderson.
- **August Ice Cream Social** – Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 2:00pm and join us for our annual ice cream social at Kohr Brothers Frozen Custard, 1881 Seminole Trail, Charlottesville.
- **September Luncheon** – Please join us for lunch at the Greencroft Club on Thursday, September 22, 2022. Our speaker will be Delegate Nick Freitas.
- **October Luncheon** – Mark your calendars for our October luncheon on Thursday, October 27 at the Greencroft Club when we will be hearing from Free Market Warrior and author Loren Spivak. Registration begins at 11:30am.
- **WAC Action Committees Sign-Up** – We need members to be involved! Contact: Rena Snow (renasnow@hotmail.com)

